



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
July 7, 2015

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

Open Meeting:

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

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Highway Superintendent:
 - a. 30 Day Objectives: will have list revised and ready by Friday.
 - i. Will include: 1) seasonal work schedule 2) prioritized work list with dates 3) employment management and funding schedule.
 - b. Russell Stage Road:
 - i. Mr. Curry had been trying to extend the contract with Lane Construction to include the area under the overpass. They had agreed to do so for \$12,000 (a lower price than usual because they would not have to include a mobility fee as they were already here.) Mr. Dolby and Mr. Montanaro wanted to have a drainage plan in place first to ensure that the road would be maintained. DOT got back to Mr. Curry regarding a drainage plan too late as Lane had already finished the contracted work. DOT asked Mr. Curry to look into property lines. Plan to meet in near future, Mr. Curry would like to have a selectboard member present.
 - ii. Overpass: discussed plans to get the height back to 14ft, currently at 13ft 8in.
 - iii. Shimming to be done on Thursday
 - iv. Milling: went well today. Holding off on paving until it dries out.
 - v. Started spreading millings on Nye Brook Road. Created an area on the shoulder for police to pull off. Fixed bus turn-around. NOTE: Grader broke, will repair in morning and head back out.
 - vi. Cleaned ditches down to original paved waterways. Concerned about the location, maybe shift lines a bit and fill with some stone.
 - c. Start scheduling dirt road work.
 - i. Mr. Montanaro: while grading, please pin-point drainage areas. Can you coordinate to repair them as you go through the process of bringing the roads up to par?
 1. Mr. Curry, yes to a point with dirt roads.
 - d. Pothole paperwork done and with Accountant.
 - e. Plan to use Friday mornings to meet with Secretary and complete paperwork

- f. Highway Garage: Mr. Levakis – met with Cold Spring Environmental rep on Monday regarding testing. Plan to build ramp and drill some holes for access, about 5 hours of work. Will be more cost efficient for us to do this part ourselves. Selectboard agreed, asked that keep record of hours to track and work on overtime as to not interrupt attention spent on roads.
 - i. Cold Spring will begin testing on the 20th of July. Estimate of months until work can begin again.
- g. Mr. Curry: daughter will be home on leave from Guam from July 22-August 1. Will be taking time off and Tom Ackley and John Derryberry will be filling int. Mark Boomsma will be around as well, may be out on paternity leave. Mr. Curry will set a schedule. Mr. Montanaro asked that Mr. Curry make decisions clear before he leaves.
- h. Part-time help for equipment repair: Mr. Curry will interview.

Old Business:

- 1. MOU for PVPC: approved and signed

New Business:

- 1. Proclamation for Sheep Gate: Board read aloud and signed a proclamation for Sheep Gate store in town to commend them for 25 years in business. Plan to present proclamation to Mrs. Costello on Thursday.
- 2. Elected Officials: Mr. Dolby asked Mrs. Kronholm to contact the webmaster regarding updating elected officials.
- 3. Finance:
 - a. Procedures: Finance is no longer working with Cohn Reznik. However, the need for written procedures still exist. Suggested that Josephine Sarnelli submit a proposal. She feels strongly that an audit this year is not worth it. Mrs. Sarnelli has spoken on our behalf with banks regarding borrowing. She feels that with her help the Financial Officers will be prepared for closing the books this year. In lieu of spending the money set aside on an audit the Finance Committee would like to hire Mrs. Sarnelli to work with the officers and create these procedures. Mrs. Sarnelli guaranteed that when she is complete, we will be ready for an audit. The Finance Committee feels that Mrs. Sarnelli is an excellent choice as she already knows are weakness's and what needs to be done. She can get started ASAP. Finance strongly recommends.
 - i. Mr. Montanaro: As we would be paying her an hourly rate, we would have to put a not to exceed limit in the contract.
 - ii. Selectboard agreed. Will contact Town Counsel regarding using funding for this purpose
 - b. Regional Accounting: Finance Committee feels that until we can pass an audit that to outsource this position would only muddle the waters. Mr. Dolby agreed: It is a requirement of the proposal with PVPC that we go backwards first before outsourcing the position.
 - i. Mrs. Smith: if it does happen then my role on the finance committee will change. I don't believe in it.
 - ii. Mr. Montanaro: not clear on what PVPC services will be offered without know details or price it is difficult to come to a conclusion. We have been talking about monthly reconciliations and closing the books by October 1st for many years now, can Finance assure that we will?
 - 1. Mrs. Smith: I can't guarantee that, I believe that we can come closer. The Selectboard does not appreciation the amount of work that has been done in the Accountant's office.

2. Mr. Dolby: not disputing the amount of work that has been done, Janet has done an excellent job. However, she only agreed to come on board temporarily.
3. Mrs. Smith: Janet wants the job, she is interested in staying until we get a clean audit.
4. Mr. Dolby: have not been aggressively pursuing outsourcing. We don't at that pay rate and hours many qualified candidates for the job. The clean-up/forensic component of the job is beyond our staff.
5. Mr. van Werkhoven: we are at a considerably better state then we have been in the past.
6. Mr. Dolby: I have never said we want to get rid of Janet. Not one aspect of outsourcing has to do with Janet. We would have moved faster to outsource if not for her. After we get a clean audit, then what? The companies that are going to bid on this RFP are municipal accountants. Do we forsake this opportunity?
7. Mr. Montanaro: Janet is putting in a lot of hours and I worry about her burning out.

8:30 Mr. Montanaro motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining litigation and follow-up on forensic audit. Cara called a roll call vote: Mr. Levakis – yes, Mr. Dolby – yes, Mr. Montanaro – yes.

The Board will reconvene.

9:16 Mr. Montanaro motion to re-adjourn. Cara called a roll call vote: Mr. Levakis – yes, Mr. Dolby – yes, Mr. Montanaro – yes.

Posted Items:

2. Revote Board Positions: Mr. Levakis invoke order of necessity in order to nominate selves.
 - a. Mr. Montanaro motion to appoint Mr. Dolby as Selectboard Chair for a term of one year, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
 - b. Mr. Dolby motion to appoint Mr. Montanaro as Selectboard Clerk for a term of one year, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
3. Minutes: Mr. Dolby motion to approve minutes of June 25, 2015, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
4. School Budget:
 - a. Mr. Dolby spoke with Representative Smitty Pignatelli about contacting him with someone in DESE. Mr. Pignatelli stated that several towns are finding themselves in our position.
 - b. The School Committee had 30 days to submit the budget and they have not done so.
 - c. Mr. Dolby spoke with Town Counsel regarding an education consultant.
 - d. Discussed holding the salary increase for Town employees until the school budget is settled.

9:48 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to adjourn, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby

Andy Montanaro

William Levakis