



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
February 16, 2015

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

**Open Meeting:**

7:06 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

**Posted Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes:
  - a. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve minutes from February 4, 2015 as written, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
  - b. Mr. Dolby motion to approve minutes from February 5, 2015 with amendments, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
  - c. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve minutes from February 9, 2015 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote. (Mr. Dolby abstained as he was not present at February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.)
2. Linda Smith – Finance Committee
  - a. RFP CohnReznick: reviewed and finalized, will send to Cara to put on letterhead.
    - i. Sending to Melanson Heath, CohnReznick and Thomas Scanlon per recommendation by Josephine Sarnelli. Board agreed
    - ii. Goal is to prepare the Town for an audit.
  - b. Budget (2.5% increase across the board)
    - i. Tax Collector: directive from Selectboard to change wages from salary to hourly in attempt to track hours and bring the position in line with the other financial officers, not an attempt to reduce pay. Not met with enthusiasm from June Masee who contacted DOR.
      1. Finance question to the Board: As Mrs. Masee will be spending extra hours working with Mrs. Sarnelli regarding the forensic audit, should we leave the pay as is until end of term or address it now? It doesn't make a difference to Finance.
        - a. Mr. Dolby:
          - i. Wants the position to go to hourly rate July 1<sup>st</sup> as agreed.
          - ii. Doesn't impact the salary line item. Town will have to vote if want the fees collected to go to the town (then hourly rate would be set at equal to other financial officers as don't have to take

fees into account). Or if fees go to Tax Collector (will have to adjust her hourly rate so that total earnings are equal to other financial officers.)

- iii. Pointe Software work is not extensive.
- iv. Asked Finance Committee to look back at average fees collected by the Tax Collector over the last 3 years to determine the actual rate of pay.

**b. Mr. Montanaro:**

- i. Forensic audit hours should be separate and tallied at a rate of pay set by Mrs. Sarnelli and added to the bond claim.
- ii. On principal would like to establish equal pay and equal hours for all financial officers.

**c. Police:**

**i. Met with Finance Committee last week.**

- 1. Chief Hennessey would like to go back to salary position, Finance Committee disagrees.
- 2. Finance explained that they are budgeting for a 2.5% increase across all salary and expenses. Finance gave Chief Hennessey choice to either hire more employees or keep the same number of employees and increase their hours.
- 3. Mr. Levakis: Police would like to go back to previous hourly rate before the Selectboard adjusted it to match the FY14 pay increase for all Town employees.
  - a. Selectboard asked Chief Hennessey for pay scale in November. They have not received one yet.
  - b. Mr. Montanaro presented a pay scale on December, 5, 2015. Has not heard back from Chief Hennessey yet.
- 4. Detail Pay: Discussed current policy
- 5. Police budget has increased drastically over past few years.

**3. Chapter 90 Funds:**

- a. Discussed holding a certain amount of funds back each year for emergencies.
  - i. Board disagreed, would love to set some aside but we have too many roads in need of repair.

**Old Business:**

**1. BRD:**

- a. Letter from attorney, need more paperwork. Mr. Montanaro will follow-up. Mr. Dolby offered to help.

**New Business:**

- 1. Water Main Frozen: Early this morning it was discovered that the water main running along the overpass on North Street is frozen, leaving 18 families on North Street and Chester Road without water. The Water Department has alerted FEMA, MEMA and the reserves but have not received a promise of aid. They have tried several different techniques to thaw the pipes but have been unsuccessful thus far. Early tomorrow plan to run a new line with a bleeder on top of the bridge.
- 2. Payroll Problem: payroll did not go out on time this period.
  - a. Treasurer received payroll from 2 departments late
  - b. Board signed the warrant late
  - c. However, Treasurer got information into ADP on time.

- d. Question regarding whether transfer was made on time. Mr. Montanaro will ask Treasurer for report on that process and full explanation for delay. Do we hold money in that account?
      - e. Board agreed that if time cards aren't in on time, don't pay until the next pay period.
- 3. GTAC Meeting Tomorrow:
  - a. Financial representative from each town has been asked to give figures as to what think their Town can cover for Worthington withdrawal.
    - i. Blandford's portion: \$151,024.00 more than have budgeted.
    - ii. We can reasonably afford about \$25,000.00
    - iii. Mr. Dolby asked Finance to calculate the impact of rolling back the 2.5% increase just in case.

9:14 p.m. Mr. Levakis motion to go into executive session for the purpose of To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation (Highway Department union) pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 30A, §21, ¶3. not to reconvene, Mr. Dolby second, Cara called for a roll call vote, Mr. Levakis – yes, Mr. Dolby – yes, Mr. Montanaro – yes, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

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William Levakis

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Andy Montanaro

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Adam Dolby