



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
March 2, 2015

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

Open Meeting:

7:25 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Blandford Ski Area Liquor License: Anne Fisk submitted request for liquor license for a moonlit show shoe hike and wine tasting at Blandford Ski Area on March 28, 2015. The Ski Area will notify the abutters of the event. Board agreed and signed.
2. Warrants: Reviewed and signed
3. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes of February 23, 2015 with amendment to section 1A, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

Old Business:

1. Status on State of Emergency Funding:
 - a. Highway Secretary, Lisa Lajoie, picked up bridge inspection reports from Mass DOT.
 - b. Representative Pignatelli and Senator Downing responded with grant and loan options.
 - c. Special Town meeting to move free cash is posted for March 16, 2015.
2. BRD Status: Mr. Levakis has a meeting scheduled for this coming Friday at 11:00 a.m. with Janelle from Kopleman and Paige, and Highway Superintendent to finalize and submit paper work.
3. New Time Sheets:
 - a. Mr. Levakis has questions about the new time sheets that were distributed. Feels that the Treasurer should have more input as she deals with the time sheets on a regular basis.
 - b. Mr. Montanaro is amenable to amending the time sheets.
 - c. Treasurer would like a cover letter to go with the time sheet with directions/explanation of how to fill out.
 - d. Mr. Montanaro will follow-up to have complete for next pay period.
4. Revisit Liaison Assignments:
 - a. Mr. Levakis: has received feedback from some departments that the Liaison system is not working. These departments/boards would rather see issues addressed in front of the entire Selectboard.
 - b. Mr. Montanaro: agrees we need to review the process. The program was an interim process to assist departments more closely and help where they were falling short between Selectboard meetings. Especially since the Selectboard sometimes has difficulty getting Boards and employees to come to open

meetings, feels that a Town Administrator is the answer to this problem. An administrator is needed to give guidance and direction on a day to day basis without delay. The Selectboard can't do this as they can't deliberate between meetings.

- c. Mr. Levakis: Town can't afford Town Administrator.
- d. Mrs. Smith (Finance Chair): the Financial Liaison has been wonderful and has made a huge difference. A lot of work is getting done in the financial offices.
- e. Mrs. Katie Milford (Historical Commission): The Liaison program has been very helpful for some boards.
- f. Mr. Levakis: Some boards are waiting too long to get answers. Let those boards know if they have an emergency they can go to a back-up Liaison if their representative is away. Perhaps we just need to make some adjustments to the program instead of eliminate it.

New Business:

- 1. Conservation Commission: Bryan Young recommended Florentino Vasquez to fill in an empty seat on the Commission. Submitted a letter of interest from Florentino to Board.
 - a. Mr. Montanaro motion to appoint Florentino Vazquez to the Conservation Commission for a period to be determined by the Town Clerk, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
- 2. Finance Committee: Linda Smith & Sarah Beard-
 - a. Critically important that some things get accomplished in the Treasurer and Accountant offices in next few weeks. Asked for Board's approval to allow these positions to take at least two hours a week to shut the doors to their offices and work without interruptions. Board agreed and suggested put up a Do Not Disturb sign.
 - b. BOH Hiring: Mrs. Kronholm contacted the General Counsel of State Department of Public Health to discuss the question of hiring authority. Response: because the Board of Health is an elected board and the transfer station employees deal with public health issues (medical waste disposal), the BOH can do their own hiring, firing and can set their own rates (according to MGL Ch111 section 27 & 27a.)
- 3. Wired West: Question from resident- "Did we already vote on this?"
 - a. Mr. Levakis: No
 - b. Mr. Montanaro: Wired West will be sending a letter out to all residents soon to get a percentage of people in town who are interested in joining.
 - c. Mrs. Smith:
 - i. If we don't join now, we won't be able to afford it on our own later.
 - ii. Number one concern of real estate sales in Blandford is internet access.
 - iii. Blandford is on the three year plan with Wired West which gives us time to plan and be ready financially.
 - iv. Suggests that residents pay the \$45.00 to join whether they plan to join or not (refundable if choose not to join when time comes) so that your house is wired in case you ever decide to sell.

8:30 p.m. Mr. Levakis motion to adjourn, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

William Levakis

Andy Montanaro