



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
October 7, 2014

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

**Open Meeting:**

7:03 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 30, 2014 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
2. Review Warrants: Board reviewed and signed warrants.
3. Chief Hennessey:

Mutual Aid Agreement: Presented Board with Policy from Western Mass Chiefs of Police in coalition with the DA. Authorizes officers to act and respond in other towns if they come upon a crime in progress.

- Many other towns in Western Mass have signed. Town Counsel has approved the policy.
- Does not affect hours worked in Blandford, not patrolling other towns.
- Will replace mutual town aid agreement voted in the 70's. Will look into adding amendment to next Special Town Meeting.
- Mr. Levakis motion to accept Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Detail Rate: Discussion of new policy put in place by Board to pay detail rate for town flagging jobs at regular rate of pay.

- Chief Hennessey: Rates are based on community average, have followed this practice for years.
- Mr. Montanaro: Don't establish rates for employees based on other town's averages. Board has already voted to make detail pay for town flagging jobs regular rate of pay.
- Chief Hennessey: most detail rates are paid through outside contractors. Pay that higher rate for liability.
- Mrs. Smith (Finance Committee): The Board is living in the confines of a budget, not an argument if the police deserve the pay or not. This should be discussed with the entire town prior to voting the budget.
- Mr. Levakis: The Board is focusing on putting policies into place. Can always go back and adjust if needed. Has looked into town contracts and all were paid at prevailing wage. State has regulations on Chapter 90 money.

- Mr. Van Werkhoven: No reason to charge flagging to Chapter 90 money, can charge to town line item instead.
- Mr. Levakis: Often use prevailing wage for detail rate for mutual aid. Not sound practice to pay our employees less.
- Mr. Montanaro: Is detail work more dangerous than regular duties? Chief Hennessey: Yes, it can be. Mr. Montanaro: Do you think we should change the rate of pay with the risk factor or establish a fair rate that covers all duties?

Errors in Payroll:

- Mr. Montanaro- new Overtime Policy approved by the Board called for Overtime to be paid after a forty hour work week, not an eight hour day. However, a number of employees put in for and were paid overtime after eight hour shifts this previous payroll. Based on advice from Town Counsel, Mr. Montanaro asked Chief Hennessey to please have those employees sign to authorize a correction to the last payroll. Mr. Montanaro presented authorizations to Chief Hennessey and asked that if the employees choose not to accept, please have them sign and indicate that.
- Chief Hennessey: Police have their own policy. Would like to sit down and review new policies with Board. No one on the force is full-time.
- Mr. Montanaro: Board is trying to use town's resources frugally.

Hours: Police department now open every Monday from 6-8 p.m. Just finished training Administrative Assistant.

Schedule of Duty: Mr. Montanaro asked the Chief provide Selectboard with schedule of department hours. Chief Hennessey agreed.

Police Vehicles: Where is second Police vehicle kept? Sargent Flores is currently working on it. Crown Victoria is at the garage being fixed.

4. Paula Bilodeau: and several Nye Brook Road residents, regarding Blandford Ski Area. Ski area recently hosted dirt bike racing event over a two day period. (Event was approved by Board)
  - Noise Level: Mrs. Bilodeau shared video with the Board to illustrate noise level of event. After the event, dirt bikes have been up on the mountain at least once a week during the summer.
  - Speed Limit: Nye Brook is an un-posted road, so speed limit is 40. Too fast for a small road with trucks with trailers. Discussed having more police presence in future events.
  - Bridge: Concern if bridge can handle weight limit of large busses that frequent Ski area. Mr. Levakis will follow-up.
  - Alcohol consumption and littering: Recommendation for more police presence at future events.
  - Going forward Board will invite residents of Nye Brook when Ski Area on the agenda for permits.
  - Mrs. Fisk will share information with Ski Area Board.

**Old Business**

1. Shepard Road Driveway: on 4/30/13 Angela Mikuski (property owner) contacted Highway Superintendent about a driveway permit for her property on Shepard Road where she was planning on building a house. Mr. Curry issued her a temporary driveway permit. Mr. Curry presented a copy of this permit with map to Board. Mrs. Mikuski has not sought permanent permit yet as has not completed clearing lot. ISSUE: part of the temporary u-shaped driveway is less than mandated 15 ft from neighbors (Rosberg's)

boundary pin. Mrs. Mikuski agreed to shave off the width from that area to bring the driveway up to code. The Rosbergs agreed to this solution. Mrs. Mikuski will contact Cara with a completion date. Mr. Curry will follow-up.

**NOTE:** Board looking into clear line of procedures for distributing permits.

2. Highway Outline:
  - Based on advice from Town Counsel, Mr. Montanaro asked Mr. Curry to please have those employees who were paid overtime for hours worked after an eight hour shift last payroll period, sign to authorize a correction to the last payroll. Mr. Montanaro presented authorizations to Mr. Curry and asked that if the employees choose not to accept, please have them sign and indicate that.
  - Mr. Montanaro and Mr. Levakis signed partial payment reimbursements authorizations for Chester Road.
3. North Blandford Road Work: Discussion regarding when feasible for Highway to undertake the project. Board expressed top priority is to finish Chester Road. Mr. Curry estimates that both projects will take about 1-2 weeks to complete. Agreed to split Highway and use some part-time labor as long as Chester Road isn't jeopardized. If foresee overtime, Mr. Curry will contact Highway Liaison.
4. Bicentennial Park: Mr. Reichart and Mrs. Kronholm stepping back from project (as well as gate in Watson Park) due to poor communication. State contractor is working with insurance agency. Mr. Curry will have fence removed tomorrow so tree can be pruned before it is replaced. Mr. Reichart will get information for Arborist to Cara. Mr. Curry will get repair dates to Cara.

### **New Business**

1. Blandford Ski Area: Anne Fisk submitted paperwork asking for two liquor licenses. Mr. Montanaro motion to authorize liquor license application for the Blandford Ski Area for October 26, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for an open house ski sale and beer garden, Mr. Levakis, unanimous vote.  
Mr. Montanaro motion to authorize a one day liquor license to the Blandford Ski Area for November 8, 2014 for a moonlit hike and wine tasting, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.  
Mrs. Fisk already spoke with Chief Hennessey.
2. Cobble Mountain Road: Concern about potholes. Highway will address this week.
3. Mr. Mikuski: question about property on Woronoco Road, why listed at \$46,000 by town? Chicken coop needs to be cleaned up, claims he has seen hypodermic needles there. Also, question about neighbor's property, using as dumping ground. BOH will follow-up.
4. Oil: John Hoppe presented Board with 3 quotes for oil for municipal buildings. Frasco - \$2.95 per/gal, Wheeler - \$3.55, Sunset \$2.93. Will check with Accountant and Treasurer as to how much spent on oil last year just for Town Hall. Revisit next week.
5. Tax Collector's Account: Discussion about money in Tax Collector's account. Scanner is down, will have to drive to bank.
6. Closing Books: Mr. Van Werkhoven met with Accountant and Tax Collector. Working well together. Accountant is very organized.
7. SoftRight Module: Mr. Van Werkhoven, seems that SoftRight Module not integrated as well as it should. Suggestion to have SoftRight Rep visit. Emailed Mr. Dolby to set that up.
8. Mr. Montanaro motion to change liaison to Financial Officers to the Finance Committee, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
9. Water Department Course: Water Department made Board aware that they are spending \$105.00 to have their secretary take a course. Board agreed.

**Future Consideration**

1. FEMA Hurricane Irene Reimbursement: Mr. Levakis will follow-up. Spoke with Lorraine Eddy from MEMA regarding Hiram Blair Road reimbursement today. They have all the paperwork they need. BRD Reimbursement: have all paperwork need for now, will need copy of cashed check. They reviewed Mr. Curry's records and said he did a very good job. Board would like to have Highway cc all records regarding emergencies to them for separate filing going forward. Cara will let Mr. Dolby know to follow-up.

10:30 p.m. Mr.Montanaro motion to adjourn, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

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William Levakis

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Andy Montanaro – Member