



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

Blandford Town Hall
1 Russell Stage Road, Suite 1
Blandford, MA 01008

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
October 23, 2017**

1. OPEN SESSION 7:03 p.m.

Present were Adam Dolby, William Levakis and Cara Letendre
Meeting is being recorded.

- 2. DISCUSSION:** Adam Dolby discussed funding for the upcoming Town Meeting. Adam Dolby suggested an informational mailing and also requested the Fire Chief to put together a presentation on the strategy of the Fire Department as pertains to the Fire Department vehicles and the specifics of the fire truck proposed for purchase and to have the truck here for the Town Meeting.

3. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Minutes of October 16, 2017 with Amendments.

W. Levakis seconded the motion.

All in favor.

MOTION: A. Dolby made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Executive Session Minutes of January 9, 2017.

W. Levakis seconded the motion.

C. Letendre abstained.

4. SIGNING OF THE UNION CONTRACT

The signing of the Union Contract will be brought to the next meeting as there are questions on the positions listed in the contract. There is need for the Water Department to validate the positions that should be listed.

5. MCAD COMPLAINT

The Board was given an email update from MIIA Property and Casualty Group, Inc. they are handling the claim and have assigned a representative.

6. PVPC ACCOUNTING AGREEMENT (For Fiscal Year 2018)

The pros and cons of the PVPC (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) Accounting Agreement was discussed as to whether to leave it at \$19,000 with data entry performed in house, or to increase it to full service at \$25,000. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

7. FISCAL YEAR 2017 CLOSING CONTRACT

In preparation of signing the contract Adam Dolby will talk with legal counsel. For payroll purposes Jennifer Girard will prepare the payroll.

MOTION: A. Dolby made a motion to authorize Jennifer Girard to process the payroll for the Town until revoked.

C. Letendre seconded the motion.

All in favor.

8. GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION, NOV. 8th.

Gateway is requesting each Selectboard select a representative to attend executive session updates regarding teacher/union negotiations. Cara Letendre will attend.

9. RESIGNATION

MOTION: A. Dolby made a motion to accept the resignation of Jennifer Girard as Accountant effective October 31, 2017 at the end of the day.

C. Letendre seconded the motion.

All in favor.

10. Purchase of Larger Table for Selectboard Meetings

A quote was presented to the Board for the purchase of a larger table. The cost is prohibitive.

11. 5. (a) DPW

B. Levakis reported that the legwork has been done and a vote will need to be taken. He would like to make a motion in order to go to the next step.

MOTION: W. Levakis made a motion to authorize the Town counsel to draft an appropriate warrant article and special legislation rescinding the prior special act and creating a DPW.

A. Dolby seconded the motion.

Discussion: The steps required to create a DPW were discussed. A more clear picture and a better understanding of the restructuring as well as the cost saving is requested prior to moving forward. W. Levakis will put together a report to present to the Board.

MOTION WITHDRAWN BY W. LEVAKIS

12. 5. (b) Engineering for Bridge

A. Dolby received a packet from Brad Curry prior to the meeting. Given time will be required to review as well as submission to legal for review this will be placed on the Agenda for next Board meeting.

13. 5. (c) Capital Expenditure for Vehicle Purchases

Brad Curry sent an email regarding the purchasing of a vehicle. What is the next step? Highway has the quotes, interest rate, everything needed. A. Dolby is questioning why that type of vehicle is needed, the life span, how the determination was made the price quote was good. Adam will send an email to the Highway Department with his questions and concerns.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Library Director

The Library Director is retiring and they are seeking interim director. A posting will be made for a new Director.

Posting of Agenda

Once the meeting agenda is posted it can't be changed.

Petition Requesting the inclusion of a Specified Warrant Article for the Special Town Meeting.

Warrant Article reads "To reduce the Town Administrator salary line to \$1.00 by transferring the current balance in excess of \$1.00 to Free Cash." This will be given to the Town Clerk for placement on the Warrant.

First MARS Meeting

C. Letendre attended the first MARS meeting and gave a report. There is a possibility to invite the MARS representative to come to a Selectboard meeting to present what they are doing with the School Committee and the Selectboards. She can schedule it and she would also like to contact the Chester Selectboard to see what they do.

Recreation Committee

Cara Letendre reached out to Jeanne LeClair about adding the recreation departments to the collaborative agreement for joining forces for the events that are put on. This Halloween they extended an invitation to all school students in the entire district. If successful, going forward other towns could also contribute.

MOTION: A. Dolby made a motion to adjourn.

W. Levakis seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Karen Shaw

Adam Dolby – Chair

Cara Letendre - Clerk

William Levakis – Member