



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
November 24, 2014

**Attendance:** Andy Montanaro, William Levakis, Adam Dolby 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. Mr. Burdick Regarding Electrical Inspector:
  - A. Mr. Burdick of North Street spoke with Board regarding an incident with Mr. Ed Sepanski, the current Electrical Inspector which occurred about 2 weeks prior. Mr. Burdick stated that Mr. Sepanski had been very rude, disrespectful and difficult to get ahold of. Mr. Burdick stated that he will no longer work with Mr. Sepanski and will not allow him on his property.
  - B. Cara spoke with Mr. Sepanski on the phone to invite him to the Selectboard meeting. Mr. Sepanski stated that Mr. Burdick had attacked him and that the electrician present did not have a copy of his license, which he had asked for. He stated that he did not care if the Board chooses to fire him, he would not be attending the meeting.
  - C. The Selectboard will address the issue and send Mr. Burdick a follow-up letter.
2. Joshua Garcia From PVPC Regarding Regional Accounting Program:
  - A. Program was developed because of need expressed by several communities. Mr. Garcia had previously provided Board with an RFP for the Regional Accounting Program as well as a MOU to sign and return. Cara forwarded both the Town Council and is waiting to hear back.
  - B. Discussion regarding goals, set-up and concerns
    1. PVPC will not be doing the actual accounting, they will put the job out to bid to hire a municipal accountant firm. The communities involved will review the bids received and help to choose one. The idea being that the four communities working together can leverage resources to afford a reputable firm.
    2. PVPC would like to have the program up and running in January, as the communities involved have expressed immediate need. From January to July, the goal would be to have the hired firm catch-up, clean-up and determine the hours needed for each community.
      - a. Discussion regarding January start date, agreed March might be more realistic.

- b. May need to have current Accountant working with Regional Accountant for a while during transition.
  - c. Linda Smith (Finance Committee) concerned that January would be premature as currently financial officers making steady progress.
  - d. Mr. Levakis- can Blandford wait and join the program after it is up and running? Mr. Garcia- If there is room Blandford could certainly join later. However, you would not be part of the planning process.
- 3. Concern with continuity within financial offices and having an Accountant available to meet with other financial officers weekly as well as being present for some office hours. Mr. Garcia- these are the types of ideas that can be included in job requirement.
- 4. Mr. Montanaro- What other shared service programs has PVPC done in the past? Mr. Garcia: Shared nursing, Planning boards and Transportation.
- 5. Mr. Levakis- concerned with joining a start-up. Mr. Dolby- the coordination may be a start-up but the accounting firm hired would have required experience.
- 6. Mr. Dolby: pointed out that:
  - a. With this program the town would have a contract we could terminate if need be.
  - b. Blandford would have access to a shared pool of knowledge with the other communities in the program.
  - c. We would be able to participate in the interviews and help to tailor the program and address any concerns.
  - d. PVPC will provide ongoing management- quarterly evaluations to address any concerns, managing productivity and getting input from all participating communities.
  - e. A large firm would have a reputation to uphold.
  - f. Fortunate to have Mrs. Janet Lombardo in the position today, but the pool to replace her is very shallow.
- 7. Discussed cost- \$90,000 to be divided amongst all 4-5 communities. 3 year non-binding contract. First year PVPC would add 10% fee, 8% each consecutive year.
- 3. Letter From Beagle Club Road Residents: asking for Town to plow road this winter. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve plowing of Beagle Club Road this winter with stipulation that if cars are parked on the road it will not be plowed, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
- 4. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to accept minutes from November 17, 2014 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
- 5. Fire Department Purchases:
  - A. Chief Harvey provided quote for new radios as old radios are almost obsolete. Money is in the budget. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve Fire Department purchase of radios from Pittsfield Communication Systems dated 11/7/2014 for a total of \$4,048.00, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
  - B. Tires: Engine number two needs new tires to pass inspections. Chief Harvey provided Board with quotes. Board asked Cara to follow-up and see if they can use tires from ladder truck and if the money is in the budget.
  - C. Grant Application Process: to purchase new vehicle as old engine having difficulty starting.

6. Highway Outline: Read and reviewed. Shoulders on Chester Road worked on today.
7. Beulah Land Road: Question regarding putting tar up to the telephone pole. Mr. Levakis will follow-up with WEMCO.
8. Event License: next meeting
9. ABCC Population Estimate: reviewed and signed
10. Elm Electric Contract for Installation of Ozone Generators and Compressor, signed and approved.
11. Prowler Services contract for leak detection signed and approved.

#### **Old Business**

1. Police Policy & Job Descriptions: Chief Hennessey- Chief makes recommendations for promotions. Submitted job description for Sargent and recommendations for Andrew Bileau. Discussed details of position.
  - A. Chief Hennessey provided Board with rates of officers in surrounding towns. He asked the Board to review the rates. Chief Hennessey believed that the rates that had been in place prior to the recent cut back had been fair and consistent with surrounding towns. Police officers old rate: \$14.49 per/hr, current rate \$11.29 per/hr, Sargent old rate: \$15.53 per/hr, current rate \$13.36 per/hr. Mr. Montanaro asked Chief Hennessey to work with the Finance Committee to create a pay scale/policy. He asked that the criteria for evaluations be captured in the policy. Chief Hennessey agreed.
  - B. Discussion about making Police Department more user friendly.
2. Treasurer-
  - A. presented new time sheets to Board. They will serve as coversheets and hours will still be attached on separate sheet. Treasurer will send digital copy to Board for comments and editing.
  - B. Discussed process in correcting discrepancies in payroll without holding up entire payroll. Treasurer concerned as legally have to put payroll through in 7 days. Board stated that legally Treasurer cannot put payroll through until it has been signed.
3. Wired West- Discussed recent meeting in Becket and next steps. Mr. Langmore will attend Board meeting next week to further discuss.
4. Strap Grant: should be getting reimbursement check any day now. Chapter 90 money to follow soon.

#### **New Business**

#### **Future Consideration**

10:20 p.m. Mr. Levaksi motion to adjourn, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

---

William Levakis

---

Andy Montanaro

---

Adam Dolby