



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
December 22, 2014

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

**Open Meeting:**

7:01 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

**Posted Agenda Items:**

1. Warrants: next week
2. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes from December 15, 2014 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes from December 8, 2014 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
3. Town Insurance: Board discussed health insurance for Town Employees. Town currently pays 70% of the premiums. Discussed researching and reconsidering this amount. Asked Treasurer to provide number of employees on health insurance plan and total yearly cost to the town. Suggestion to look into copays and deductibles as not to take money out of employee's paychecks.
4. Highway Superintendent: Mr. Curry out sick.
  - a. Board reviewed winter roads policy. Mr. Montanaro had asked for specific plow routes to be written into the policy including timing and sequence. He will follow-up with Mr. Curry to revise policy. Mr. Levakis asked that Mr. Montanaro also follow-up with Mr. Curry regarding why our plows are out for 24 hrs during a storm when we are such a small town.
  - b. Mr. Dolby: concerned that bus routes are currently not a top priority. Asked that Highway Department have a copy of the bus routes.
  - c. Mr. Montanaro: majority of potholes in the south end of town filled last week. Highway Superintendent was out sick, sander was repaired.
  - d. Mr. Levakis: we need the Highway Department out there digging ditches. He has had some complaints regarding the amount of salt put on roads. Mr. Cooley: town doesn't have the sophisticated equipment needed to adequately measure amount of salt released. State requests plain salt and no sand on the roads. We tend to use straight salt on some roads and mixture of salt and sand on others. Salt is less expensive.
  - e. Mr. Montanaro will address complaint of speeding of highway vehicles with Mr. Curry.

- f. Mr. Montanaro: was provided a copy of the daily work assignments for the Highway Department. He asked that they be posted daily as the weekly outline is not specific enough.
  - g. Mr. Levakis asked that Mr. Montanaro follow-up with Mr. Curry to ensure that maintenance logs are being filled out for all trucks and heavy equipment.
  - h. Gas Pumps: discussed installing a DVR system to monitor.
5. Highway Garage Bid Results: Board reviewed sub and general bids for the Highway Garage project. Discussed two lowest bids. Concern that the lowest bidder is a trucking company and not primarily contractors. Board asked that Cara send two lowest bids to Mark Ebreo at EDA Engineering to review and confirm references and licenses. Cara will contact the two lowest bidders and let them know that the Board is not ready to choose a bid just yet.

### **Old Business**

1. Culvert on Birch Hill Road: Concern with resident who keeps blocking the end of culvert after Town has cleared it. This issue has been discussed in the past and was thought to be resolved last year. When the culvert is blocked, water runs across the road and on to the abutter's property.
  - a. Board would like to further discuss driveway policy with Town Counsel.
  - b. Mr. Montanaro will speak with Mr. Boomsma in the Highway Department and have him clear culvert tomorrow with police presence. He will let the owner know that culvert must be kept clear.
2. Event License:
  - a. Zoning Board recommended that a copy of insurance policy and beverage license be attached to the event license.
  - b. Cannot change the number of people to 50 due to bylaws.
  - c. Discussed rental of Blandford Ski area for private events (i.e. weddings)  
A resident from Nye Brook Road stated that in the past a wedding held at the ski area had included fireworks. No permit was granted nor was there a fire department/police presence. Discussed the need to notify the renters of policies. Suggestion to send a letter to organizations in Town letting them know that permission is needed for fireworks and alcohol sales.
3. Highway Sick and Vacation Accruals: table
4. Tax Collector Salary: table
5. Police Vehicles: Mr. Levakis asked that Mr. Dolby speak with Chief Hennessey regarding the police officers taking the vehicles home. He asked that Mr. Dolby use his discretion as liaison to make the decision as to whether or not this should be allowed.
6. Police Department Pay Scale: Waiting for feedback from Chief Hennessey. Mr. Dolby will follow-up.
7. Police Promotion Policy: Board reviewed Chief Hennessey's policy, needs job descriptions, job evaluations and job qualifications. Mr. Dolby will follow-up.
8. Fire Department Invoice: Mr. Dolby – the Fire Chief has decided to waive the invoice with the understanding that if they charge the Union Agricultural Society in the future they must notify them in advance. The Fire Department hopes to continue to work with the Union Agricultural Society.
9. Transfer Station Employee Rate of Pay: Mr. Montanaro motion to postpone revision to Transfer Station Employee rate of pay until he has concluded the classification and comparison package review for all town employees, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
10. Springfield Water Property: revisit after holidays

**New Business**

1. New Employee at Transfer Station: Board discussed BOH hiring of family member to work at the transfer station. They asked Cara to follow-up and see if due process was followed. Was there a vote? Also asked her to re-send a copy of the Hiring Policy to the BOH.
2. Meeting: no meeting next week.

9:25 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to adjourn, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

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William Levakis

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Andy Montanaro

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Adam Dolby