



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
WATER DEPARTMENT**

1 Russell Stage Rd
Blandford, MA 01008
413.848.4279 x 304

Water Commissioners

Brad Curry
Michael Keier
Peter Thayer

Water Superintendent

Gordon Avery

**MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD WATER COMMISSION
APRIL 13, 2023
4:30 P.M.**

1. OPEN SESSION:

Meeting Opened at 4:42 P.M.

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

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Review of Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2023.

Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

MOTION: B. Curry made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2023.
M. Keier Seconded.
All in Favor.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

a. No Action Items.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Review and Approve Inter-Municipal Agreement Blandford/Chester

B. Curry stated he discussed with Ira Brezinsky and Bob Daley the signing authority of the Agreement and it is determined because this is an Intermunicipal Agreement and while the Water Commission has decision making authority for most everything, the signing authority for this lies with the Selectboard. The Water Commission was requested to review the agreement and offer their approval or concerns. Some of these concerns follow. It was their understanding the Agreement covered an operator in training and not a shared operator. A shared operator versus an operator in training has liability which would fall on the Town of Blandford as the hosting community. A conflicting management workflow structure between the two towns was also sighted.

M. Keier could not see where the agreement would benefit the water users of the Town of Blandford and it was suggested that this be brought before the residents of the Town through a Town Meeting. The members of the Commission see no financial incentive grant wise as the Town would receive the same award with or without this agreement. While the contract has a "back out clause" should the shared services not produce the desired result, it is unsure how complicated it would be to implement. After considerable discussion and reservations relating to this Inter-Municipal Agreement, the Water Commissioners are not recommending going forward with it and will advise the Selectboard. Karen will discuss with the Town Administrator the best method in which to do this.

5. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Review Quarter 3 Abatement Request by Blandford Country Club

The request by the Blandford Country Club for a Quarter 3 Abatement was reviewed and approved.

MOTION: B. Curry made a motion to approve the Quarter 3 Application for Abatement by the Blandford County Club.

M. Keier Seconded.

All in Favor.

b. Elm Electric Proposal for replacement of Turbidity Meters relative to December 16, 2022 weather event.

The proposal by Elm Electric was reviewed and voted on to go forward. Karen will email the signed proposal to Elm Electric.

MOTION: M. Keier made a motion to accept the proposal by Elm Electric.

B. Curry Seconded.

All in Favor.

Karen updated the Commission on the status of the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program the Water Department is trying to put into place. The deadline for residents to apply is April 30, 2023 for this fiscal year and there is a problem getting access to the reporting portal in which to sign residents up. Those receiving fuel assistance are eligible for \$450 off their water bill when the paperwork is completed. Karen has contacted the Valley Opportunity Council and they are working on it and will get back to her. She will follow through with them. The Commission noted this is an excellent opportunity for those who need this benefit and we will want to follow through yearly if the program is available. Going forward it will be placed in the newspaper, a notice will be inserted in the water bills and the Council on Aging Director will be notified.

Gordon is awaiting communication from the DEP on the new Lead & Copper sites and he will contact him. The water main in the center of town was flushed prior to its scheduled flushing and was found to be acceptable. Brian Champiney's wife sent a picture of their water compared to bottled water complaining their water was dirty. The piping for this resident is outdated and needs to be replaced but when flushed it appears to have resolved

the problem.

Mike Keier asked about Steve Hart and Gordon would like to go on record he will no longer respond to Mr. Hart's calls as he has an extremely loud and unacceptable demeanor. The complaints he has brought up when looked into are issues on his end that either he caused, or forgot to do. He advised Michael Keier he was going to weld the curb box shut so he couldn't be shut off. Gordon advised it would be dug up and a fine would be issued of \$1,000.

John Tibbits of Mass Rural Water Association will be out on April 25th with a listening device to locate a possible leak on North Blandford Road and Russell Stage Road.

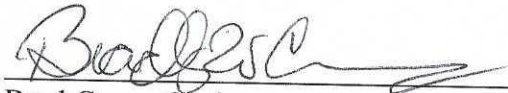
6. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting Adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Shaw, Administrative Assistant
Water Department

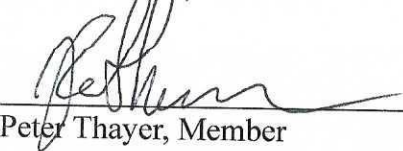
WATER COMMISSION



Brad Curry, Chairman



Michael Keier, Member



Peter Thayer, Member