



# TOWN OF BLANDFORD WATER DEPARTMENT

1 Russell Stage Road  
Blandford, MA 01008

[water@townofblandford.com](mailto:water@townofblandford.com)

Brian Champiney, Commissioner

Joann Martin, Commissioner

POSTED January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 by 4:30pm

## MEETING AGENDA WATER DEPARTMENT Tuesday, January 21st 2020

### 1. OPEN SESSION 4:32 pm

Meeting is recorded

B. St. Martin Superintendent, S. Desilets Secretary, B. Champiney Clerk and J. Martin Chair in attendance

### 2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Examination of meeting minutes of Water Department meeting of January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020

J. Martin motions to table minutes until next meeting. B. Champiney seconds, all in favor

### 3. ACTION ITEMS:

#### a. DEP violation, OEL report and resident notices

B. St. Martin says he will contact someone to help him get the OEL Report done. Resident notices were sent out January 17<sup>th</sup> by S. Desilets

### 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

#### a. Update on meter readers

S. Desilets updated commission on where we stand on replacing readers, cannot contact approx. 20 residents on replacing readers. We have left notes on doors, called and mailed notices. J. Martin says to talk with Josh about contacting legal to see how to move forward with getting into contact with residents for reader replacement.

#### b. Review new position with Bernie St. Martin

J. Martin "this is what the town is offering you, this right here, read that. Don't go off the edge on me and we'll talk about it" Bernie "I'm not going back in pay. Let me explain something, ok. My wife and I sat right here and talked to Gordon and he goes "with this new superintendent job you're going to make 47 dollars an hour, I go "what" and it never happened" Joann "ok, unless there's stuff in writing though, and what I'm saying to you, listen to me for a second very carefully" Bernie "ok" Joann "this is what they're offering you, now this doesn't mean you have to take it, we're not going to change anything" Bernie "this is the only question I had, was that, ok, keep my salary at whatever it was, I'm doing the same work." Joann "but that's not the point, that's not the point. You're not doing the work that water department needs you to and the water department can't afford to pay for two superintendents. That's not the way the world works you don't do a job that's a lesser job that's the same money. So, ok what I'm saying to you is this is going to stay and probably until mid to end of April then it will turn into this. If you decide at that point you don't want it to turn into that that's your decision" Bernie "im going to tell you know" Joann "but this is the offer" Bernie "let me find another job now" Joann "that's going to have to be your decision" Bernie "I just assume, you know what ive done for this town? And Josh goes" you've got to get with the team" I go I have been with the team, Ive been in front of the judge 2 times for harassing somebody that was going to hunt in the what do you call it. You know they were going to take me to Ludlow jail for the weekend without bail but they didn't because of my



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record, I've never been arrested for nothing, I'm a mouthy son of a bitch I'll tell ya that right now but there's no way I'm going back on pay" Joann " ok, well that's your decision, but that's the offer that's all I'm saying" Bernie "you know what, plan on getting. I'll start looking somewhere else, because I've got medical benefits in Chester and Hinsdale. I make 37 an hour in Hinsdale, 35 or 37 whatever it was" Joann " where rounds out to a 40 hour week which is more money than Josh makes even, which is kinda silly if we can't even get a CCR report" Bernie "well let me tell you something, ok, and this is a fact. They want to give everybody minimum pay at 15 an hour then I'm going to make 10 dollars an hour more and I'm a professional licensed water operator" Joann "ok" Bernie " in the state of Massachusetts and I pay for my contact hours and what not and the extras and all this stuff, I paid for all my licenses too. Not only that I paid for my own course \$700 for 2 weeks down in Holliston, Mass for my backflow testing license which I do here right now for nothing. The other 2 towns pay me for doing it. That's where I'm coming from. Gordon doesn't have a backflow testers license. He'll have to take a course on that" Joann " I guess he's going to have to do that then if he wants the job right?" Bernie "well he doesn't have to, I'll still do it but I want my pay. Not only that, I use my own vehicle for everything" Joann " this went in front of the board of selectman, it went in front of Gordon, it went in front of Josh and this is what everybody decided to agree to so it will have to be your decision" Bernie "well its going, you know I'm sorry, I'm leaving now cuz I'm just gunna get madder and madder" Joann "ok" Bernie " and you know what, I don't feel like doing that, going to Springfield" Joann " alright, you don't have to if you don't want to" Bernie " ok, and I'll maintain the plant like I did and what not and I've worked there many years ya know and 5 hours a day and salary doesn't cut it cuz I come back up 2-3 times a day and what not with my vehicle" Joann " well that's what salary is all about" Bernie " but well yes and no" Joan " and this other position is an hourly so that would be a little bit different and that would be you would have to, sometimes you are required to do, I have to deal with that, she has to deal with that, sometimes were crazy here and we have to be here a lot so we do more hours in one week and less hours in a other week, that kind of thing" Bernie " well I did like I said ya know over the years I've been here for water main breaks and what not and all this stuff and like I said if minimum wage is going to be 15 an hour there's no way I'm only going to be \$10 hour more" Joann" ok" Bernie " and you can tell them that ya know" Joann " just let us know" Bernie "let us know when I'm leaving?" Joann " ya, if you're going to leave ya sure" Bernie " yea ill start looking for a job" Joann ok, that's fine" Bernie " oh yea its fine by me and let me tell you right now I'm not teaching anybody how to run that plant, I never got paid enough money to do that" Joann "ok" Bernie " and I know all of you go "well Gordon's got licenses", he doesn't know how to run the plant" Joann " I don't go anything, I'm just doing my job and passing on..." Bernie " \$34 I'll stay at" Joann " but that's not going to happen not after your done as acting superintendent as long as you're training the new person" Bernie "I was going to show you in here, there's only a few things that I don't do as a superintendent" Joann " well that's where the disagreement comes in because" Bernie " what do you mean?" Joann "these are the things they say you don't do and these stars are important things that you don't do and this was a decision that was made by the commission and we can sit here and debate our asses off all night long about this" Bernie "ok, alright, yea. Well you can have all of this, cuz why should I put anymore into this the you know" Joann " ok that's your decision, let us know ok. Is that it? Does anybody got anything for him?" Bernie "alright"



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## 5. NEW BUSINESS:

### a. Lightning Strike Claim

Berkshire claims has not been able to contact Elm Electric about final billing, Bernie says elm electric still has 2 more GFCI's to do at the plant from that claim. Joann advised to contact Elm Electric and see where they are with the process and then update Berkshire

### b. Wright & Pierce

re-sign contract now that Gordon has resigned

## 6. MEETING ADJOURNED at 5:07p.m.

\*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.