



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
January 26, 2015

Attendance: Bill Levakis, Andy Montanaro, Adam Dolby and Cara Letendre – Secretary

Open Meeting:

7:04 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Springfield Water & Sewer Commission and Russell State Police Regarding Incident at Gate 23 and Residents Accessing Property Beyond Gates: Springfield W&S rep not present, Trooper Mark Rogers, & Bryan Young (Conservation Chair) NOTE: Trooper Rogers was not present for the incident at Gate 23 and is here as a representative.
 - a. Cobble Mountain Detail: Springfield W&S has an arrangement with the State Police to have troopers patrol the Cobble Mountain water shed property.
 - i. Detail consists of checking all gates twice in 8 hour shift.
 - ii. 98% of the time the trooper on this detail is not from the Russell Barracks.
 - iii. Troopers typically advise trespassers that they are on private property and to please leave or they will be subject to arrest if they decline to do so.
 - iv. Also monitored by camera.
 - v. The booklet with procedures for Cobble Mt. detail is housed at the Russell Barracks.
 - b. Investigation of incident: an investigation of the incident involving Chuck Benson and Chips Norcross at Gate 23 was conducted at the Russell Barracks level involving the Sergeant Commander and the Trooper involved (who was a Russell Trooper).
 - i. Resulted in revision of detail instruction booklet to include the Knittell and Shepard Farm properties. Mr. Montanaro would like to confirm that the revision is in fact correct. Mr. Young will follow-up with Springfield W&S to get a copy for review.
 - ii. Current sign on gate 23 to be changed from “No Trespassing” to “No Vehicular Traffic”. Suggestion to have sign also state “Town of Blandford Property” as land beyond gate belongs to the Town.
 - c. Herrick Road resident concerned with troopers on detail speeding on Herrick Road. Trooper Rogers will note the complaint and let the resident know that he can formally register a complaint if he would like to do so. Resident also concerned with unmarked cruisers on detail. Trooper Rogers stated that many of

the Troopers that take this detail are undercover and it is not possible that all Troopers will have marked vehicles.

2. Fire Truck Bid Opening:
 - a. Selectboard opened the one bid that was received on 1/16/15 from John Hoppe. The bid was for \$800.00. Board felt that this bid was too low as the scrap value of the truck is considerably high. Mr. Levakis consulted with Town Counsel prior to meeting and it was confirmed that the Selectboard can decline a bid even if it is the only one.
 - b. Mr. Levakis motion to decline Mr. John Hoppe's bid for the Fire Truck, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
 - c. Board asked Chief Ed Harvey to get some prices on salvaging. Discussed getting the truck under cover for now.
3. Financial Officers Review Abatement and Refund Process:
 - a. Mrs. Marra and Mrs. Wilander provided the Board with Mass General Law outlining the process. See attached. Board reviewed.
 - b. All Financial Officers have reviewed and understand the process.
 - c. Discussed the Sanctuary case. The excise tax was paid in July (not May as previously stated). The Assessor received all of the necessary abatement forms in September and the refund was paid out with/in the 90 days required by law.
4. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes from January 12, 2015 as amended, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.

Old Business

1. Highway Vacation and Sick Accruals: Mr. Montanaro met with the Highway Department and came up with a formula that was fair for all to calculate accruals. The Board agreed. Mr. Montanaro will get the numbers to the Treasurer.
2. Insurance: Mrs. Marra sent a memo out to all employees letting them know that the town will be revising the amount of insurance that they pay to the agreed upon 70%.
3. Worthington Withdrawal: Has been approved by DESE. Gateway budget has been postponed until possibly June.
 - a. PVPC has been working on a plan to negotiate with Worthington and to help re-negotiate our contract with Gateway.

New Business

1. Raise for Assessors Clerk: the Assessors submitted a request to raise the Assessors Clerk's rate from \$15.83 to \$20.00 per/hour to "help her prioritize office time to high level duties". Selectboard discussed and felt that it would be unfair to grant this raise when the rest of Town Employees including the Assessors Clerk received a 3.5% raise at the start of the fiscal year.
2. Town Counsel Liaison: Board would like Mr. Dolby to be the liaison to Town Counsel, going forward anyone should contact him prior to contacting Town Counsel. Cara will send out a memo.

8:40 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to adjourn, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

Bill Levakis

Andy Montanaro

Adam Dolby