



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
October 28, 2014

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

Open Meeting:

7:02 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Minutes: Mr. Dolby motion to approve meeting minutes from October 23, 2014 as amended, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
2. Review Warrants: Board reviewed and signed warrants.
3. Treasurer Regarding Bond Renewals: The Board authorized a new bond note in the presence of the Town Clerk. The note was preapproved at the Town Meeting. 3 items are for loans related to Hurricane Irene, 1 is related to highway equipment. Treasurer provided a breakdown of each as well as the total to be paid down. All of the Selectboard members signed the note and it was notarized by the Town Clerk.
4. Trash Compactor Installation Fee: Mr. Chris Smith from BOH –
 - Discussion regarding invoice from Wojick Eletrical totaling \$1,775.00. Board had question about dates on invoice and the need to hire an electrician to disconnect the old compactor when quote for new compactor included installation and removal of old compactor. Board questioned procedures followed to hire Wojick Electrical. Mr. Smith – was not discussed at a meeting until invoice arrived. Board asked if there was a contract with Wojick Electrical, as required for anything over \$1,000.00. Mr. Smith will follow-up with Board of Health and get back to Selectboard.
 - Mr. Montanaro – Board of Health gets things done quickly, for which he is grateful, however concerned about cutting corners. Would like them to get back on track. Please run any questions by the Selectboard, especially those concerning the procurement process. Mr. Levakis asked Cara to send a memo to the Board of Health outlining the need to have a vote from their board prior to making decisions with the exception of emergency situations. Mr. Wojick will be invited to next meeting to discuss further.
5. Transfer Station Employee Rate Increase:
 - Mr. Montanaro – Town voted at Town Meeting to increase town employee rates by 3.5%. At that meeting Mr. Wojik requested that \$2,000.00 be moved from BOH expenses to payroll, this was also voted and approved. After the Town Meeting the Selectboard voted (in accordance with the town) to increase all town employee's rates by 3.5%. Dilemma- after the Town Meeting the Board of

Health voted to increase the Transfer Station Employee's rate by 22%. This creates a conflict. Understands that the intent of the Board of Health was to increase rate to retain employees, that employees made too little for the hours worked and travel involved as well as to acknowledge their good work. Suggestion for resolution: to raise the Transfer Station Employee rates from the 2013 rate by 3.5% and increase their hours on the job as needed to reach the current level of income to be fair and consistent with the entire towns pay structure. Travel time would no longer be a concern as not adding days, just hours to the shifts. Mr. Smith will follow-up with Board of Health and get back to Selectboard.

- Town Clerk: Selectboard can't establish pay rate for the hiring authority (Board of Health) of the Transfer Station Employees. Mr. Montanaro: According to Town Counsel they can. Mr. Levakis: Unsure, will follow-up with Town Counsel.
- Discussion regarding intention of vote to move \$2,000.00 from BOH expenses to salary. Unclear as to if the intent was to raise rate of pay in accordance with town wide rate of 3.5% or at 22% voted by BOH, or to increase hours.
- Mr. Montanaro: Clearly need to define town wide pay scale.
- Discussion about cost of pay increase to the town at both rates. Mr. Montanaro: Cost is not the issue, trying to accomplish controls and stability in town is the issue.
- Dilemma is that two different Boards voted two different increases for the same employees.
- Mr. Van Werkhoven: Difficult to maintain equity if all Boards set own salaries. What's the point of the Selectboard signing the payroll warrant if they have no say?
- Mr. Cooley: should take care of all of these concerns at the Town Meeting. This piece by piece is causing upheaval. Start clean at start of the year. Conflict: the Selectboard has been signing these payroll warrants at this rate for four months now. Mrs. Beard: Finance Committee tried to address these concerns all at once with process of designing the budget, these instances were caused after the fact.

Old Business

1. Highway Outline: Read and reviewed.
 - Russell Stage Road: Question about why we are patching it already when it was recently paved. When it was paved, town didn't have the funding to do a complete paving and did a chip seal instead, hence the current state.
 - Chester Road: Concerns about shoulders getting finished and pot holes at the bottom section. Mr. Dolby: Will follow-up with Highway Department Superintendent. Had asked that Chester Road & Cobble Mountain road potholes be a priority, as well as Chester Road shoulders. Superintendent is working on FEMA reimbursements this week as a top priority.
 - Mr. Montanaro: if a goal on the outline is for a week, it should be something that they are able to complete in a week. Work on setting realistic goals.
 - Street Signs: several are missing in town. Those roads that abut Rte 23 are going to be replaced by the State. Mr. Dolby will follow-up on the others.
2. Permit Process: Discussion about coordination of revision of current process. Mr. Levakis will follow-up.
3. Job Descriptions: next meeting
4. Follow-up on Requests from BOH, Building Inspectors, and Fire Department Inspections at Fairgrounds: Mr. Bruce Wyman and Chief Harvey present.

- Chief Harvey presented the Selectboard with his inspection report. See attached. Discussed the Chief's concerns. Chief suggested next year schedule Fire inspection at same time as the State inspection.
- Selectboard asked that Mr. Wyman come in earlier next year for the permit to allow for more time for inspections.
- Mr. Montanaro: has received questions/concerns from residents regarding state of facilities and buildings at the fairgrounds. Consensus is that the grounds are falling into a state of disrepair. Hoping with input from Fire Department, Board of Health and Building Inspector to identify areas of concern and prioritize in order to develop a method to upgrade.
- Fire Department Bill for this Year's Fair: Chief Harvey – Fire Department did bill the Fair for the first time this year using same fee schedule as use for the Turnpike. Mr. Wyman – asking for reduction if not removal of bill. Outlined what the Fair does for the Town. Mr. Dolby – Selectboard not in a position to change the Fire Department bill.

New Business

Future Consideration

9:48 p.m. Mr. Montanaro motion to adjourn, Vote : Mr. Dolby second, Mr. Montanaro- yes, Mr. Levakis – yes, Mr. Dolby- no.

9:50 p.m. Mr. Levakis motion to reconvene, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

9:51 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session to discuss an ongoing investigation, not to reconvene, Mr. Levakis second, Cara called a roll vote, Mr. Montanaro – yes, Mr. Dolby – yes, Mr. Levakis – yes.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

William Levakis

Andy Montanaro

Adam Dolby