



**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 15, 2022
4:30 P.M.**

Meeting Held in Blandford Water Department
Town hall

1. OPEN SESSION:

Meeting Opened at 4:33 P.M. and is recorded.

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

Participation: Martin Lynch, Resident and Bruce Cooper, Cooper
Excavating.

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Review of meeting minutes from previous weeks meeting

No minutes were presented.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Meeting With Martin Lynch to Discuss Water Inspection Bill

Mr. Lynch was advised the Water Inspector, Aaron Poteat, is not be able to attend the meeting. Going forward, Mr. Lynch presented his perception of what transpired on November 11, 2022, which resulted in the bill he received from Mr. Poteat. Lynch hired Mr. Poteat to replace a 14" pipe which he is willing to pay for. He questioned the excessive fee of \$500 for the inspection of the water line. Mr. Poteat was on site waiting to inspect the finished job for an extended period and actually did not perform the inspection as he left prior to the complete hookup. This fee is in question and there will be further

investigation. The Water Department will entertain setting a fee structure perhaps mirroring the BOH fees or another municipality such as Westfield.

**MOTION: B. Curry made a motion to come up with a fee structure
P. Thayer Seconded
All in Favor**

Mr. Cooper discussed the job he performed at 121 North Blandford Road. He had billed the Water Department for a portion of this and he was advised by letter from the Department the Town was not responsible for the damages incurred at the site. There was much discussion and all felt there should be a procedure that would protect everyone in situations such as this.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Water Department Update by Gordon Avery

In contact with the TA relative to Gateway and Internship

b. Water System Study Progress

Looking for funding for this. Refinance the USDA Loans. Looking for grants. Install a tank?? Going Well – working with \$5,000 grant.

c. SCADA System Project Progress

Gordan advised Commissioners are aware of the status.

d. GIS System Progress – Is 65%-80% complete and on delay until better weather.

Meter needs to be returned. Gordon wants training.

5. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Pump House Degradation

Many of the bolts and nuts are rotted off. There will be a problem if there is high pressure. Work needs to be performed here.

b. Heating System Issues at Water Treatment Plant

Fan motor blew out. Never contacted. Budget for replacement.

Department Administrative Assistant advised of the quote for equipment replacement of a Desktop Computer of \$1,168.54. Does not include a monitor but there is one in house for temporary use. Karen clarified that the Water Commissioners have approval authority for this acquisition. Karen will check in on whether there are additional charges for set up of this equipment as well as an additional internet access point that may or may not be required.

Gordon advised line items were not increased...

Brad expressed an interest in an update of what comes into the department and what goes out which will be key in setting a budget. Karen will contact Accounting to determine if this is available and in addition, inquire relative to a tally of indirect costs.

MOTION: B. Curry made a motion to go forward and accept quote for new computer

P. Thayer Seconded

All in favor

6. MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting Adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Shaw
Administrative Assistant to the Water Commission

Brad Curry, Chairman

Michael Keier, Member

Peter Thayer, Member