



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
March 30, 2015

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

Open Meeting:

7:05 p.m. meeting opened, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Highway Superintendent: Updates
 - a. Overpass on Russell Stage Road
 - i. DOT responded to email, entertaining a conversation. Mr. Curry has letters on file to DOT and Rep Pignatelli regarding repairing the overpass and damage done to Russell Stage Road.
 - b. Equipment list to Finance Committee tomorrow.
 - c. Chapter 90 projects: papers filed, waiting on approval from Kathy Stevens.
 - i. Conservation Committee will have terms & conditions for work on Russell Stage to Highway by the end of the week.
 - d. \$63,000 in Chapter 90 money just received. Chester road project closed out today.
 - e. Chapter 90 Workshop: Kathy Stevens would like one of the Selectboard members as well as the Treasurer to attend. Highway Secretary is unable to attend as she has previous commitment; however she has been to a chapter 90 workshop previously.
 - f. Asphalt Preservation: Program which helps towns to preserve asphalt roads with coatings/seals. Representative will possibly attend Selectboard meeting in future.
 - g. Potholes: took a break from filling to wait out cold spell. Hotbox is ready for Russell Stage Rd and South St. to begin when weather is warmer. Additives for the hotbox are on back order.
 - h. Tree Warden: Mr. Montanaro asked Mr. Curry if Mr. Boomsma was working for highway when the tree service guy was in town Mr. Curry stated "No, the tree guy wasn't working for me, and Mr. Boomsma wasn't working for me, because of the tree guy."
Mr. Curry also stated that the tree service guy was working in town two days, with the tree warden working with him "off and on".
When asked if Mr. Boomsma would be turning in those hours as Highway time, Mr. Curry said "if he turns in for it, then I have to flag him for that."
Note: Mr. Boomsma called out over the weekend (following week). When asked if he was sick, Mr. Curry replied "Just said he wouldn't be in. He didn't give an explanation".

- i. Water Truck for Sale:
 - i. As maintenance costs were higher than the value of the truck, the Water Commissioners decided it was time to sell the vehicle. Will use own vehicles until purchase a new truck.
 - ii. Commissioners received permission from Inspector General and Town Counsel to post truck to an online bid site.
 - iii. Mr. Montanaro question regarding Selectboard's previous discussion regarding requiring any items going up for sale be discussed with the Board first. Cara will review the minutes.
- 2. Hiram Blair Road: Mr. John Caswell and Mrs. Heidi Taberman following up from meeting on June 17, 2014 with Selectboard where they discussed compensations, Highway and Tree Warden responsibilities and road status. (see objectives attached)
 - a. Reviewed discussion from previous meeting.
 - b. Mr. van Werkhoven: in 2005-2007 Mr. Caswell was active on the Planning Board and the Conservation Committee. He spoke out against tree cutting and formed the tree Committee. The response from two of the Selectboard members at the time was to instruct the Highway Superintendent not to plow or maintain Hiram Blair Road past the first residence.
 - c. Mr. Caswell: The State's inventory as well as the Assessor's map notes that Hiram Blair Road ends at the first residence.
 - d. Mr. Caswell's preferred outcome is to have the Highway Department stick to the guidelines of 20 feet when clearing.
 - e. Mr. Dolby: Agrees that we need to make sure guidelines are being followed. Will do some research and follow-up. Touch base in a month.

Old Business:

- 1. Steve Jemiolo: Feasibility Study
 - a. Bid Opening:
 - i. Two companies submitted bids, DRA and KAestle Brothers.
 - 1. Both are scheduled to meet with Building Planning Committee next week and present budget estimate. Asked that one Selectboard member be present.
 - 2. RFP stated that we would spend up to \$35,000. Both companies need more information from the Fire, Police and Highway departments. Mr. Dolby will follow-up with Fire, Chief Hennessey with Police, and Mr. Curry will provide info for Highway.
 - 3. Mr. Jemiolo has checked references for both and all have been positive.
 - 4. Final bills for Feasibility study must be in by June 30, 2015 before start of next fiscal year.
 - b. Discussed possible locations
 - c. Mr. Levakis asked that the Building Planning Committee have an information meeting for residents at some point.
 - d. Goal of project: Find best location for safety complex, Dimensions of proposed building, Look at our needs and provide options/costs. Final project will include presentation for residents.

8:17 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation to reconvene afterwards, Mr. Montanaro second. Cara called a roll-call vote, Mr. Levakis – yes, Mr. Dolby – yes, Mr. Montanaro – yes, unanimous vote.

9:05 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to reconvene, Mr. Levakis second. Cara called a roll-call vote to reconvene, Mr. Levakis – yes, Mr. Dolby – yes, Mr. Montaro – yes, unanimous vote.

2. Hiram Blair FEMA Money: Mr. Levakis waiting on call back from Lorraine Eddy

New Business

1. Town Clerk: presented post cards to the Selectboard to review regarding town reports and meeting dates.
2. Itemized Report of Town Finances: Clerk asked Selectboard to provide her with this report. Discussion regarding how detailed report should be. Decision to print general report with itemization available upon request.
 - a. Note: unfunded State mandate. Clerk will report this.
3. GTAC Letter to State Reps, Senators and DESE Regarding Gateway School Budget: Mr. Montanaro presented Selectboard with draft of letter to be disseminated to Gateway district town for group approval.

9:30 Mr. Levakis motion to adjourn, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

William Levakis

Andy Montanaro

Adam Dolby