



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
September 9, 2014

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

**Open Meeting:**

7:07 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

**Posted Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes from September 2, 2014 with amendments, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote. Mr. Dolby abstained from the vote as he wasn't present at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
2. Watson Park: Historical Commission Representatives, Katie & Peter Milford, and Watson Park Superintendent, Doug Emo. Purpose: to discuss boundaries and areas that Park Superintendent maintains.
  - Mr. Montanaro suggested set a time to walk the park jointly and outline priorities. Will confirm a date with Cara. Suggestion to include Recreation Committee Rep.
  - Mr. Montanaro asked Mr. Levakis to have vendor remove tennis court fencing with poles intact for use in Water and/or Highway Departments.
  - Mr. Montanaro asked Cara to follow up with Treasurer regarding how many Watson Park accounts are there and what is available.

**Old Business:**

1. Liaisons: Cara provided Board with a job description for Liaison to Departments, Committees, Commissions and Boards as well as a draft of a memo with a list of assigned liaison's per Mr. Levakis.  
Mr. Dolby motion to approve job description of Liaison to Departments, Committees, Commissions and Boards, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote. Cara to post and send memos.  
Discussion regarding Liaison assignments:
  - Mr. Levakis: Made the assignments as they are in order to get this new program off the ground. Will revisit and switch up the assignments later.
  - Mr. Montanaro: Disagrees with assignments, would prefer them as he had laid them out last week and Mr. Levakis had agreed with. Feels that all Selectboard members are able to oversee budget concerns in any area. Feels that Mr. Levakis's involvement with the Water Department doesn't help as a Liaison should be approaching from a fresh perspective and remove any sense of conflict

of interest in reviewing and managing. Mr. Levakis agreed to give the Water Department to Mr. Montanaro.

- Mr. Levakis has asked Mr. Van Werkhoven to be Liaison to the Financial Offices as he is very knowledgeable in those areas.
- Mr. Dolby, as job description written, Liaison cannot make decisions as had been discussed at prior meeting. Note: change job type to assigned, not appointed.
- Revisit in 2 months to assess.

## 2. Highway Superintendent:

- Payroll Polices: Mr. Levakis asked Highway personnel to come next week instead to discuss with attorney in executive session.
- Discussed new Holiday pay policy which is for 8 hrs instead of the previous 10hr “policy”
- Mr. Levakis motion to return to old policies until further discussion with attorney and personnel. Mr. Curry: accumulative has remained the same, won’t hurt anyone to keep the policy as is until issue is resolved.
- Mr. Montanaro: had discussion with Mr. Curry last week to explain new policies and mutually agreed that it would be helpful to have Mr. Montanaro meet with the Highway Employees as well. However, Mr. Levakis stopped the meeting one hour prior to scheduled time. Mr. Levakis: stopped the meeting because Mr. Montanaro had asked Treasurer to hold detail pay for police department and he felt that Mr. Montanaro was out of control. Doesn’t want Mr. Montanaro speaking with the Highway employees alone, do everything as a Board. Mr. Dolby: If Mr. Montanaro can’t speak with employees alone, then neither can Mr. Levakis. Has no issue with revisiting vacation time calculations, hard to not see Mr. Levakis as advocating for Highway, instead of the town. Mr. Levakis: My job to make sure that departments are running efficiently, disgrumped employees = weaker productivity. Mr. Van Werkhoven, intent of 10 hr, 4 day work weeks was never to change benefits. Mr. Montanaro: Policy was lacking and needed to put one in place to follow and amend if needed. No intention of not giving 40 hr work weeks. Policy does not restrict from getting 40 hours, there are several options to get in 32 hours during the week. Motivated to approve policies because of budget concerns, priority to use every dollar as productively as possible. Suggestion: should have made effective date one month out to allow time for discussion.
- Detail Rate: Mr. Levakis- Have to have police officers present at work sites, won’t get them to work for less than detail rates. Have tried to cut down on number of police on the job and have run into trouble. Use Chapter 90 \$ to pay. If we change policy and don’t pay prevailing wage, we will not get other towns to come and work for us when we need the extra coverage, will have to pay their rate. Mr. Montanaro: Have hired police at certain rate of pay and no reason can’t extend that rate to detail work. Chapter 90 \$ is designated to the town, money spent on detail rate is money that could be spent on roads. Mr. Levakis challenged Mr. Montanaro to find flaggers at regular police rate. Mr. Curry: Under Chapter 90 \$ all workers have to be certified flaggers and carry OSHA cards. Current detail rate is set by Police Chief. Mr. Dolby asked that Chief Hennessey attend next BOS meeting to discuss detail rate. Prevailing wage rate does not apply to town employees on a state job. Need to put policy in place.
- Chester Road: currently working on gravel shoulder, drainage and touching up driveways.

- Bucket Loader: has had bad pins for about 7 years now. Currently at mechanic, quote came in at \$9,000.00. How would Board like to proceed? Suggestion to get some more quotes from local mechanics and have Loader brought back to town garage.
  - North Blandford Road: Mr. van Werkhoven explained history of washout from Gore Road washing materials into field and plugging up waterways, thus flooding and damaging North Blandford road on regular basis. Spoke with DEP and Conservation who found in favor of digging out 2 waterways. Signed entry agreement drawn up by Town Counsel. Job was approved by prior Board of Selectmen. Had been looking for FEMA money to use. Mr. Curry estimates the job to be about a week long project using town employees. Looking into Hazard Mitigation. Board asked Mr. Curry to get them a quote. Mr. Curry meeting with FEMA tomorrow will discuss applying for Hazard Mitigation grant for engineering fees.
  - Overtime Management Update: Overtime has been cut completely, working straight 40 hours unless there is an emergency.
  - Plan of Correction Budget Overage: Mr. Curry: can't calculate on a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. Presented Board with average of money spent in first quarter for last 5 years. According to average, he is doing well with expenditures and over by \$13,000 in salaries-however, have done over 1 Million dollars in projects already this year. Plan is to keep overtime and part-time hours at a minimal barring any major storms. Mr. Dolby, numbers aren't a problem as long as Mr. Curry knows where he is at and has a plan to manage. Mr. Curry: thanked Board, Financial Officers and Cara for making budget information more accessible this year.
  - Discussed repairs on vehicles vs. beginning rotation process. Mr. Dolby suggestion to have someone on contract/retainer do repairs for several town departments.
  - Maple Lane: Mr. Curry provided Board with estimates and different paving options (not including culvert work). Should be surveyed first. Mr. Curry would recommend paving and full depth reclamation as would last longest. Discussion about just fixing the culverts and not taking the road. Then opens up discussion about roadwork on other private roads in town. Highway secretary is setting up meeting with Proctor's regarding their trees encroaching drainage issue. One culvert we can fix is the one on Russell Stage road.
3. Akuity Technologies: Finance approval of Mr. Dolby's request for funding of \$675 per/month. Mr. Dolby will get contract to Board to review.
  4. Emergency Management: Discussion as to why Chief Hennessey is not on Emergency Management Committee. Mr. Dolby will follow-up.

**Future Consideration**

9:55 p.m. Mr. Levakis motion to adjourn, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

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William Levakis - Chair

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Andy Montanaro - Member

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Adam Dolby, Member