

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF HAMPDEN, SS.
TOWN OF BLANDFORD
MINUTES of the Annual Town Meeting
May 5, 2014

Article 1: 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 2: 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 2015 as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, section 53F; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, section 17; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 4: 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

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$35,000 for the Stabilization Account.

Article Passed

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 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 FY15, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Fire Chief; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 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 FY15, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Chair of the Council on Aging; take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 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 FY15, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 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 FY15.

Article Passed

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 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 FY15, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 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 FY14, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept a Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) Grant in the amount of \$500,000 from MassWorks Infrastructure Program, said funds to be used for reconstruction and resurfacing of Otis-Tolland Road, Curtis Hall Road and Moreau Road; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 13: 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

Article 14: 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

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,443,196 and transfer \$13,580 from Water Department funds to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

Article Passed

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$506,365 from Water Department Funds to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

Article Passed

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds a sum \$1,509,148 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$157,536 for the Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,000 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 20: To see whether the Town will vote to approve the following **Resolution to Seek Lower Electric Rates in a Competitive Market** or take any action relative thereto:

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry; and

Whereas, the citizens of the Town of Blandford in Hampden County have substantial economic, environmental, and social interests at stake; and

Whereas, Blandford's residential and business consumers are interested in reducing their electricity rates;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Town Meeting of Blandford grant the Board of Selectmen authority to develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, for power supply and other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities through the Hampshire Council of Governments. If such contracts are to be approved, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and to choose any alternative service they desire; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Selectmen may appoint a representative for a committee to oversee such joint action.

Article Passed

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to change the position of elected collector of taxes to an appointed position, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the public purposes of the petition, or take any other action relating thereto.

An Act Relative to the Collector of Taxes in the Town of Blandford

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the collector of taxes of the town of Blandford shall be appointed by the board of selectmen of said town for a term of three years, and may be removed for cause by said board after a hearing. Prior to any appointment under this section, the candidate for appointment shall be interviewed at an open session meeting of said board and the following officers of the town: finance committee chair, planning board chair, town accountant, and town treasurer. The collector of taxes appointed hereunder shall have all the powers, perform the duties and be subject to the liabilities and penalties conferred and imposed by law on collectors of taxes.

SECTION 2. The position of elected collector of taxes shall be abolished upon the effective date of this act and the term of the elected incumbent terminated; provided, however, that the elected incumbent shall then become the first appointed collector of taxes and shall serve in that capacity for a period of time equivalent to the remainder of the elected term or sooner vacating of office. Thereafter, appointments to the position of collector of taxes shall be made under section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Article Passed with a vote of 50 yea to 47 nay

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to change the position of elected town treasurer to an appointed position, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the public purposes of the petition, or take any other action relating thereto.

An Act Relative to the Town Treasurer in the Town of Blandford

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the town treasurer of the town of Blandford shall be appointed by the board of selectmen of said town for a term of three years, and may be removed for cause by said board after a hearing. Prior to any appointment under this section, the candidate for appointment shall be interviewed at an open session meeting of said board and the following officers of the town: finance committee chair; planning board chair, accountant and tax collector. The town treasurer appointed hereunder shall have all the powers, perform the duties and be subject to the liabilities and penalties conferred and imposed by law on town treasurers.

Article 22 (continued) SECTION 2. The position of elected town treasurer shall be abolished upon the effective date of this act and the term of the elected incumbent terminated; provided, however, that the elected incumbent shall then become the first appointed town treasurer and shall serve in that capacity for a period of time equivalent to the remainder of the elected term or sooner vacating of office. Thereafter, appointments to the position of town treasurer shall be under section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Article Passed with a vote 48 yea to 43 nay

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to change the position of elected town clerk to an appointed position, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the public purposes of the petition, or take any other action relating thereto.

An Act Relative to the Town Clerk in the Town of Blandford

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the town clerk of the town of Blandford shall be appointed by the board of selectmen of said town for a term of three years, and may be removed for cause by said board after a hearing. Prior to any appointment under this section, the candidate for appointment shall be interviewed at an open session meeting of said board and the following officers of the town: finance committee chair and planning board chair. The town clerk appointed hereunder shall have all the powers, perform the duties and be subject to the liabilities and penalties conferred and imposed by law on town treasurers.

SECTION 2. The position of elected town clerk shall be abolished upon the effective date of this act and the term of the elected incumbent terminated; provided, however, that the elected incumbent shall then become the first appointed town clerk and shall serve in that capacity for a period of time equivalent to the remainder of the elected term or sooner vacating of office. Thereafter, appointments to the position of town clerk shall be made under section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Article failed with a vote 46 yea to 48 nay

Article 24: To see if the town will vote to amend the Town of Blandford Bylaws, Section IIG, Town Accountant, to be appointed for a year (1) term by the Board of Selectmen.

Article passed

Article 25: To see if the town will vote to transfer \$144,826.22 from Water Department retained earnings to purchase a Kubota Excavator with Coupler, Trench Bucket and Hydraulic Thump for \$70,876.62; a Kubota Track Loader for \$63,949.60 and a Rotary Mower for \$10,000.

Article failed

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST

Mary N. Kronholm, Town Clerk of Blandford