



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**County of Hampden, ss.**  
**Town of Blandford**  
5/7/18

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 39, §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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES     NO

VOTE: Passed unanimously

COMMENTS: Motioned and seconded

**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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES     NO

VOTE: Passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,554,352 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE: Passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

Discussion regarding formula used to determine this amount. Andy Montanaro requested tabling this article and moving to Article 20 for further explanation. Request motioned and seconded.

After Article 20 was discussed and passed there was a motion and a second to take this article back from table. Article passed unanimously.

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$100,000 for the Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE: passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$36,000 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE: passed unanimously as amended below

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

Article amended to read:

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$29,167 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto.

**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 2019 as permitted by M.G.L., c. 44, §53F; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE: passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**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., c. 44, §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., c. 44, §17; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE: passed unanimously as amended below

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded. Dates corrected to read July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019.

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$15,000 for the Reserve Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?**     **YES**             **NO**

**SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?**             **YES**             **NO**

**VOTE:** Passed unanimously as amended below\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:** motioned and seconded

**Article amended to read:**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum of \$15,000 for the Reserve Account; or take any other action relative thereto

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$35,000 for the Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?**     **YES**             **NO**

**SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?**             **YES**             **NO**

**VOTE:** passed unanimously as amended below\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:** motioned and seconded

Article amended to read:

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum of \$35,000 for the Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §53E ½, as most recently amended, to establish FY2019 spending limits as set forth below for the revolving funds established in Article XXI of the General Bylaw entitled, "Revolving Funds," with such limits to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year until revised by Town Meeting prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year:

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Fire Department	\$10,000
Council on Aging	\$ 5,000
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

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES     NO

VOTE: passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 11:** 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES     NO

VOTE: passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 12:** 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES                     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?             YES                     NO

VOTE: passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$2,326,729 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES                     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?             YES                     NO

VOTE: passed unanimously as amended below

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

Article amended to read:

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds \$2,333,774 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

Motion by Mike McLaughlin to move Town Admin. salary to \$1. Motion seconded and moved to vote. Motion failed to pass.

Motion by Tony Van Werkhoven to amend Town Admin. salary to half time at \$32,000. Motion seconded and moved to vote- Motion failed to pass.

Motion by Steve Jemiolo to move \$1100 from Assessors budget line items "education & training and mileage" into "stipend". Motion seconded and moved to vote- Motion carries

Motion on floor to eliminate \$9480 from Treasurer Expense line item since it is incorporated in Treasurer department salary. Motion seconded and moved to vote- Motion carries

Motion by K. Blanchette to decrease Dog Officer salary to \$3000. Motion seconded and moved to vote. Motion failed to pass.

Motion on floor to change Historical Comm. Salary from \$275 to \$600 due to budget submission error. Motion seconded and moved to vote- Motion carries.

Motion on floor to postpone voting on this article until end of meeting so that Finance Comm. can calculate changes. Motion seconded and moved to vote- Motion carries

**Article 14:** 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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES                     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?             YES                     NO

VOTE: passed unanimously as amended below

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article amended to read:**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of \$552,032 from Water Department Receipts to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)

**Article 15:** 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES                     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?             YES                     NO

VOTE: Passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$85,000. for the Municipal Light Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES                     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?             YES                     NO

VOTE: Passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 59, § 5, clause Twenty-second G, providing that the exemptions available pursuant to clauses Twenty-second, Twenty-second A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second D, Twenty-second E and Twenty-second F, with respect real estate of soldiers and sailors and their spouses based upon specified residency requirements, may be granted to otherwise eligible persons who have resided in the Commonwealth for one year prior to the date of filing for exemptions pursuant to the applicable clause; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES                     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?             YES                     NO

VOTE: Passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw by adding a new Section XIV, Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section XIV, "Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments":

Section XIV: Temporary Moratorium on Marijuana Establishments.

A. Authority and purpose

By vote at the State election on November 8, 2016, the voters of the Commonwealth approved a law regulating the cultivation, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for recreational purposes.

This law was amended on December 30, 2016 by extending certain deadlines by six months and the Cannabis Control Commission is required to issue regulations regarding implementation by March 15, 2018 and to begin accepting applications for licenses on April 1, 2018.

Currently under the Zoning Bylaw, Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers are not a permitted use in the Town and any regulation promulgated by the State Cannabis Control Commission are expected to provide guidance to the Town in regulating Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers. Further, the ballot measure establishes two important provisions that require ballot action by the Town prior to the adoption of zoning. First, the Town must, by ballot, determine whether it will issue licenses for Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers; and, second, by ballot that cannot occur prior to November, 2018, the next biennial state election, on



whether to allow on-site consumption of marijuana products should the Town decide to allow licenses for such facilities.

The regulation of Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers raise novel and complex legal, planning, and public safety issues and the Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana

Retailers and address such novel and complex issues, as well as to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers and other uses related to the regulation of marijuana. The Town intends to adopt a temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for the Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers so as to allow the Town sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to adopt provisions of the Zoning Bylaw in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives.

#### B. Definitions

For purposes of this moratorium, the definitions set for in M.G.L. c. 94G, §1 shall apply.

#### C. Temporary Moratorium

For reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provisions of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for Marijuana Establishments and other uses related to recreational marijuana. Because of the statutory requirement to have the State Attorney General's Office approve all Zoning changes approved at Town Meeting, and the time it takes to prepare such submission for the Attorney General's Office to conduct their review and respond, the moratorium shall take effect through December 31, 2018 or 120 days from the date of the Town Meeting action, whichever occurs latter; or until such time as the Town adopts Zoning Bylaw amendments that regulate Marijuana Establishments and obtain the Attorney General's Office approval, whichever occurs earlier. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of marijuana in Blandford, consider the Cannabis Advisory Board regulations regarding marijuana establishments and marijuana retailers and related uses, determine wither the Town shall restrict any or all licenses for such marijuana establishments and marijuana retailers, and consider such other and further matters as set forth in M.G.L. c. 94G, §3 and M.G.L. c. 64N, §3.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?**      \_\_\_\_\_ **YES**                      \_\_\_\_\_ **NO**

**SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?**                      \_\_\_\_\_ **YES**                      \_\_\_\_\_ **NO**

**VOTE: Motion to refer to planning Board- motion seconded and passed  
unanimously** \_\_\_\_\_

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 59, §38H or any other enabling authority to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Real and Personal Property Tax Agreement with Green Apple Farms, IV, LLC or its affiliated entity, located at 250 W 57th Street, Suite 701, New York, NY 10107, for a period of up to twenty-five (25) years, and to approve said agreement under which Green Apple Farms IV, LLC or its affiliated entity, will pay the Town a sum of money per year in lieu of personal property taxes and in lieu of real estate taxes relative to seventy five (75) acre +/- parcel of land located at 0 Chester Road, Blandford, MA related to the proposed construction and operation of a Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation(s) with an expected name-plate capacity of approximately 5 MW AC, and further to take any actions and execute any other documents or ancillary agreements necessary, convenient, or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing and to implement and administer the agreement, all of which agreements and documents shall be on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interests of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE: Passed unanimously

COMMENTS: Motioned and seconded

**Article 20:** To see if the town will vote to delete Section (D) Apportionment of Capital and Operating Costs from the Gateway Regional School District Agreement and replace it with a new section (D) Assessments, as follows:

SECTION IV APPORTIONMENT AND PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT

**DELETE:** Section (D) Apportionment of Capital and Operating Costs

Capital and operating costs shall be apportioned annually for the ensuing fiscal year on the basis of each member town's public school population. For the purpose of this subsection, public school population shall be defined as the number of children residing in a member town and receiving education at the town's expenses. Each member town's share for each fiscal year shall be determined by computing the ration which that town's public school population on March 1 of the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the apportionment is determined bears to the total public school population from all the member towns on the same date. In computing a town's public school population, the pupils referred to in subsection (D) of Section X shall be excluded.

**REPLACE WITH:** Section (D) Assessments

1. The District shall prepare on budget that shall include the funds necessary to support the operating, transportation, and capital/debt needs of the District.
2. The assessment apportioned to each member town, shall be comprised of the following categories of costs, itemized and calculated as follows:
  - a. The operating portion shall consist of all District expenditures less transportation, capital and debt. The operating portion shall be calculated based on the Alternative Method as calculated as outlined in Subsection 3 below or based on the Statutory method calculated as follows:
    - i. From the operating costs subtract Chapter 70 state aid, the total required minimum local contributions from the member towns, and other general fund income.
    - ii. The remaining amount is the amount over the minimum required local contributions.
    - iii. The amount over the minimum required local contributions shall be assessed to the member towns based on the March 1 student enrollment for the current fiscal year. For the purpose of defining enrollment related to the assessments, pupil enrollments shall be defined as the number of pupils in all grades Pre-Kindergarten through twelve (PK – 12), inclusive, residing in each member town and receiving education at member towns' expense.
  - b. The transportation portion shall be calculated by reducing the District's transportation costs by the amount the District anticipates receiving in Chapter 71 Transportation reimbursement and additional amounts from the Transportation Reserve Fund. The remaining amount shall be allocated to the towns based on enrollment on March 1 of the current year.
  - c. The debt and capital cost portion shall be allocated by enrollment based on the March 1 enrollment of the current year.
  - d. The total assessment to each member town shall be the sum of the minimum local contribution, the above minimum local contribution, transportation, and capital/debt, as calculated above.
3. Alternate Assessment Method
  - a. The Alternate Assessment shall create an equalized percentage assessment to each member town.
  - b. The member towns' combined operating, transportation, and capital/debt assessment shall be apportioned annually for the ensuing fiscal year by increasing each town's prior fiscal year assessment by the percentage of the total District assessment increase. The starting assessment shall

be calculated using a five-year average as approved by the Regional School Committee or otherwise agreed upon by the Regional School Committee.

c. When using the Alternative Assessment Method, each town must meet its Minimum Required Local Contribution. If the equalized percentage assessments results in a member town(s) not meeting the Minimum Required Local Contribution, then the town(s) so affected shall have their assessment increased to the Minimum Required Local Contribution amount. The remaining towns shall have their assessment reduced in an equal manner.

4. Committee Budget Vote

a. The Committee will have the option to vote the Alternative Assessment Method each year starting with FY ..2019.

5. Assessment Method

a. The member towns may choose to participate in the Alternate Assessment Method on a pilot basis for five (5) years beginning with FY ..2019 with an annual vote at each town meeting on the assessment. The Alternate Method outlined in this section will end with FY ..2023 unless the Regional Agreement is amended otherwise.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES     NO

VOTE: passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 21:** To see if the town will vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 1 of the November 20, 2017 Special Town Meeting transferring \$30,00 from the Capital Account and authorizing the borrowing of \$201,250 for the purchase of a mini pumper; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES     NO

VOTE: motion to postpone indefinitely passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motion to postpone indefinitely and seconded

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$30,000 from the capital account and \$201,250 from certified Free Cash for the purchase of the 2018 Mack GU713 or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES     NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES     NO

VOTE: motion to postpone indefinitely passed unanimously

COMMENTS: motion to postpone indefinitely and seconded

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2,867.94 from certified Free Cash to pay a fiscal year 2017 invoice from Lecrenski Bros., Inc. for vocational school transportation or take any other action relative thereto. (four-fifths majority vote required)

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE:   motion passed unanimously  

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2,000 from Assessors Expense into the Assessors Clerk Salary line item, or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE:       motion passed unanimously      

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$6,000 from Fire Department volunteer payments to Expenses for procurement of firefighter PPE, or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS?     YES         NO

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS?         YES         NO

VOTE:   motion passed unanimously  

COMMENTS: motioned and seconded

A true copy  
Attest:



Laurie Boucher, Town Clerk