



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
SELECTBOARD

Blandford Town Hall  
1 Russell Stage Road Suite 1  
Blandford, MA 01008

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
MEETING  
July 22, 2019**

**OPEN SESSION 5:30 pm**

**Meeting is recorded**

**G. Avery**, Commissioner; **F. Vazquez**, Commissioner; **B. Champiney**, Commissioner; **B. St. Martin**, Superintendent; **N. St. Martin**, Member; **C. Osden**, Plumber; **C. Letendre**, Chairman Board of Selectmen in attendance

**Meeting called to order at 5:28 pm**

**1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

**a. Examination of the meeting minutes of previous Water Department Meeting of April 29, 2019**

**MOTION:** **G. Avery** made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the Water Department meeting of April 29, 2019.

**F. Vasquez** Seconded

**All in Favor**

**2. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Mr. & Mrs. Bertram – 57 Chester Road – Abatement Issue**

Laura Lee and Rick Bertram joined the Commissioners to review their abatement issue. Gordon read from the original meeting notes of February 7, 2009:

“Rick & Laura Lee Bertram’s abatement was approved. Darlene approved this application because she was there when the bills were paid to Luanne. They have the carbon copies of this payment. The amount of the abatement is \$690.85. The lien also needs to be removed from the property.”

Gordon’s summary is that when we looked through it he can’t find a definite yes or no on this and we need to err on the side of caution. We looked through all the meeting minutes and Gordon noted that Bill Levakis and Ed Forish did things on their own back then. After the fire we found some evidence that this should have been done but there is proof that they have done this in the past. Therefore, we have to agree with the Bertram’s. Their water bill should be removed including their debt charge.

**MOTION:** **G. Avery** made a motion to agree with the Bertram’s and remove them from water and debt charge.

**F. Vasquez** Seconded

**All in Favor**

Joann Martin will notify Softright to remove this property. Gordon reiterated that from this day forward they should have no bill including debt charge. Joann Martin will send a letter to the Treasurer/Tax Collector office as well.

**b. Approve Abatements – 130 & 128 North Blandford Road**

Table – this has already been done

**c. See if the Water Commissioners will Waive the Interest on Bill #253 for Watson Park**

**MOTION: G. Avery made a motion to waive the interest on Bill #253 in the amount of \$15.00**

**F. Vasquez Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**d. To see if the Water Commissioners will Waive the interest on Bill #223 for Porter Memorial Library**

**MOTION: G. Avery made a motion to waive the interest on Bill #223 in the amount of \$4.16**

**F. Vasquez Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**e. To see if the Water Commissioners will Waive the Interest on Bill #230 for the Fire Department**

**MOTION: G. Avery made a motion to waive the interest on Bill #230 in the amount of \$288.96**

**F. Vazquez Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**f. Review and Balance FY19 Negative Accounts**

See 5a: Review Results of Town Audit – same subject.

**g. Resident 23 North Street – Water Shut off problem**

Ms. Georgantas joined the Water Commissioners to talk about her situations at 23 North Street. She informed the Board that Conner Osden found the water shut off and turned it on for them, unfortunately, the pressure broke one of the pipes. Conner will repair this for her and Gordon stated that she will have to take care of that herself. She asked if it would be a consideration that Blandford Water would pay for the damage as they have been paying for water for the past 30 years and were not aware that the water wasn't turned on and they were actually using well water. Gordon suggested that she apply for abatement for the last quarter stating that they can only abate back 1 quarter. J. Martin will mail the abatement forms. Gordon stated that the Water Department should have known that the water hook-up was illegal so the Water Department will be responsible for that part; we will help you when we can. The meter is about \$130; her abatement will be around \$100. C. Letendre asked if the Water Department can waive the cost of the extra meter in the house. Avery stated that if he did this for one, he would need to do this for all and he doesn't want to set precedence.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS**

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

**5. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:**

**a. Review Results of Town Audit – C. Letendre**

Cara Letendre talked to the Commissioners about the recent audit that was done and presented them with the Management Letter from the Auditors. The comments from the auditors remarked about ‘significant deficiencies’ in the Water Department. The Deficiencies are Accounts Receivable, Capital Assets and Financial Reporting. Cara noted that there should be more attention paid to the Water budget and someone should be keeping track of this. Gordon suggested that Joann Martin, Water Secretary take care of this. Cara told them that for the next audit we need a list of our assets which Bernie St. Martin should work on.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 pm

\*\*NOTE: Agenda may include items not reasonably expected 48 hours before the meeting. At any point, this meeting may go into executive session if the Board of Selectmen find it warranted.

Submitted by: Joann Martin  
Secretary, Water Department

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Gordon Avery, Commissioner

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Florentino Vazquez, Commissioner

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Brian Champiney, Commissioner