



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
December 8, 2014

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

Open Meeting:

7:04 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Review Warrants: Reviewed and signed.
 - a. Mrs. Marra (Treasurer) asked Board if she could make Mrs. Kronholm (Town Clerk) the second signer for checks in case she is away or there is an emergency. Mrs. Kronholm is already bonded. Board agreed.
 - b. Tax rate classification hearing next week.
 - c. Strap Grant Money: Treasurer has been tracking check to see when it is due to be deposited. Still no exact date available. In the meantime, she has borrowed money from Water Department.
 - d. Discussion regarding exact amount budgeted for the Water Department for FY15 as number on Warrant differs from that listed on the approved budget. Will review notes to see if number was changed on the floor.
2. Plowing Roads: Procedures for Contractors to Follow: Highway Superintendent presented Board with press release regarding Winter Roads Policy and Expectations to make contractors aware that plowing snow across the road is hazardous and according to our town bylaws, subject to a fine of up to \$150.00. Discussed fines and how to implement and collect them. It was agreed that Police would have to issue citations or fines after following up with problem areas identified by Highway, and that the resident is responsible for the situation, rather than the contractor. Further, the Board decided to issue a warning the first time, before issuing \$150 fines, thereafter.
3. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve minutes from December 1, 2014 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
4. Tax Collector Computer Quote: From Akuity. Mr. Montanaro motion to make purchase of a computer and software as received from Akuity Technologies for the Tax Collector's office totaling \$1,113.00, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
5. Akuity Technology Hosted Exchange Quote: Board reviewed quote \$2,000 set-up and \$151.32 per/month. Decided to hold off. Asked Cara to check with current Webmaster for more options.

Old Business

1. Highway Outline: Read and reviewed.
2. Water Department Update
 - a. Ozone Generators at Water Plant: installed at the plant this week, will be bench tested by Pacific Ozone soon and then they will be up and running. Will run more efficiently than previous machines.
 - b. Large Break on North Blandford Road fixed. Two more breaks on Russell Stage Road to be fixed. Usage is down since repair on Route 23.
3. Highway Sick and Vacation Time: Mr. Montanaro finished reviewing records and will email finds to Board to review for next week.
4. Event License: Zoning asked to be on the agenda to discuss next week.
5. Beaulah Land Road: Mr. Levakis met with Mr. Cousineau and Mr. Martin last week and plan to move the street sign over. Mr. Cooper will fill in a small area with gravel.
6. Wired West Letter: next meeting
7. Transfer Station Employee Pay rate: next meeting
8. Feasibility Study: Building Planning Committee to meet soon.
9. DESE Meeting: Mr. Montanaro reported that all present seemed uniformly upset, frustrated and discouraged about the repercussions of the Worthington withdrawal without a firm plan in place regarding the impact to the remaining students and towns rather than a temporary fix.

New Business

1. Electrical Inspector: Board received resume from Mr. Lawrence Gretszy. Mr. Levakis motion to appoint Mr. Lawrence Gretszy to the position of temporary Electrical Inspector, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
2. Hilltown Pay Scale Comparisons: Mr. Montanaro put together a questionnaire to send out to Gateway towns to spell out positions and pay scales/rates in order to gather comparisons to share.
3. Proposal for Police Department Pay Scale: Mr. Montanaro felt a number of the police department employees are underpaid and presented a pay scale policy ranging from \$12-\$16 per/hour to start on probation after which there will be an annual increase based on town vote as well as a five year bump increase. Board asked that Mr. Hennessey send representative next week to discuss. Note: if employee currently exceeds the rate proposed, he/she would be grandfathered in. Board still needs promotional criteria from Chief Hennessey.

Future Consideration

1. Fiscal Year Audit: Discussed letter to tax payers to confirm or correct records by means of getting input from residents.
2. Job Descriptions: Board asked Cara to ask Mrs. Parent to work on Water Commissioner and Town Manager descriptions next.
3. Shepard Farm: Board asked Cara to get an update on well situation.

8:28 p.m. Mr. Levakis motion to adjourn, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

William Levakis

Andy Montanaro