

Blandford Water Department

P.O. BOX 220
Blandford, Ma. 01008

William Levakis, Chairman (413) 579-4586
Mark Boomsma, Clerk (413) 717-0212
Brad Curry, Member (413) 579-1949



Water Department Meeting April 3, 2014

Attendance: Bill Levakis, Brad Curry, Mark Boomsma, Cara Letendre – Water Department Secretary

12:30 p.m. Mr. Boomsma called meeting to order and announced that it may be recorded.

Posted Items:

1. Minutes: move to next meeting.
2. Water Department Superintendent Salary: Mr. Boomsma motion to return the Water Superintendent's pay from salary to hourly as of July 1, 2014, Mr. Levakis second. Discussion: regarding wages. \$24 per/hr will incorporate all Superintendent duties into one line item. Town will save money this way. Unanimous vote.
3. Pay Rates: Discussed raising rates for next fiscal year.
 - Mr. Boomsma motion to increase Florentino's pay rate from \$18.45 to \$20.00 per/hr for one year on the condition that he get his Hydraulic license within the year, Mr. Curry second, unanimous vote.
 - Discussed money left in Licensed Assistant line item. Board decided to leave Bill-Jo Parker off the books for the remainder of the fiscal year and use that money to pay Back-up Superintendent.
 - Discussed raise for Back-up Superintendent as she has been in the position for three years. Mr. Levakis motion to increase Norene St. Martin's pay rate as Back-up Superintendent from \$18 per/hr to \$19 per/hr beginning July 1, 2014, Mr. Curry second, unanimous vote.
 - Discussed Tax Collector Pay Rate for Water Billing: Board asked Mrs. Masee for a breakdown of her job description for the Water Department. Mrs. Masee stated that her job consists of: Helping Mr. Levakis with the budget, billing, collections, entering data into the computer, and visiting the bank to make deposits. She stated that she works 10-20 hrs per/week for the water department depending on the week. She feels that the \$12,000 salary she currently earns for the position is fair and any less would not be an incentive to put in as many hours. The Finance Committee asked the Board for a job description for this position. Board agreed to table this discussion until next meeting. Mr. Levakis will follow-up with the Finance Committee.

4. Budget Review: Table until next meeting

Old Business:

1. DEP Visit May 9th: Mr. Levakis and Mr. Curry will work on Capital plan.
2. Water Usage: Mike Leach coming up on Friday to investigate. Mr. Boomsma will be helping him. They will be looking at residence on Maple Lane and at correlator by the store as they have recently heard a leak there.
3. Slow Sand Filter (#3): Mr. St. Martin has been pulling water out of filter #3 so it doesn't overflow. Other filters have been cleaned and are working well. Plan to clean #3 again next week.
4. Want Ad: Mr. Boomsma still working on
5. Discussed hiring plumber on staff for water breaks etc. vs. hiring labors. Board agreed to hire laborers.

New Business:

1. Backflow Surveyor's License for Superintendent: Board discussed DEP requirement for backflow surveillance and having Mr. St. Martin licensed to save town from hiring someone. Mr. Levakis asked to see letter from DEP stating requirement. He then spoke with Doug Payne from DEP and was told that it is not a requirement for us to do again as we completed it recently. Now it is under plumbing code. DEP will contact us if that changes. Board agreed to hire out if need to do backflow test, as for now we are covered under the survey. In the future the Board asked that any orders from DEP come to them in writing.
2. Discussion about moving Water account to United Bank. Mrs. Masee is meeting with them next week, Mr. Boomsma will attend.

2:00 p.m. Mr. Boomsma motion to adjourn, Mr. Curry second, unanimous vote.

Minutes presented by: Cara Letendre, Water Department Secretary

Mark Boomsma – Chair

Brad Curry - Clerk

William Levakis - Member