



**Certified Minutes of May 2, 2016 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 BLANDFOD**, held on May 2, 2016 at Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts, the following business was transacted:

- 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.
Article passed unanimously
- 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.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,611,060 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.
Amendment 1: to change amount to \$1,597,714; friendly amendment to delete "or transfer"
Amendment passed unanimously
- Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$1,597,714 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously as amended
- Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$129,291 for the Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$45,000 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 6:** 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 2017 as permitted by M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 53F; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- 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, 2015 and ending June 30, 2017, 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.

Friendly amendment to fix date to July 1, 2016 – no vote taken

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, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, 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.

Article passed unanimously

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$25,000 for the Reserve Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$60,000 for the Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]

Amendment: change figure to \$66,158

Amendment passed

Article passed unanimously

Motion to reconsider Article 9

Motion passed unanimously

Amend total to \$81,658 to include the \$15,500 from error in ambulance service

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$81,658 for the Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]

Article passed unanimously

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Fire Department for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with inspections and fees received from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, to be expended for the purpose of paying costs and expenses related to the purchase of gear, equipment, and building maintenance, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Fire Chief; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch.44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Council on Aging, for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with events that occur for the Council on Aging for the purpose of paying costs and expenses related to the purchase of items to benefit the Council, said sum not to exceed \$5,000 in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Chair of the Council on Aging; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Electrical Inspector and Plumbing Inspector, for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with inspections and permits issued by such inspectors, to be expended for the purpose of paying salaries for the Electrical Inspector, and Plumbing Inspector, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 for each in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½ to authorize a revolving fund for the Shepard Farm property, to be expended for the purpose of maintenance and improvements, into which will be credited fees and receipts generated through the programs undertaken at the Shepard Farm property, and to authorize the expenditure of such fund by the Shepard Farm Revolving Fund Committee, which shall consist of a representative from each of the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, and the Historical Commission; said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY17; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Board of Health for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with Perk Tests from residents/new home owners for the purpose of paying salaries and costs relative to such program, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Board of Health for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with the sale of Transfer Station Trash Bags to residents, to be expended for the purpose of purchasing trash bags by the Board of Health, said sum not to exceed \$5,000 in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 16: 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.

Article passed unanimously

Article 17: 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.

Article passed unanimously

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,550,727 and transfer to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)
Amendment: Change amount to \$1,542,415 and further to allocate said additional amount as follows:

Total General Government	\$1,885
Total Protection	\$ 832
Total Public Works	\$4,471

And further to authorize the Town Accountant to properly allocate such amounts for the purpose of providing 2.5% raises for the appointed personnel within each of these budget categories, for whom no raise was previously provided.

Amendment passed unanimously

Article passed unanimously

Article 19: 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, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

Amendment: strike Funds and replace with Revenue

Amendment passed unanimously

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$552,032 from

Water Department Revenue to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

Article passed unanimously

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$100,000 for the Building Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.
[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]

Article passed unanimously

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$12,000 for the Municipal Light Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.
[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]

Article passed unanimously

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$100,000, from water department revenue, representing the balance of retained earnings, for the Water Department Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]

Article passed unanimously

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by adding a new Section entitled "Stretch Energy Code" in the following manner:

XXI: Stretch Energy Code

1. Definitions:

- a. International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) –The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency, and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards.
- b. Stretch Energy Code- Codified by the Board of Building Regulation and Standards as 780 CMR Appendix 115.AA of the 8th edition Massachusetts Building Code, the Stretch Energy Code is an appendix to the Massachusetts building August 2013 code, based on further amendments to the International Energy Code (IECC) to improve the energy efficiency of buildings built to this code.

2. Purpose:

The purpose of 780 CMR 115.AA is to provide a more energy efficient alternative to the Base Energy Code applicable to relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings.

3. Applicability:

This code applies to residential and commercial buildings. Buildings not included in this scope shall comply with 780 CMR 13, 34, 51, as applicable.

4. Stretch Energy Code:

The Stretch Energy Code, as codified by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards as 780 CMR Appendix 115 AA, including any future editions, amendments or modifications, is herein incorporated by reference into the Town of Blandford General By-Laws. The Stretch Code is enforceable by the inspector of buildings or building commissioner.

5. Effective Date:

The Stretch Energy Code was adopted by the May 2, 2016 Annual Town Meeting, with a concurrency start date of July 1, 2016 and a sole effective date of January 1, 2017.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed 47 yes, 22 no

- Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws by inserting new Article XXI entitled "Personnel Bylaw" pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 41, §108C, a copy of said personnel bylaw as on file at the Town Clerk's office; or take any other action relative thereto.
Motion withdraws for lack of language
- Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Stabilization fund the sum of \$18,871 to supplement the Town's annual assessment for the Gateway Regional School District for Fiscal Year 2016, or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:
BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2016 Annual Town Meeting, hereby request the Board of Selectmen to file with the State Auditor a request for reimbursement for any and all unfunded mandates which are legally eligible for reimbursement, which mandates are imposed on the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including but not limited to costs for Vocational Education Transportation.
Or to take action relative thereto.
Article tabled
- Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:
BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2016 Annual Town Meeting hereby request the Gateway Regional School District School Committee to file, with the State Auditor a request for reimbursement for any and all unfunded mandates which are legally eligible for reimbursement, which are imposed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, including but not limited to costs for Student Transportation)
Or to take action relative thereto.
Article tabled
- Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:
BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2016 Annual Town Meeting hereby request the Gateway Regional School District School Committee to explore all possible options to protect the financial and educational sustainability of the Gateway Regional School District, including but not limited to exploring and recommending ways to: (1) Ensure the financial and educational sustainability of the Gateway Regional School District with quantifiable and measurable five and ten year operational and capital plans; (2) Ensure the quality of education be sustained at the highest level possible; (3) Make practical recommendations to the Member Towns of the Gateway Regional School District to achieve these goals on a short term and long term basis; and (4) Provide annual reports to the Member Towns on progress made to reach these stated goals and requests.
Or to take action relative thereto.
Article tabled
- Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to accept and approve the following resolution regarding the critical need for immediate action on wired broadband service, as written below,
Whereas the Town's Community Anchor Institutions have NOT been provided broadband service as promised by the Middle Mile campaign; and
Whereas the State's westward expansion of broadband service to our rural towns of is a matter of Equal rights and fair representation as guaranteed by the Massachusetts Bill of Rights; and
Whereas broadband service is THE lifeline to our economic survival; and
Whereas our population is aging and declining; and

Whereas our students' education is compromised in under-enrolled schools and thwarted by their inability to perform required online assignments; and

Whereas our residents are unable to utilize digital internet health care; and

Whereas broadband assures the interconnectivity essential to life in the 21st century; and

Whereas The Massachusetts legislature passed and the governor signed Bill H4355, an Act financing information technology equipment and related projects, on June 6, 2014, which authorized \$50 Million to the Massachusetts Broadband Incentive Fund,

THEREFORE be it resolved that we, the Selectboard of the Town of Blandford, call upon the Baker/Polito Administration to commit all necessary resources to ensure the provision of wired broadband service to Blandford in its entirety thus meeting the internet needs of all its residents; and

Expediently provide resolution to this most challenging situation by allocating the funds necessary to bring this project to conclusion; and

Instruct the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to work cooperatively with the towns and their agencies, including WiredWest, and to accept input and policy direction from the towns to jointly produce an actionable plan that is acceptable to our town by June 30th, 2016.

Be it further resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Secretary Jay Ash, or take any action related thereto.

Article passed unanimously

A true copy

Attest:

Mary Kronholm, Town Clerk