



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
WATER DEPARTMENT**

1 Russell Stage Rd  
Blandford, MA 01008  
413.848.4279 x 304

**Water Commissioners**

Brian Champiney  
Michael Keier  
Brad Curry

**Water Superintendent**

Gordon Avery

**MEETING MINUTES  
BLANDFORD WATER COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 16, 2023**

**1. OPEN SESSION:**

Meeting Opened at 6:30 P.M.

**In Attendance:** B. Curry, Chair, M. Keier, Member, P. Thayer, Member,  
G. Avery, Water Superintendent, K. Shaw, Administrative Assistant.

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

**a. Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2023.**

**MOTION:** M. Keier made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 12, 2023.

**B. Curry Seconded.**

**All in Favor.**

**3. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Review Agreement between Blandford and Gateway School.**

Gordon went over the plan for students to be used in Blandford. He will be working with several other towns and will also get some information from Westfield.

**b. Update on Meter System and frozen meter issue.**

The Department is in the process of updating the meters on Softright and expect to have this completed by the next meter reading which is scheduled for February 16-18.

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:**

**a. Historical Society's Request for Bill #254**

Karen reported that the Selectboard at their January 26, 2023 meeting voted that the Blandford Historical Society did not have to pay their water bill until the

system is switched to metered water. At that time they will need to pay the bill. The Commission is questioning who will be paying it until it is metered. Karen will ask for clarification from the Selectboard.

**5. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a. Review By-Law changes and additions**

The Commission reviewed the updated By-Laws and made several changes and corrections. The changes will be made and this will be revised at the next Commission meeting.

**b. Review new service line charges**

The Commission reviewed the charges.

**MOTION: B. Curry made a motion to accept the charges as written.**

**M. Keier Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**c. Review new billing schedule**

The billing schedule will be revised at the next meeting with possible changes.

**d. Update on SCADA upgrades, water system study and capital improvement plan**

Gordon reported on the SCADA upgrades and the water system study. Relative to the Capital Improvement Plan, bills the Town incurs will be submitted for reimbursement through the \$26,700 Grant which has been awarded. Current bills will be submitted to the DEP for reimbursement.

**e. Update on turbidity meters**

MIIA denied the initial claim due to the addition of (2) UPS power sources. Elm Electric resubmitted minus the UPS power sources and the bill was resubmitted to MIIA.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA**

**Budget Discussion:**

A listing of indirect costs was received from the Sara Hunter. At a meeting with the Town Administrator attended by Gordon and Karen this was reviewed and the Town Administrator will discuss with Sara possible duplicate and inaccurate charges and this will be revisited at the next meeting.

The Water Department is scheduled for their budget meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 am. A request has been made to the Town Administrator to change the time to later in the day so a member of the Water Commission could be in attendance.

Gordon advised that Steve Grondin has passed the OIT requirements to become an OIT2.

**MOTION:** P. Thayer made a motion for a rate increase for the Operator In Training position to \$23.50 per hour.

**B. Curry Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Thayer made a motion to promoting Steve Grondin to OIT Operator/Laborer upon receiving proof of his OIT2 license.

**B. Curry Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**Motion passes.**

**6. MEETING ADJOURNED:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Shaw, Administrative Assistant  
Water Department

**WATER COMMISSION**

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Brad Curry, Chairman

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Michael Keier, Member

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Peter Thayer, Member