



**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
DECEMBER 1, 2022
4:30 P.M.**

Meeting Held in Blandford Water Department
Town hall

1. OPEN SESSION:

Meeting Opened at 4:41 P.M. and is recorded.

In Attendance: B. Curry, Chair, M. Keier, Member, G. Avery, Water Superintendent

Absent: P. Thayer, Member

Participation: Aaron Poteat, Plumbing Inspector

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- a. Review Meeting Minutes from previous weeks meeting**
No Minutes were presented.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Review Bill submitted by Cooper Excavating

Review of Bill Submitted by Cooper Excavating in the amount of \$2,200.00 along with drafted Water Department letter advising the Town is in dispute and will not be reimbursing for these charges. The letter was approved, signed and will be mailed to the Cooper Excavating.

b. Removal of possible beaver from Long Pond

Discussion ensued relative to the selection of a contractor for beaver removal. A proposal from Tim Williams lists charges of \$180 to canvass the area and \$150 trapping per beaver. First 7 days there are no charges to set the traps. Thereafter it would be \$60.00/ to reset traps. No permit

is required from the Board of Health as the trapping is for the preservation of drinking water. Tim Williams pricing is far more competitive than prior contractor used.

MOTION: B. Curry made a motion to accept and sign the contract
M. Keier Seconded
All in Favor

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Water Department Update by Gordon Avery

- Gordon reported the GPS project is approximately 65% completed. He advised of a program the Town may consider at \$20 month to lend more versatility to the GPS mapping. He reported in using this process items were discovered that were not known existed.
- The Benchtop Turb Meter which has been on backorder is due to come in December 9th. He noted this UB254 unit will also check for lead which should be investigated. Gordon will contact the company to see if a rep can be brought in to go over the meter. Paperwork has been received by the DEP which was extremely late and contained deadlines which had expired. They were questioned on this and they advised not to be concerned as Water Department's lateness is due to their timing, not the Town. Brochure has been printed out and returned to David Averill for review and when approved can be published on the Town Website.
- A program will be going forward at Gateway Regional for treatment water operators. The interns will gain OIT standing at the completion. Water Operators will be required to assist with the training of the interns and there may be several grants associated with the program. There are, however, questions relative to insurance, equipment that may be required, etc. It is not anticipated for this to be in place until March or later should it be instituted.
- Aaron Poteat billed a resident for services, materials and inspection which has been ignored by the homeowner. He is interested in receiving payment and would like assistance from the Water Department. In the billing software there is a provision for

inserting fees and Mr. Poteat would like to have this bill, or a portion of this bill be inserted directly into the water bill. Discussion continued as to what type of fee, or whether it might fall into another category such as inspection. It was decided that the resident should be notified to attend a Water Commission meeting with Mr. Poteat in attendance as well so the billing can be explained and discussed. The resident will be notified to attend the December 15th Water Commission meeting to discuss this issue. Mr. Poteat will be in attendance.

Section about replacing expansion tanks....

- There are two pieces of property related to the White Church 4 North Blandford Road and 1 North Blandford Road. Four North Blandford Road is being billed but the other, 1 North Blandford Road is not. One North Blandford Road needs to be added as a separate account. – there is but one bill and another needs to be added.
- Francis MacKinnon has two water lines in two separate places on their property and would like each billed separately. This will be initiated through Softright to separate the billing to reflect two separate bills.
- Residence at 27 North Street hasn't been billed since 2018 and this will need to be addressed through Softright.

b. Discuss Fee Schedule for water mains installation and size requirements.

Gordon shared the Town of Mendon's Water Rates and Fees schedule with the Commissioners.

There is a need for an approved contactor list.

5. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Office hours to be changed and discussed

Gordon notified the Commission advised of the proposed change in Office hours from by appointment to 1 day week – 12:00 pm to 4:30 pm which will be posted on the Town website. Karen advised additional hours will be required at the onset to set up office and equipment and

go through the large volume of loose material. This has been approved by the Commission.

6. **MEETING ADJOURNED:**

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

WATER COMMISSION

Brad Curry, Chairman

Michael Keier, Member

Peter Thayer, Member