



TOWN OF BLANDFORD WATER DEPARTMENT

1 Russell Stage Road
Blandford, MA 01008

water@townofblandford.com

POSTED December 30, 2019 by 4:30pm

Gordon Avery, Commissioner

Brian Champiney, Commissioner

Joann Martin, Commissioner

MEETING MINUTES WATER DEPARTMENT January 2nd 2020

1. OPEN SESSION 4:31 pm
2. Meeting is recorded
G. Avery, commissioner, B. Champiney, commissioner, J. Martin, commissioner, S. Desilets, secretary, B. St. Martin Water Superintendent in attendance.
2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:
 - a. Examination of meeting minutes of Water Department meeting of November 26th 2019
G. Avery made a motion to accept meeting minutes from 11/26/19 as written, B. Champiney seconded, J. Martin seconded, all in favor.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Assign new Commission Chair

G. Avery motions that J. Martin take his place as Chair after today when he resigns B. Champiney seconded, J. Martin abstains, all in favor.

c. Assign new Commissioner Clerk

G. Avery motions that B. Champiney remains second, J. Martin seconds, B. Champiney abstains, all in favor.

b. Review new position with Bernie St. Martin

Gordon " we looked it up, pretty much what it says is that what we talked about" Bernie "This pay rate ain't going to do" Gordon "That's 2 ½ percent above what you had" Bernie "well that's too bad, I get 37 dollars an hour" Gordon "you get 33" Bernie " no, Hinsdale I get 37 dollars an hour" Gordon " this is not Hinsdale" Bernie "I've worked here longer than I have in Hinsdale, ok I'm not going down to 26" Gordon "that's what it was in January/February" Bernie " alright then I'm not doing any of the backflow testing, at all. That there is going to be a bill of about 4 grand a year to you cuz that's my license not the towns license, there is some stuff that I don't get paid for with salary ok and that's why, you know what you can find another operator alright" Gordon " you know what I've been open and honest with you Bernie" Bernie " I know and I'm being open and honest with you I've been here long enough" Gordon " this was February right here, that's what it was" Bernie "I got a 10 dollar raise this past year from Hinsdale" Gordon " we aren't Hinsdale" Bernie " I know but I spend more hours here then I do in Hinsdale" Gordon " are you the superintendent in Hinsdale?" Bernie " yes I am" Gordon " you're stepping down to lead here, you don't have to do any CCR reports, you don't have to do any of the paperwork" Bernie " I never did it anyway, I never did CCR reports, never since I was an operator, I do the ASR's" Joann " I think that was one of the issues, there was such a gap and it was the superintendents job and when the secretary was gone, Cara was doing all of this and she was a secretary and not the superintendent" Bernie "yea I know" Joann " so that is what the big issue is" Bernie " but the tests are on the superintendent" Joann "ok" Gordon " that's fine that's what you get, we aren't Hinsdale, ok, this is what you make right now, with the last rate which is 34.08" Bernie " I suggest you should keep that hourly rate, I'm going to be doing almost just as much as



TOWN OF BLANDFORD WATER DEPARTMENT

POSTED December 30, 2019 by 4:30pm

1 Russell Stage Road
Blandford, MA 01008

water@townofblandford.com

Gordon Avery, Commissioner

Brian Champiney, Commissioner

Joann Martin, Commissioner

I do now, I shut off waters and turn waters off and what not. You're not going to show Steve everything in a month" Joann " where's the superintendent job description? Have him read that and circle the things he does and we'll go from there because you said there's a lot in there that he doesn't do that's part of the superintendents position" Gordon " show him the operator, so it's just what you'll be responsible for now and that's the super which you won't be responsible for now" Bernie "samples are collected monthly, so make a correction there, I'll just highlight it" Joann " so what I think it comes down to is..." Bernie " it says over sees and maintains distribution system" Gordon "at this point you're still the super" Bernie "until you get hired on as the superintendent?" Gordon " and then at that point the way it is right there you're going to stay super until the switch as of January 17th but you will stay where you are until everything's going to be done and there is a couple months Of training" Joanne "what is the superintendent salary rate right now" Gordon "34.08" Joanne "and this is operator what is operator salary" Gordon "26.86 hourly Joann "and so just look at them and if you fit into the higher one what he's doing is in the superintendent area then he should get paid a salary but you're saying that he's not, he's not is what your issue is he is more matching up with operator job description is what you're saying" Bernie "there's a lot of stuff you took over For the superintendent job here in the town Hall which I understand I am a water operator Bill made me the so called superintendent which was nothing, my wife was there, Whatever. Norene runs that plant as well as I can" Gordon "yeah" Bernie "but she's a T1 not a T2. So Chester right now is trying to change their reading from a T2 to a T1. We are going to keep the same pays and what not and all this stuff but I don't know what to tell you" Gordon "but the thing is right now as what we're trying to tell you is a lot of the stuff right now that you don't get paid for a lot of the stuff that you'll be doing now you'll get paid for so I said when you go out and do I have to do this before it was salary, OK, you got your salary now you'll go hourly" Bernie "the only problem with salary is let me explain to you is I get everything done and I head home and it's 330-4 o'clock in the afternoon I got a call and the pump house is down and I get on call for nothing right now" Gordon "what we're saying is it's not like that you're not salary so if you get a call back from the pump house and you have to go back you're getting your hourly rate" Bernie "all the stuff I do I don't use the town truck I use my own truck OK, I paid \$48000 for that truck, you don't, I did" Joann "we can sit here all night and argue about this but..." Bernie "it's either that or I'm leaving" Joanne "he needs to look at those 2 and yellow what he does" Gordon "we can do that" Bernie "Let me take it home and I'll look it over " Joann "yellow out what you do do right now" Bernie " yeah." Gordon "alright so sit down and review that and until someone comes on you're just going to stay like that, and when someone does come on it will probably be a month or two so realistically you're probably going to stay at the same rate as right now until the end of April "

Revisit – J. Martin and G. Avery discussed conversation with Bernie and leaves it with J. Martin on any further action needed as G. Avery is resigning today.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Update on meter readers

G. Avery says EJP has been contacted multiple times on ordering 15 more meters needed to complete town reader replacement. Need to do paperwork for special town meeting asking for budget increase for meter reader and software updates, need speak with J. Garcia on paperwork



TOWN OF BLANDFORD WATER DEPARTMENT

POSTED December 30, 2019 by 4:30pm

1 Russell Stage Road
Blandford, MA 01008

water@townofblandford.com

Gordon Avery, Commissioner

Brian Champiney, Commissioner

Joann Martin, Commissioner

and details for the meeting. EJP needs to be contacted about export training and reader in basement of 119 replacement.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Go over budget items with high percentages

G. Avery updates commission on how he met with accounting to adjust budget where some items were taken from the wrong account.

b. Account Delinquencies – create action plan to resolve

S. Desilets updated commission on liens that were sent out with property tax bills by S. Hunter

c. Conservation parcel 404 & 403 – water treatment plant property for hunting and DEP's findings

G. Avery updated commission on the meeting he had with conservation and how they agreed to table until the spring hunting season and will revisit the options.

d. Review updated Job Descriptions

G. Avery went over revised job descriptions for all Water Department employees. G. Avery motions to accept revised job descriptions J. Martin seconds, B. Champiney seconds, all in favor.

e. Abatements

Margo Georgantas abatement – G. Avery and J. Martin need to revisit meeting minutes from last time she abated to see how many quarters she can go back and abate.

Blandford Country Club – G. Avery motions to accept abatement for the country club as they do it every year, J. Martin seconds, B. Champiney seconds, all in favor.

f. Gordon Avery Resignation

G. Avery states he is resigning as Water Commissioner Chair and handing over his keys today. He will be applying for the superintendent position once posted.

6. MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:14p.m.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

a. To discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

*NOTE: Audience participation / public comment is welcome only when acknowledged by the Chair and limited to two minutes. Participation / public comment is only limited to Blandford residents and can only comment on agenda items only

**NOTE: Agenda may include items not reasonably expected 48 hours before the meeting. At any point this meeting may go into executive section if Selectboard finds it warranted.