



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
August 10, 2015

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

**Open Meeting:**

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

**Posted Agenda Items:**

1. Jack Reilley Endless Mountains Solar System Representative.
  - a. Discussed company history and proposal for commercial panels at the Water Plant.
  - b. SREC (Solar Renewable Energy Credit) credits are sold to electricity suppliers to meet their mandated requirements. For 10 years the Town will receive these credits.
  - c. Proposal:
    - i. Recommended 285 watt panels, 203 will fit on the South facing roof. Each panel is separate; if one is broken the others still run.
    - ii. Warranty: 25 year manufacture performance based warranty on panels and mounting. After warranty maintenance is \$35 per/hr.
    - iii. Lightning Strike: Mr. Reilly suggested we check with our insurance company, usually panels are covered under regular policy.
    - iv. Average Electric bill at the water plant is currently \$35,000 per/year. With this 57.855 kw system the Town will save about 40%.
    - v. Initial outlay of funds - \$201,494. Will receive about \$186,287 in SREC credits.
    - vi. Leasing: offer at 30% discount on energy costs, no out of pocket costs, insured through Endless Mountains. However don't receive SREC credits.
    - vii. Installation: done in-house. Have 3<sup>rd</sup> party engineer assess building and do 5 year review. 5 year warranty on labor.
    - viii. Next steps: Town research funding.
    - ix. Discussed pricing for residents. Will revisit.
2. Minutes:
  - a. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes of July 27, 2015 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
  - b. Mr. Levakis motion to approve meeting minutes of August 3, 2015 as written, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote. Mr. Montanaro abstained as he was not present at the meeting.
- 3.

**Old Business:**

1. Town Garage Mitigation: Cara is working on an amendment/change order with Clayton Davenport. Once that is complete Cold Spring will move forward with the necessary paperwork.
2. FEMA:
  - a. Hiram Blair: Lorraine Eddy contacted Cara and let her know that the contracts should be arriving shortly. Once signed the money will be released.
  - b. BRD: Lorraine Eddy has all of the paperwork requested. She is forwarding it to FEMA for review and final close out in a few days.
3. Water Usage: down 50% after several water breaks repaired this week.
4. Water Department Ozone Generators: Mr. Levakis sent them back to the company to review for coverage under warranty.
5. Clean Footprint: Mr. Levakis will speak with president of company next week.
6. School Committee Job Descriptions: review for next week.
7. Tree Warden: needs keys to boom truck. Board asked to see copies of his licenses first.
8. Hill at Common: needs to be mowed for Labor Day. Board will check with Assessor to verify who owns the property.
9. MBI Grant: Mr. Dolby will review.
10. Appointments:
  - a. Mr. Montanaro motion to appoint Brenda Blood to the position of Dog Officer and Animal Inspector for a period of one year, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
  - b. Mr. Levakis motion to re-appoint Doug Emo to Watson Park Superintendent for a period of one year, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
  - c. Mr. Levakis motion to re-appoint Ann Emo to Watson Park Assistant for a term of one year, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
  - d. Mr. Dolby motion to appoint Eric McVey to the position of Wired West Alternate for a period of three years, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

**New Business:**

1. Birch Hill Road: Residents present to ask Board to address concerns with potholes. Highway Department schedule includes filling potholes on Birch Hill Road this week.
  - a. Lynn Russell expressed concerns that heavy rain cause most of the washout to run onto her driveway. Mr. Montanaro will follow-up with Highway Superintendent.
  - b. Board explained that they have been holding off on having Highway do some drainage work until have a bylaw drafted regarding culverts.
2. Darlene McVeigh, GTAC to discuss school budget challenges and procedural issues.
  - a. Discussed Huntington's history with this year's school budget.
    - i. Huntington voted down the 2 ½ override at the election and voted down the school budget at the annual town meeting.
  - b. Special Town Meeting:
    - i. There has been some confusion amongst the six hilltowns about holding a special town meeting to revote the school budget.
    - ii. Procedural issues: regulations call for the school committee to provide the Towns with a copy of the new budget. The school committee filed for an extension and was scheduled to re-vote on the budget on July 22, 2015 (to meet the July 28, 2015 deadline). However, they could not achieve quorum and canceled the meeting. Thus they have not complied with the state regulations.
    - iii. However, the towns can't ignore that they have 45 days from the date that the budget was resubmitted to schedule a special town meeting to re-

vote the budget. Whether they have received a new budget from the School Committee or not. DESE suggested that the towns base their timelines on the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget letter sent on July 27, 2015. Mrs. McVeigh is concerned that if we don't have a vote, then we have approved the school budget as is.

- iv. Letter sent to DESE by the Gateway Superintendent states that the budget this year is 3% lower, however that doesn't take into account that the district is one town less and there is a significant increase in each remaining town's share.
  - v. Selectboard scheduled a Special Town Meeting for September 8, 2015  
Special Town Meeting: Mr. Dolby will follow-up with Town Counsel for wording on warrant. Discussed adding a second article regarding 2.5% override to be voted on if the first article passes. Cara will contact Gateway and ask if the amount on the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget letter is the amount they expect to see on the special town meeting warrant.
  - vi. Tomorrow evening there is a meeting being held to put together an agenda to form task forces (including Selectboard and School Committee members) to look at sustainable options for towns and schools.
- c. Mass Pike Exit: Mr. Montanaro discussed adding a non-binding referendum to the next Special Town Meeting regarding a Turnpike exit. Will revisit for the next Special Town Meeting.

9:32 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to adjourn, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

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Adam Dolby

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William Levakis

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Andrew Montanaro