



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
May 5, 2015

**Attendance:** Andy Montanaro, Bill Levakis, Adam Dolby (via Skype) and Cara Letendre – Secretary

**Open Meeting:**

7:03 p.m. Bill meeting opened, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

**Posted Agenda Items:**

1. Highway Superintendent: Updates

- a. Verbal Warnings: Mr. Curry wrote up Robert Holmes and Luke Poulin for not taking their lunch breaks last week. Provided Board with a copy of the warning.
  - i. Mr. Levakis: spoke with Mr. Holmes who protested that he could not take a break as he was picking up asphalt and had to get it spread before it cooled. Mr. Levakis believes that there should not have been a warning issued.
  - ii. Mr. Curry: they could have taken their lunch break while they were waiting at the asphalt plant, or on the way down, or packed a lunch.
  - iii. Mr. Dolby: defer to Mr. Curry and supports his opinion.
  - iv. Mr. Montanaro: a verbal warning is an opportunity to make a correction and move on. Suggested that Mr. Curry make it clear that in the future if a similar situation were to occur, the employees should call him and get his advice.
  - v. NOTE: no disciplinary action if an employee refuses to sign warning, just note and file.
- b. Potholes:
  - i. Plan A: estimates of tons of asphalt needed – 20 Russell Stage Rd, 20 Cobble Mt Rd, 15 Chester Rd, 15 N. Blandford Rd, 15 South St, 25 Birch Hill Rd. Approximately \$8,000
  - ii. Plan B: Short overlay on Crooks Hill Road.
  - iii. Plan C: Short overlay on Birch Hill and South St., rent a paver and large dump truck, South St – address issues with drainage.
  - iv. Highway Secretary working on spread sheet to outline cost of part-time labor to complete this work using about \$6,000 of remaining \$7,800 in budget.
- c. Budget: Currently over by about \$23,000. Secretary line item over by about \$1,000, needs \$2,000 to finish off the year. Mr. Curry explained that this line item is over because some of the payroll was taken from the wrong line items and Lisa did outside work for BRD case this year.

- i. Mr. Dolby: ideally, track Secretary salary ongoing. Would prefer not to cut her hours now as would impact the paperwork needed to move forward.
    - ii. Mr. Montanaro will meet with Mr. Curry on Monday to review budget. Mr. Montanaro sent request to Finance Committee regarding needing extra money for Highway Labor.
  - d. Bids:
    - i. Russell Stage Road bid is out in the Central Registry and newspaper. Mr. Curry meeting with Mark Stenson from DEP on Friday to discuss project. Bid opening will be June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
      - 1. Board discussed wording for RFP to give incentive to contractors to start project by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Curry will look into how far out the contractors are booked.
        - a. Can we give preference to those who are able to complete the project within a certain time frame? Mr. Curry will check with Kathy Stevens DOT.
        - b. Discussed building in an incentive clause to complete work in a time frame while maintaining quality control.
        - c. Tie in start date rather than completion date as not to rush the project.
      - ii. Sperry and Shepard Road Bid will go out next week to avoid any confusion having two bids out at the same time.
    - e. Schedule:
      - i. Mr. Montanaro: why was Mr. Boomsma on the schedule last week when he had requested a vacation? Mr. Curry stated it was his oversight.
      - ii. Mr. Montanaro: asked Mark Boomsma to submit a revised time sheet for the time that he worked with the tree specialist. Mr. Boomsma agreed to submit revision, but has not done so yet.
    - f. Road Importance Analysis and Cost Repair Options: submitted to Board. Mr. Curry- will do another survey this year.
- 2. Police Department: Chief Hennessey
  - a. Resident complaint regarding length of time took to get an LTC card. Mr. Hennessey explained that some LTC's come quick and some take time. The Blandford Police Department is following the state law.
    - i. Mr. Montanaro: resident complained that he was waiting for Blandford police to do his fingerprints and he was either unable to reach anyone, or the person on duty was unable to take his prints. Mr. Hennessey – have explained situation to that particular resident and it should be done in two weeks.
    - ii. Office Hours: The Police Academy has been doing make-up classes on Monday evenings and it has been conflicting with our office hours. When this happens, Chief Hennessey sends a message out via Reverse 911 and posts on the website and at Town Hall.
      - 1. Mr. Montanaro: What about Monday holidays? Should change office hours to Tuesdays?
      - 2. Chief Hennessey: willing to change to Tuesdays to coincide with BOS meetings.
  - b. Mr. Levakis: Good job with presence and enforcing the speed limit.
  - c. Berkshire Paging Text System: Fire Department coordinating with Police to get this up and running. Mr. Dolby will help set-up “I Am Responding” app.

- d. Blandford Fair: will use a local officer for Friday evening truck pulls. They receive a donation to use State Police the rest of the weekend.
- 3. Water Commissioners: Response to DOT Letter
  - a. Mark Reich recommended that we don't send a response letter without his approval.
  - b. DOT has stated that they will not compensate us for the money we spent replacing the water line. They also are asking why a permanent line was built when the license was for a temporary line. We have until February 2016 to comply. Mr. Levakis will schedule meeting with DOT engineer to see what we can do to make it permanent.
- 4. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to accept April 28, 2015 minutes with amendment, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Motor cross Event Blandford Ski Area:
  - a. Mr. Levakis spoke with Building Inspector, Larry Gould who stated that the Special Event License is up to the Selectboard to grant, not the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board does not want to sign the license.
    - i. Mary Kronholm: The Zoning Board does have a say as they Motorcross race is not a permitted use of the property. However, if they get all of the signatures on the license with the exception of the Zoning Board, they can still proceed.
    - ii. The Motor Cross president has agreed to hire Blandford Police for the event. Police presence will be increased this year.
    - iii. NOTE: Mr. Dolby – noticed on busy ski days that cars are parked on both sides of the Nye Brook Road. This makes it difficult to get a safety vehicle through. Chief Hennessey will follow-up.
- 2. Fire Truck Bid:
  - a. Town Counsel advised that the Board cannot receive bid without reposting. Suggestion to post on e-bay with a \$4,500 reserve price. Cara will get approval from Inspector General first. Mr. Montanaro motion to post the ladder truck on E-bay with reserve price of \$4,500 with approval of the Inspector General, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
- 3. Turn-out Gear Fire Department: Fire Chief emailed quotes to the Board, \$1,937.04 per/suit, asking for 2 or 3 suits. Mr. Dolby: not sure how urgent this request is as the suits currently have are still in good shape. Would like to apply for a few grants first and get some more quotes. He will follow-up.
- 4. Fire Department Bills to DOT: Steven Jemiolo informed Tony van Werkhoven and Bill Levakis that the Fire Chief had decided not to charge DOT, is this accurate? Mr. Dolby, absolutely not, Chief is working on getting invoices paid.
- 5. Fire Chief: agreed to stay on for an extra year. When his term is up the Fire Department Volunteers will be involved in hiring process. Finance Committee stated that their dealings with Chief Harvey have been very positive.
- 6. Barn at Old Chlorinator: on North Blandford Road. Needs to be torn down. Discussed practice burn. Mr. Dolby will follow-up. Mr. Levakis: get gate valve out to sell first.
- 7. Fire Hydrants: Mr. Dolby – can we get a map of hydrants with estimated flow rates to the Fire Department? Mr. Levakis – yes, can have them color-coded as well.

**New Business:**

- 1. Town Clerk: received call from Westfield District Court that the Town will be receiving \$12,000 in restitution from Commonwealth vs Rob Nichols case. There was a question about the additional \$800 owed to the Town for discovery. Cara will follow-up.

2. School Budget: how will Finance address the increase in the School Budget? Tony van Werkhoven will be meeting with the rest of the committee to discuss. Feels that Stabilization and Reserve accounts are for the Town. Possibly have to do an override. Finance will also take action to balance the budget as expenses are now over the anticipated revenue.
3. Budget Overages: Mr. Montanaro – will look at this year’s overages at next BOS meeting. May need to use some of the free cash. Would like to save as much as possible to put into Stabilization so we can operate without a cash flow problem.
4. Town Clerk: requested safe be moved from old town hall to new town hall. Mr. Levakis will follow-up with John Hoppe.

8:50 p.m. Mr. Levakis motion to adjourn, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

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William Levakis

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Andy Montanaro

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Adam Dolby