



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
July 14, 2015

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

Open Meeting:

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

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Highway Superintendent:

- a. 30 Day list, make available to public and post on website and bulletin.
 - i. Mill & Fill: already begun. Finished drainage and ditches, grading tomorrow.
 - ii. Chip Seal: bid opening tonight
 - iii. Sign Replacement: have received some signs previously ordered and continuing to work on list and replacement with part-time workers
 - iv. Drop Inlet: cover/repair at Town Hall and Chester Road.
 - v. Roadside Mowing: working on obtaining mower, shared through WMECO. May get in mid-august. Possible rent mower.
 - vi. Mr. Montanaro: please sort by date and priority and list each road.
 - vii. Mr. Curry: prioritize by number of people on road, if it is a through road, unless safety concern
 - viii. Pot Hole Money: Birch Hill Road, last on list did not get to. Will use asphalt from chip seal to fill when dump truck is fixed.
 - ix. Prioritize Dirt Roads to be Graded
 - x. Mr. Montanaro: if you find things that need attention please make permanent fixes when can afford to.
 - xi. Calendar: Setting up Google Calendar to alert BOS and employees of changing plans.
 - xii. Culverts: waiting on letter from Attorney's
- b. Mikuski Driveway Shepard Road: has not been moved. Cara will review minutes for details.
- c. Bid Opening: Sperry and Shepard Roads Double Chip Seal, both companies that submitted bids are pre-qualified with DOT
 - i. All State Asphalt, Sunderland MA: Have insurance bond. Bid: \$3.98 per square yard = \$86,047.06
 - ii. Comer Construction, Farmington CT: Have insurance bond. Bid: \$4.16 per square yard = \$89,939.20.
 - iii. Mr. Levakis motion to accept bid from All State Asphalt for Double Chip Seal of Shepard and Sperry Road for a total of \$86,047.06, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
 - iv. Lisa will work on contract.

- d. Mr. Montanaro: Chapter 90 money left? Mr. Curry will tally and get total. Also have to check to see how much the Governor signed for.
- 2. Building Inspector: not responding to requests. Not present at meeting and has not submitted letter of interest to be reappointed. Mr. Levakis will look into other inspectors. Mr. Montanaro asked that the Treasurer pay Mr. Gould for half of the month and hold the rest.
- 3. Chief Procurement Officer: Currently use Town Counsel. However without appointing a town employee to this position we can't accept proposals. Mr. Levakis expressed interest in getting certified. If appointed Mr. Levakis would continue to work with Town Counsel and Selectboard would continue to vote on purchases. Mr. Montanaro: ultimately the job will go to Town Administrator.
 - a. Mr. Montanaro motion to appoint William Levakis as interim Chief Procurement Officer, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
- 4. Minutes:
 - a. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve minutes from June 30, 2015 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
 - b. Mr. Levakis motion to approve minutes from July 7, 2015 as written, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Old Business:

- 1. Appointments: See attached
 - a. Constable: hold on June Masee, wait for Chief Hennessey's opinion
 - b. Mr. Montanaro: invoke order of necessity to appoint Mrs. Montanaro to positions
 - c. Plumbing Inspector: discussion about availability. Table until have more information. Mr. Montanaro amend motion to appoint Peter Anderson to the position of plumbing inspector temporarily for one month until further discussion, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
 - d. Park Superintendent: Mr. Levakis looking into bidding out the maintenance to compare with what we currently pay (taking into account equipment maintenance, and insurance)
 - e. Park Superintendent Assistant: Anne Emo reports directly to her husband. Discussed having her report to someone else.
 - f. Treasurer: according to bylaw has to be interviewed in open meeting by Selectboard, Planning Board Chair, Finance Chair, Tax Collector and Accountant prior to re-appointment. Will schedule for next week.
 - i. Mr. Montanaro motion to rescind appointment of Brenda Marra to the position of Treasurer until interview is conducted, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
- 2. FEMA Reimbursements: Mr. Levakis spoke with Lorraine Eddy regarding Hiram Blair Road and BRD reimbursements. All of the paperwork is in and complete for both. She will follow-up with him tomorrow to get figures. Mr. Levakis will also be in touch with Bruce Sherwood.
- 3. Education Funding Levels From State: DESE letter – school committee granted a 15 day extension to get each town a copy of the budget. New deadline is July 24, 2015. State has not passed the budget yet.
- 4. Salary Freeze: Selectboard has frozen the salary increase pending the outcome of the school budget. They are hopeful if the proposals fit in with our budget that we will be able to release the frozen funds and pay employees retroactively. However if the School Committee submits the same budget then we will have to look at imposing a hiring freeze, additional cuts and possible a tax override proposal. The Selectboard would prefer to not have to take these actions.

- a. The Police Salary was reinstated at a prior meeting and will remain in effect..
 - b. Water Rates are not affected as they don't affect the revenue. The accounting is separate and the water users, not the tax revenue pay the salaries. We would not generate any additional revenue by holding these rates.
 - c. Mr. van Werkhoven: decision was made without approval from the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee disagrees with this decision and feels it should have been applied to all town employees.
 - d. Mr. Kronholm: the Selectboard failed in transparency. She was not invited as a Library trustee to discuss. The Selectboard has to include Boards in these discussions who have explanations to make to their employees.
 - e. Mr. Montanaro: noted, however the discussion came up when they were handed a letter to approve the salary increase. They did not plan to discuss it nor did they have it on the agenda. It is extremely painful on both sides and detest having to face this choice. Hope circumstances are reversed.
 - f. Mrs. Kronholm: the salary increase only equals about \$7,000, need to come up with about \$200,000 for school budget. Mr. Montanaro: the next step is to see what budget the School Committee proposes. Finance had planned for a \$100,000 increase so we are looking at about \$118,000 unfunded if the number holds. We will have to make additional cuts. It is our responsibility as the Selectboard to hold discretionary spending until we find out what we owe the school.
 - g. At the School Committee meeting on the 22nd plan to ask if they are giving a salary increase to their employees. It is a disparity if they can afford to give increases yet we cannot.
5. Town Garage Mitigation: Mr. Levakis met with Clayton Davenport at Highway Garage today to work on a plan to move forward.
- a. Mr. Levakis will follow-up with DEP to get permission to finish the first half of the garage while we complete the clean-up. NOTE: The cost of concrete delivery will increase the total cost of the project. Will do a change order at that point. He will also ask if we can test the soil and work with Cold Spring.
 - b. In process of purchasing a trailer to replace pods and save money.
 - c. Keeping expenses separate to track this project, including salaries.
6. Town Administrator: on hold until next week.

New Business:

- 1. Cost of Computers: Discussed where to take funding from. Mr. Montanaro: take out of capital and move reserve money to cover.

9:08 p.m. Mr. Montanaro motion to adjourn, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

William Levakis

Andy Montanaro