



**Minutes of May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden, SS.
Town of Blandford**

At a legal meeting of the qualified voters of the **TOWN OF BLANDFORD**, held on May 1, 2017 at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts, the following business was transacted:

Moderator: due to the Town's permanent Town Clerk not being present at meeting it was necessary to elect a Temporary Town Clerk by vote for purposes of the meeting. Moderator asked meeting to vote to authorize him to cast a single vote for election of Laurie Boucher (Assistant Town Clerk) as the Temporary Town Clerk for the evening. Vote passed and Laurie Boucher was elected as Town Clerk for the meeting.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 39, Sec. 15 that the Town Moderator be authorized to declare a two-thirds vote without a count when passage of an article requires a two-thirds vote by statute, provided, however, that if the vote is immediately questioned by seven or more voters, a count shall be taken, or take any other action relative thereto..

Sponsor: Town Moderator

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously; a procedural motion

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officials and act thereon; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Town Moderator

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws, Section II, P. Arts Council by deleting this section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

P. Arts Council

1. The Arts Council shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

2. Members shall be appointed for staggered terms of three years and any such member shall not be appointed to more than two consecutive terms, or for a total of six years, Members must remain off the council for a one-year interval before serving additional terms.
3. Members shall have demonstrated scholarship or creativity in, or distinguished service to, the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences.
4. Upon a vacancy, for any reason, the member's successor, if any, shall be appointed for a term of three years, and shall serve until the qualification of such member's successor.

Sponsor: Arts Council

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to amend the Town's General By-laws Section III Committees, B, Organization of the Finance Committee, Section 4 by deleting that section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:—
Section 4.

In the event of any vacancy in its membership, the Finance Committee shall notify the Moderator and the Town Clerk in writing within seven (7) days of such vacancy and the Appointing Committee shall fill such vacancy.

Sponsor: Town Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to (1) establish the following revolving funds and fiscal year spending limits as set forth below, and further (2) to amend the General By-laws by inserting a new by-law, Article XXI, Revolving Funds, establishing various revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows:

XXI, Revolving Funds

A. There are hereby established in the Town of Blandford pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, the following Revolving Funds, from which the specified department head, board, committee, or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from without appropriation in accordance with the limitations set forth in this by-law.

B. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund.

C. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.

D. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by Annual Town Meeting or any increase therein as may later be authorized by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in accordance with G.L. c.44, §53E½.

E. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by-law shall be credited to the General Fund.

F. Authorized Revolving Funds

REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM OR PURPOSE	DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS TO BE CREDITED TO FUND	REPRESENTATIVE OR BOARD ENTITY AUTHORIZED TO SPEND
<i>Fire Department - purchase of gear, equipment, and building maintenance</i>	Fees received from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority in connection with inspections	Fire Chief
<i>Council on Aging - purchase of items to benefit the Council</i>	Fees received in connection with events that occur for the Council on Aging	Chair of the Council on Aging
<i>Electrical Inspector and Plumbing Inspector - salaries</i>	Fees received in connection with inspections and permits issued by such inspectors	Board of Selectmen or Town Administrator
<i>Shepard Farm Property - maintenance and improvements</i>	Fees and receipts generated through the programs undertaken at the Shepard Farm property	Shepard Farm Revolving Fund Committee, which shall consist of a representative from each: the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, and the Historical Commission
<i>Board of Health Perc Tests - salaries and costs relative to such program</i>	Fees received in connection with Percolation Tests	Board of Health
<i>Board of Health Trash Bag Program - purchasing trash bags</i>	Fees and receipts received in connection with the sale of Transfer Station Trash Bags to residents	Board of Health

G. Procedures and Reports. Except as provided in General Laws Chapter 44, §53E½ and this by-law, all applicable state and local laws and regulations that govern the receipt, custody, expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of revolving funds established and authorized by this by-law.

And, further, to establish the following fiscal year spending limit for such funds:

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Fire Department	\$10,000
Council on Aging	\$ 7,500
Electrical Inspector and Plumbing Inspector	\$10,000 each
Shepard Farm Property	\$10,000
Board of Health Perc Tests	\$10,000
Board of Health Trash Bag Program	\$ 5,000

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Fire Chief, Council on Aging, Board of Selectmen, Board of Health

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article Amended

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to (1) establish the following revolving funds and fiscal year spending limits as set forth below, and further (2) to amend the General By-laws by inserting a new by-law, Article XXI, Revolving Funds, establishing various revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows:

Amendment 1: Shepard Farm Property fiscal year spending limit changed to \$30,000 due to expected logging.

Amendment passed

Article passed as amended unanimously

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to fund the Town Administrator salary line at \$1 for fiscal year 2018.

Sponsor: Citizen's Petition submitted by Don Carpenter

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to take no action on this article.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to take no action on this article.

Motion to postpone Article indefinitely. Motion passed by secret ballot 72 yes to 30 no.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 17; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

- Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer and/or Tax Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2018 as permitted by M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 53F; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

- Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$ 1,532,002 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article amended

- Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$ 1,532,002 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed as amended unanimously

- Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$ 75,000 for the Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article amended

- Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$ 75,000 for the Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed as amended unanimously

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$35,000 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article amended

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$35,000 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed as amended unanimously

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$30,000 for the Reserve Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Andy Montanaro made motion to change amount to \$20,000- motion seconded. Finance committee recommends leaving article as it stands. Vote taken & motion was denied.

Article passed unanimously

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$70,000 for the Emergency Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept all Federal and State grants available to the Town of Blandford; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept all Chapter 90 funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,566,370 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the budget with amendments.

Article amended

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,609,371 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

- **Fire Dept. made motion for \$40,000 to be set aside from building stabilization fund to be put towards a replacement fire truck. Motion carries**
- **Assessors made motion to change line item 18 to \$4800 and line item 19 to \$17680. Finance committee supports- motion carries**
- **Zoning Board made motion to increase line 58 to \$450. Finance committee approves- motion carries.**
- **Selectman William Levakis made motion to change line item 8 to \$60,000. Motion seconded and discussion followed regarding proposed hours. Motion made to move question. Motion failed by small majority.**
- **As a result of above changes, line item 76 was increased to \$400,041.**
- **Line item 131 carries as written**
- **Selectman William Levakis made motion to change line item 135 to \$13000 for Chapter 90 & grant \$ record keeping. Finance committee amended to \$9750. Motion carries as amended**
- **Selectman Adam Dolby made motion to change line item 163 to \$11,890. Motion passed**
- **As a result of above changes, line item 168 was increased to \$541,082**
- **Line item 185 carries as written**
- **Finance committee made motion to change line item 187 to \$39,000 (previously agreed upon with library trustees). Motion carries**
- **As a result of above changes line item 206 was changed to \$64,546**
- **Line item 215 carries as written**
- **Article 16 carries as amended at \$1,609,371.**

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$552,032 from Water Department Funds to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

Sponsor: Water Department

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$275,000 for the Building Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article amended

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$275,000 for the Building Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto
Per amendment on Article 16 this amount was decreased to \$230,000 to set aside funds for fire truck and to balance the budget. Motion carries.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$25,000 for the Municipal Light Stabilization Fund (Wired West Fiber Optic); or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article passed unanimously

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of \$37,989, representing the balance of retained earnings, for the Water Department Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written.

Article amended by Moderator

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of \$37,989, representing the balance of retained earnings, from the Water Department earnings to the Water Department Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed as amended

A true copy

Attest:

Laurie Boucher, Town Clerk