



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
March 23, 2015

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

**Open Meeting:**

7:20 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

**Posted Agenda Items:**

1. Highway Superintendent: Updates
  - a. Provided Board with sample letter to MassDOT
  - b. Potential Pot Hole money from State, about \$38,000.00
    - i. Most beneficial use of funds, patching and gravel
    - ii. Mr. Montanaro asked Mr. Curry to track the patching already done and to seek reimbursement.
  - c. Chapter 90 Projects
    - i. Mr. Curry provided paperwork for Board to sign. Documents have been reviewed and approved by Kathy Stevens, Mass DOT.
      1. Board reviewed and signed, Mr. Curry will mail tomorrow
    - ii. Russell Stage Road
      1. Waiting on Conservation Committee to sign off on conditions and terms.
        - a. Mr. Montanaro asked Mr. Young (Conservation Chair) to complete paperwork within next 7 days. Mr. Young will assess site on Thursday and complete paperwork.
    - iii. Sperry & Shepard Roads Chip Seal
      1. Discussed life span of chip seal vs repaving.
        - a. Mr. Curry: can't guarantee lifespan
        - b. Mr. Montanaro: trying to develop 2 options looking at price, life span and cost.
        - c. Mr. Curry: low traffic roads, only single seal. Kathy Stevens agrees with sealing the roads otherwise Mass DOT wouldn't approve the project. Paving is not really an option without full depth reclamation
  - d. Russell Stage Road Overpass:
    - i. Mr. Curry contacted Peter Niles and is waiting to hear back. Mr. Curry has records of past conversations on the topic.
  - e. Speed Studies:
    - i. Mr. Curry has provided Chief Hennessey with all necessary information.
  - f. Bucket Truck:
    - i. Getting inspected

- g. Road Program:
    - i. Mr. Curry: all available resources currently working on Chapter 90 projects and Equipment lists. Will put his resources back on the Road Program development when they are available. Invited Mr. Montanaro to come in and take a look at program. Discussed posting what they have thus far.
  - h. North Street:
    - i. Mr. Montanaro asked Mr. Curry to check with the State and see when they are due to pave North Street.
  - i. Hotbox:
    - i. Mr. Curry will get it out and use this week.
  - j. Weekly Outline:
    - i. Read and reviewed
  - k. Highway Department Project:
    - i. Contract has been sent from EDA Engineering to Town Counsel. Board asked that Town Counsel work directly with EDA to speed up the process.
    - ii. Insurance Ryder: Steve Jemiolo was sent a worksheet to complete to get an insurance ryder for the duration of the Highway Garage Project. Mr. Jemiolo sent it to Mr. Curry to complete. Board would like Mr. Jemiolo to complete it as the Chair of the Building Planning Committee.
2. COA: Community Garden
- a. Mrs. Mikuski and Cara attended a workshop last week on Intergenerational programs bringing seniors and kids together. Project they came up with is a community garden. Asking permission from Selectboard as well as advice on a location. Board agreed program is a good idea, suggested field behind the blacktop at Town Hall. Will include the Library, Rec Committee and possible Scout troops in planning. Mr. Levakis offered to donate lumber for raised beds.
3. Zoning Board Regarding Website:
- a. Mr. Robbins and Mr. Brainerd: would like the table of contents they created for the town bylaws added to the website. Have found some errors in the organization of the bylaws and would like to have them better organized. Need some help putting all of the bylaws into a digital format. Mr. Dolby offered to help.
  - b. Mr. Robbins and Mr. Brainerd suggested Mr. Barnard to fill empty Zoning Board position. Mr. Dolby motion to appoint Richard Barnard to position of Zoning Board Alternate for a term of 3 years, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
4. Minutes:
- a. Board asked Cara to look up vote regarding pay rate for Water Department employees.
  - b. GTAC meeting March 28<sup>th</sup> instead of April 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve minutes of March 16, 2015 as written, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Vote & Policy Regarding Remote Participation in Open Meetings:
  - a. Mr. Montanaro would like to amend the policy to include audio conferencing as well as video.
  - b. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve policy for Remote Participation in Open Meetings of Public Bodies, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

**New Business**

1. PVPC Shared Nursing Program: Grant has run out.
  - a. Discussed options for FY16
    - i. PVPC offering to continue program at cost of \$804.50 for the year. Cara follow-up to ensure that all services are provided.
    - ii. Porchlight VNA: \$750.00 per/year just to run the Maven program. Does not include blood pressure and flu clinics.
    - iii. Board asked Cara to draw up a letter of intent for PVPC.
2. Letter to School Board:
  - a. Mr. Montanaro presented a letter addressed to the School Board requesting that they contact the school district of Westfield (as well as other districts) to find out terms and conditions required to send Blandford students there. Board reviewed and signed.
    - i. Mr. Dolby: would like to add as a resolution to the Town Meeting Warrant. Board agreed.
    - ii. Board agreed that they would like to begin the process of looking into other options for Blandford students
    - iii. Mr. Montanaro brought up the option of using vouchers
    - iv. Mr. Levakis: best interest of Town to hire a consultant
    - v. Mrs. Kronholm suggested bringing issue to Ways and Means meeting.
  - b. Discussion Regarding School Budget:
    - i. Over the last 5 years our enrollment has dropped 10% and our cost has increased 25%.
    - ii. Concerned that the Chair of the School Committee did not have the School Committee review the budget prepared by the Sub-Finance Committee.
    - iii. Mr. Dolby: would like to get some clarification on some of the line items of the school budget.

9:25 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation (Highway Union) pursuant to provision G.L.C. 30a, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote. Cara called a roll call vote to go into executive session, 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

