



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

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

Open Meeting:

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

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Highway Superintendent:

- a. Highway Garage: at a standstill. Cara working on getting proposal for the testing to map the area. Have one proposal, second due in tomorrow.
- b. Pothole Money: have spent \$38,731.26 thus far. Waiting on one more invoice. Did purchase gravel with extra. (of the total, crack seal cost \$18,999.72).
- c. Mill & Fill Russell Stage Road: ditch work today and the rest of the week. Will use some of the millings on Schoolhouse Road. Conservation gave the approval as long as bales and run-off material used. Extra millings will be stored at salt shed.
- d. Chip Seal Project: out to bid, had to edit and send out addendums to original posting regarding who is responsible for road sweeping. Bid will be opened 7/14/2015.
- e. BRD: number one priority at the moment. Had made a few changes via Lorraine Eddy. Will go out to the Agawam office next week. A FEMA representative will then drive the paperwork out to Boston.
- f. 30 Day List:
 - i. Priorities: 1) Mill and Fill 2) Chip Seal 3) Re-coup Pothole Money – Lisa
 - ii. NOTE: mower is broken again, shared mower will get to us in August. Mr. Curry will look into renting one for the time being.
 - iii. Mr. Curry will pull from all three of the Selectboard members lists to compile his objectives for 30 days.
 1. Make sure it is reasonable
 2. Choose problem areas, not entire roads
 3. Emphasize having Mr. Curry work with crew to improve moral.
 4. Mr. Dolby: while this is happening, Mr. Curry will still be working on strategic planning? Mr. Curry: absolutely.
 - iv. Mr. Levakis: would like to have Mr. Curry compensated for attending Selectboard meetings going forward. Mr. Dolby: would like to not have to have him here. Asked Mr. Curry to think about how to better communicate with the Board without

having to be here every week. Concerned that communication will cease. Mr. Montanaro: ensure that everyone is comfortable with the 30 and 60 day goals first. We will have Mr. Curry here next week.

2. Kaestle Boos Safety Complex Plans: Chuck Boos, Architect here to answer questions about the feasibility study and the plans for the Safety complex thus far.
 - a. Holding cells: Mr. Dolby seem unnecessary as we don't have the manpower. Chie Hennessy: we are in charge of watching our prisoners anyways. We could offer to let the State Police use the cells if need be.
 - b. Mr. Jemiolo: Planning for 20 years in advance. Rumor that the Russell Barracks will be closing.
 - c. Mr. Montanaro: liability, manpower, logistical, we are not prepared for this size facility in this Town.
 - d. Mr. Boos: worked with Building Planning Committee and Department Heads to come up with the specs, based on population size.
 - e. Mr. Dolby: the feasibility money was centered around fire and emergency services.
 - f. Mr. Boos: If you would like it without the lock-up system we would have to revisit the system as to how we want the building used.
 - g. Mr. Montanaro: Do you have an estimate without the holding and booking areas?
 - h. Mr. Boos: I can't guess, I would have to work with the Chief and modify the program.
 - i. Mr. Montanaro: Can we say we have X amount of money and see what we can do with that?
 - j. Mr. Boos: yes, but that would be a disservice to the Fire and Police Departments. The programs developed were reasonable, if we revisit the programs we will be starting over.
 - k. Mr. Montanaro: Ultimately it comes down to what we can afford and it is still unclear if the State can help.
 - l. Mr. Montanaro: can we get an estimate on utilities?
 - m. Mr. Boos: discussed possibility of solar. Current plans are 32,000 square feet. Ready to receive guidance and make changes.
 - n. Liaison: Mr. Dolby will work with Building Planning Committee as the liaison. Board asked that Building Planning Committee notify Mr. Dolby as to when they are meeting.
3. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve minutes from June 16, 2015 as amended, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
 - a. Mr. Dolby motion to approve minutes from June 23, 2015 as amended, Mr. Montanaro second, Mr. Levakis abstained as he was not present at the meeting, unanimous vote.

Old Business:

1. Police Pay Rate: Chief Hennessey
 - a. Mr. Montanaro: hoping to estimate pay ranges and starting rates.
 - b. Mr. Levakis motion to set pay rates for the police sergeant, patrolman, special and secretary as proposed, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
 - c. Mr. Dolby: (explaining increase) we are bringing the rates in line with the market. There was a dramatic difference between us and surrounding towns, and we only have two officers on the force.

- d. Mr. Montanaro: expect that the starting rate for a Chief would not be what the current chief is earning today. Asked Chief Hennessey to please prepare starting rates for the positions.
2. Special Event License Opera: Board signed and waived fee.
 - a. Mr. Dolby motion to approve special event license permit for the Blandford Historical Society's Opera, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
 - b. Asked that Chief Hennessey provide a crossing guard.
3. MOU for PVPC: have not heard back from Counsel yet.
4. School Budget:
 - a. DESE stated that the Gateway budget will increase by 14.7% for FY16 which is a \$218,000 increase from last year. The Selectboard has not seen the letter from DESE stating this and would like to see a copy.
 - b. Resident expressed concern about loss of budget. "The school committee has no consideration for town services. They are unwilling to collaborate."
 - c. Mr. Dolby: spoke with Representative Pignatelli and he is putting him in contact with a rep from DESE.
 - d. Discussed withholding town employee's raises to help offset the cost.

New Business:

1. Financial Officers Hours:
 - a. Mr. Montanaro recommended that we ask the Financial Officers to post hours that overlap by at least one day in order to meet and reconcile.
 - b. The Selectboard chose Thursday. Cara will follow up to confirm three hours that they will all be in the building.
 - c. NOTE: Cara send memo to Tax Collector and Treasurer reminding them that as of July 1st, the Tax Collector is on an hourly rate of \$13.00 plus fees collected.
 - i. Mr. Dolby motion to change the pay rate for the tax collector to \$13.00 per hour as of July 1, 3015, Mr. Montanaro second. Cara looked back and that had already been unanimously voted on February 15, 2015. Motion withdrawn.
 - d. NOTE: the water department has moved their billing and collecting back into their office. The Treasurer will be doing the commitments.
2. Call-out Procedure: Mr. Montanaro will follow-up and check the sick time policy.

9:38 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to adjourn, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby

Andy Montanaro

William Levakis