



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
April 21, 2015

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

Open Meeting:

7:00 p.m. Bill meeting opened, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Treasurer Regarding Payroll:
 - a. Robert Holmes shorted 5 hours in February 2014. Treasurer has reviewed records and he has not been reimbursed. Board approved of Treasurer reimbursing Mr. Holmes.
 - b. Change in Payroll Company: per/suggestion of Eric Kirnshef. Harpers is specifically a municipal payroll company and they integrate well with SoftRight. Treasurer checked references and all were excellent. Cost will be less then ADP.
 - c. NOTE: Treasurer spoke with Fire Chief about billing to Mass DOT. The Blandford Fire Department has been billing DOT. Chief Harvey has copies of all invoices and will forward them to the Treasurer for her records. Chief Harvey has been in touch with DOT regarding payment and is also currently negotiating a contract. Going forward, Treasurer will be cc'd any invoices sent to DOT.
2. Treasurer Regarding SoftRight Issues:
 - a. Ever since Akuity updated the Treasurer's computer, SoftRight has been malfunctioning. Both SoftRight and Akuity are aware and have been working on resolving the issue.
 - b. A service tech from Akuity will be up on Thursday to work on the problem.
 - c. SoftRight believes it is the shortcut that Akuity installed that is causing the problem.
 - d. Mr. Dolby: believes it has to do with SoftRight's compatibility with Windows 7. Possibly have to set-up a remote desktop.
 - e. Mr. van Werkhoven: Tax Collector is having same issues.
 - f. Mr. Dolby will follow-up and be at Town Hall on Thursday to meet with Akuity.
3. Minutes: Mr. Dolby motion to approve minutes from March 30, 2015 and April 14, 2015 as written, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Old Business:

1. COA Contract: Revisit, Russell Counsel making revisions
2. Highway Feasibility Study Update:
 - a. Steve Jemiolo: walked properties with architects from Kaestle Boos today. Agreed that the Salt Shed was the most ideal location. Zayak's property was too wet and Westbound Pike property will be expensive to bring road through.

- b. Kaestle Boos Contract: reviewed by Board. Cara will adjust and send to Town Counsel.
 - c. Mr. Montanaro: use for remainder of feasibility money? Some is owed to Highway for ads placed and hours. Will need to spend some on a perk test.
- 3. Highway Garage Project Update: Start date of June 1st. Contract is 120 days from execution, is Davenport aware of that? Cara will follow-up.
 - a. Suggested Board write a letter to the Treasurer and Accountant regarding encumbering the funds as the project is slated to extend into next fiscal year. Cara will follow-up.
- 4. Hiram Blair Bridge Reimbursement: No word yet, Mr. Levakis will follow-up.
- 5. Pot Hole Money:
 - a. Mr. Levakis would like to spend the money on a paver. However, unsure if we have trained operators.
 - b. Mr. Montanaro: has asked Mr. Curry for pros & cons of spending the money on a paver, has not received yet.
 - c. The pothole money has been signed for, have not received the approval yet.
 - d. Mr. Montanaro: Mr. Boomsma, acting as Superintendent while Mr. Curry was away, approached Mr. Montanaro about highway budget shortfalls. Mr. Boomsma provided totals to Finance Committee and Mr. Montanaro. Finance has agreed that if Highway spells out the details, they will work with them to supplement needs and the pothole money will help in this area.
 - e. Discussed proper method of filling potholes by cutting and cleaning them first.
 - f. Mr. Montanaro will ask Highway for a list of potholes and materials used to bring to the Finance Committee.
 - g. Mr. Montanaro: disappointed with lack of progress in Highway Department.
 - i. Has been working with the Superintendent for the last five months on goals and actions steps towards goals to build evidence of credibility. Has multiple examples to support lack of progress.
 - ii. Daily schedule doesn't account for where the work is being done or provide details. Mr. Montanaro has been asking for input to make the chart more functional.
 - iii. Mr. Dolby: Board has been too lenient. We need to have them focus on fixing drainage first, otherwise throwing good money at bad. Suggested have the Highway Department do ditch work for the next 2 weeks followed by pothole repair.
 - iv. Mr. Levakis asked Mr. Montanaro to be the point man and give directions to Highway Employees directly. Mr. Dolby: should come from the entire Board. Mr. van Werkhoven: the Board can't ask Mr. Montanaro to manage the Highway Department after his regular work hours.
 - v. Board suggested that the following roads be top priority for drainage and pot hole repair: Russell Stage, Chester Road, North Blandford, South St. Beech Hill.
 - vi. Can we use pot hole money for labor? Mr. Levakis will follow-up. Has to be spent by June 30. Possibly purchase material in advance.
- 6. Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Additional resolutions to add from GTAC, two regarding unfunded mandates and one regarding requests to the School Board. See attached. Board reviewed and discussed. Agreed that they would like to add revised resolutions to the warrant.

- a. Mr. Dolby: would like to see each town's finance committees more involved in the creation of the school budget. Difficult as the school budget process begins well before the Town's budget process.
 - b. Board also agreed to add a warrant article suggested by GTAC regarding shared legal counsel.
7. Watson Park Gate: Historical Commission has approved gate that the Board received a quote on. Board asked Cara to get a separate quote with park initials on it.
 8. Regional Veteran Agent Position: Mrs. Kronholm, there is a movement to regional the Veteran Agent position.
 9. Police Department Hours: resident complaints regarding unstaffed hours. One resident has been trying to get his FID since October. The office administrator often can't answer questions and the Chief is not available and emails go unanswered. Mr. Levakis: The office administrator will be done with the academy soon and will be able to process and answer more questions. Mr. Dolby will follow-up. Note: it would be nice to have more locals serving on the Police Department.

New Business:

1. Veteran's Park Flags: George Reichart has offered to purchase a new American Flag and rope. Highway is working on repair of the flag pole. Mr. Levakis will remove other flags and Cara will purchase replacements.
2. Mr. Levakis: Motor cross event at Blandford Ski Area. Have started to discuss with zoning. When the Ski Area submits the event license, BOS will put it on the agenda so residents can attend meeting to discuss details.
3. Spring Clean-up Town Hall and Bicentennial Park: Discussed local landscapers used in the past for clean-up and how to go about hiring. Agreed that Mr. Levakis will monitor and set-up schedule and get prices.
4. Fire Department Chief: Mr. Dolby – there is no need to start search for new chief yet. Will keep Board posted.

9:30 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to adjourn, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

William Levakis

Andy Montanaro

Adam Dolby

