



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
November 17, 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:
 - a. Mr. Levakis motion to approve meeting minutes from November 3, 2014 as written, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote. Note: Reference in minutes of November 3, 2014 to see minutes of November 10, 2014 for revision of schedule for Highway Garage Project.
 - b. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes of November 10, 2014 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
2. Finance Committee:
 - a. Special Town Meetings: Discussion regarding process of posting warrants and allowing Finance Committee to review prior. Selectboard agreed:
 - i. That all articles on the warrants should be reviewed first by the Selectboard.
 - ii. That any financial articles on the warrant should be presented to the Finance Committee for review and input.
 - iii. To invite the Finance Committee to a Selectboard meeting to discuss any articles over \$1,000.00 that have not been budgeted for.
 - iv. To have Cara send a draft of the warrant to the Finance Committee and Town Clerk to review prior to posting.
 - v. To schedule Special Town Meetings one month in advance (unless matter is time sensitive) to allow 2 weeks to draft and review warrant.
 - vi. NOTE: Discussed article on previous Special Town Meeting Warrant regarding money for security system. Money had been appropriated prior to spending.
 - b. Finance Committee asked Cara to send copies of approved minutes to financial officers.
 - c. Wired West: Discussed upcoming meetings. Mr. Levakis, Mr. van Werkhoven, and Mrs. Smith plan to attend meeting in Becket on November 18th.
 - d. GTAC: GTAC is asking towns to request that Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC) help mediate the situation with the Worthington Withdrawal. When the legislature voted to allow Worthington to withdraw, they

authorized \$100,000.00 be allocated to aid in this process. Hoping any costs will come from this fund. PVPC has also become involved in the process. At this point it is not costing the towns any money.

3. Arts Council: The Arts Council would like to set-up a revolving fund to hold grant money. Mr. Levakis will follow-up.
4. Mr. Bruce Cooper Regarding Entrance to Beulah Land Road: Mr. Cooper expressed concerns with the current layout of the entrance of Beulah Land Road from Chester Road.
 - a. Street Sign: the street sign should be moved as it's currently in a poor location as he cannot take the corner with his truck without hitting the sign.
 - b. Slope of New Entrance: concerns about steep slope of new entrance. Suggested filling in with some boulders.
 - c. Corner: Mr. Cooper asked the Board to look into moving the corner of the road over so that he is able to pull out of the road. Mr. Levakis will follow-up with the possible owner of that property, Mr. Martin. Assessor's Administrator pulled maps. Will have to measure from pins.

Old Business

1. Event License: Representatives from the Zoning Board and Board of Health, Town Clerk and Fire Chief. (specifically for public events, not private)
 - a. Zoning: Blandford Ski Area dirt bike race is a non-confirming use of the business and therefore requires a license.
 - b. Fire Chief: When there are over 100 people and alcohol is involved, according to Mass General law, need a police and fire department presence.
 - c. Town Clerk: Blandford has a bylaw requiring an event license to be obtained two weeks prior to an event from the Selectboard. In previous years the Selectboard approved the licenses in an open meeting and then the Town Clerk would send a letter of approval.
 - d. Mr. Montanaro: the bylaws are clear, we need to have a license. However, don't want to pile on requirements and make it difficult, would prefer that it be as minimally invasive as possible.
 - e. Board would like to simplify the form. Asked Zoning Board to send suggestions to the Town Clerk to modify. Cara will follow-up with Town Counsel if needed.
2. Highway Outline: none received.
 - a. Mr. Montanaro has been working with Highway to put together a weekly schedule outlining assignments individually so the Highway Department staff know where to go and what to do daily. Of course would include allowances for unforeseen jobs.
3. Highway Sick and Vacation Accruals: now that Treasurer is back Mr. Montanaro will continue to research.
4. Police Pay Schedule/Polices: letter received from Chief Hennessy regarding promotions and pay scale. (Discussed in further detail at previous meeting) Mr. Montanaro has requested police policies to reference. Heather Lowe, administrative in Police Department, will follow-up with Chief Hennessey.
NOTE: Board question as to where cruisers are being stored. Ms. Lowe will follow-up
5. Watson Park Gate: Historical Commission is working on quotes. Mr. Levakis will follow up with M&M Site Services regarding date to have fencing removed. Mr. Montanaro motion to have Mr. Levakis follow-up with Mark Boomsma of M&M Site Services to confirm timeline for removal of fencing, if it can't be done before the Spring the job will come back to vote, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

6. Regional Accounting Program: Representative from PVPC Joshua Garcia will be at next week's meeting to discuss. Discussion regarding gratitude for work Janet has done and concern over having a new company come in.

New Business

1. GTAC: request from GTAC asking that each town in the Gateway district send a letter to DESE requesting that they involve MOPC in working out the details of the Worthington Withdrawal. Mr. Montanaro: at this point there is not going to be any cost to the town, they are not asking the towns for money. The Legislature set aside \$100,000.00 for DESE to use for resolution.

Future Consideration

9:55p.m. Mr. Montanaro motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing ongoing litigation not to reconvene. Mr. Levakis second, Cara called a roll-call vote, Mr. Levakis – yes, Mr. Montanaro – yes, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

William Levakis

Andy Montanaro