



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

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

**Open Meeting:**

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

**Posted Agenda Items:**

1. Town Clerk: Update on Clerk School attended
  - a. Discussed providing lunch and dinner to elections workers.
  - b. Mandatory training for Registrars.
  - c. Town Clerk's job to prepare calendar and can have the Secretary of State preview to make sure it's in compliance.
  - d. Discussing asking NHS students to be greeters at elections.
  - e. Grant money available for creating ADA ballots for town elections.
  - f. Upcoming training on bylaw filing.
  - g. Discussed reconfiguring Clerk's office to have a counter. Board agreed, reminded Clerk that Town Administrator may share that office.
  - h. Online voter registration now available
  - i. Recommended that all Town Clerks attend week long training program, scholarships are available.
  - j. Print and bind street list annually.
  - k. Discussed gamification of Town website to provide incentive to vote, attend meetings, volunteer etc.
  - l. Town Clerk compensation in Blandford is low compared to other towns. (Mr. Montanaro reviewed compensation from surrounding towns and found Blandford's to be in line)
  - m. Unfunded mandates- Mrs. Kronholm will follow-up.
  - n. Ordered vital statistics archive material and will need to encumber \$26.
2. Highway Superintendent: Updates
  - a. Patching on South Street: using Ford 550 and hotbox as other 2 trucks are broken.
    - i. Pothole Money – almost spent, Mr. Curry will get an estimate to Mr. Montanaro tomorrow.
      1. May not get to Birch Hill
  - b. Equipment in need of repair:
    - i. Truck one – needs a new clutch, about \$3,500.00
    - ii. Truck two- has electrical issues
    - iii. Truck three – broken frame, waiting until FY16 to have it welded. Mr. Curry will get quote.

- iv. Roller – broken, bought in the 90’s and was well used then. It’s very old and it is difficult to find replacement parts. Would like to replace in near future, possible rent for time being.
  - v. Mr. Montanaro: please send the trucks out now to be repaired and have them delivered back after July 1st.
  - vi. Mr. Dolby: line up now what can be completed after July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - vii. Board asked Mr. Curry to look into hiring a part-time person capable of doing repairs. Problem, no place to do repairs. Mr. Curry will follow- up.
- c. Crack Sealing: yesterday and today, Beech Hill Road and Nye Brook Road. If have time and funding will do short paved section on Russell Stage Road.
- d. Mill and Fill: Russell Stage Road, contractor here on July 7, will take about 3-4 days to complete.
  - i. Beginning of next week will be working on drainage prior to paving.
- e. Shepard and Sperry Road Bid: opening on July 14<sup>th</sup>
- f. Road Sweeping: integral party of patching. Have to clean roads before patching and save time and money by using a sweeper.
  - i. Mr. Montanaro: sounded like hiring the road sweeper was a spur of the moment decision.
  - ii. Mr. Curry: yes, but we had been hoping to have him here earlier, it worked out well.
  - iii. Mr. Montanaro: did he follow the list of roads for patching?
  - iv. Mr. Curry: yes, and a few extra to prep for line painting.
- g. Hotbox:
  - i. Mr. Montanaro: is it worth the time, effort and space to own this machine? Would we be better off selling it and renting one to use?
  - ii. Mr. Curry: it is a viable piece of equipment. We needed it today and when used in the correct situation it is extremely valuable. Nice to have in the Fall as we are so far from the asphalt plants.
  - iii. Mr. Montanaro: the more equipment we own the more money we have to spend on repairs and preventative maintenance.
  - iv. Mr. Curry: it is difficult to rent as they are often booked well in advance and the rentals are often old and unsafe. It is nice to have our own in case of an emergency.
  - v. Discussed need to create a turnover plan.
- h. Highway Garage Project: all work has ceased due to contaminated soil. Cara will send lab results to the Engineer and Contractor.
  - i. Mr. Curry: for the record, I never asked Clayton and Davenport about changing the project. I asked for a price on new doors after the fact.
  - ii. Hauling Cement: Mark Boomsma had approached Mr. Curry about emptying a load of cement. Mr. Montanaro: was told by the supervisor that we (the Highway Department) asked to take the material away to crush and re-use. Mr. Curry: did not order that, will look into it.
- i. Beulah Land Road: Resident, who is a contractor, used his truck to pick-up millings from the salt shed and reconfigure the end of Beulah Land Road. The area is now paved around the telephone pole and the



- b. Chief Hennessey: submitted pay rate comparisons with surrounding towns.
  - c. Chief Hennessey: submitted cruiser use fee to use when Town Officers are hired out to do private detail. Will be included in bill with administration cost. Invoices are handled by the Police Department.
  - d. Mr. Montanaro motion to accept the procedure of charging \$10 per/hour for a cruiser fee as determined by the police department, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
  - e. Mr. Montanaro: would like to see Town wide comparison plan that outlines pay rates across the board.
  - f. Board will review rates and revisit next week.
  - g. NOTE: internet in Police Department currently using Belkin router, may move to switch. Chief Hennessey will follow-up.
2. All Boards Meeting: There were several people meeting from the Finance Meeting last night and they have not had adequate time to come plan for the All Boards meeting. Finance will be meeting on Friday. They will cover the information for the All Boards meeting then and discuss issues and documents needed.
    - a. The Selectboard will set the agenda for the All Boards meeting and put the Finance Committee on it. Will reschedule in about one month.
    - b. Mr. Montanaro: would like to have the Accountant send up-to-date account balance to each department each month.
      - i. Mr. Dolby: the Accountant is already overburdened. The departments can get the reports themselves. They sent a letter to cancel the contract for non-compliance.
  3. Cohn Reznik: did not get back to the Finance Committee with any results. The Finance Committee decided to lay out the procedures themselves.
  4. Town Administrator Letter: Mr. Montanaro revised and Mr. Dolby approved. Cara will put on letter head and send out.
  5. MOU with PVPC: waiting on Chesterfield to meet, they will be signing the agreement for Koplemen to review the MOU for us.
  6. DLT A Turnpike Property: Scope of Work, Mr. Dolby will contact Rep. Pignatelli about DOT plans for the property. Mr. Montanaro motion to proceed with the assessment of the possible uses for the MassDOT land parcel, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.

**New Business:**

9:24 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to adjourn, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

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Adam Dolby

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Andy Montanaro