



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
JULY 16, 2018**

OPEN SESSION 7:01 p.m.

Cara Letendre, William Levakis in attendance.
Meeting is recorded.

EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- No minutes available

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Discussion regarding the DOR meeting with Finance Office (Paul Martin), Assessor's Office (Steve Jemiolo) and Interim Tax Collector's Office (Sara Hunter).

- **Proper Staffing of Tax Collector's and Assessor's Offices**

Based on the discussion with the DOR in the Blandford Town Hall on 7/10/18, Finance and the Interim Tax Collector stressed the importance of staffing the Assessor's and Tax Collector's offices completely as both departments need immediate and critical attention and updating to correct the many problems in these offices. It is agreed by all in attendance that this is a top priority recognizing that the cost put forward will professionalize these offices.

Joshua Garcia, Interim TA, stated this should be considered good news and suggested key department heads should give their recommendations regarding pay scales, hours and positions needed to accomplish this.

Sara Hunter will invite the DOR to the next special town meeting to talk about correcting the problems and guide the town on the road to correct this situation.

Sara Hunter and Paul Martin discussed the conversation with the DOR stating that the town should work with an "old school" type abatement book as well as maintaining computer records. Karen Shaw will look into acquiring an abatement book.

Sara Hunter discussed the process that should be put in place in an effort to collect unpaid property taxes and the importance of being available to the public during this process.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Town Administrator Interviews**

The new Town Administrator interviews will be finalized on July 25, 2018 and a decision will be made on August 6, 2018.

- **PILOT/SunPin Negotiations**

Roy Bishop of Bishop & Associates met with the Board to discuss and enter into an agreement to provide PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement services with SunPin Solar. Cara Latendre mentioned the Special Town Meeting Warrant that gives the Blandford Selectboard the authority to negotiate the agreement. Bill Levakis requested references from Bishop & Associate. Mr. Bishop will be invited to join the Board for further discussion,

- **Reappointments on the Historical Commission:**

MOTION: C. Latendre made a motion to reappoint Peter Milford to the Historical Commission for a period of 3 years.

B. Levakis seconded the motion.

All in favor.

MOTION: C. Latendre made a motion to reappoint Janet Strausbert to the Historical Commission for a period of 3 years.

B. Levakis seconded the motion.

All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Security, Alarm and Swipe Cards**

Paul Allen joined the Board to discuss submitting a quote to address the timing problems with unlocking the front door to coordinate with the turning off/on of the alarm. Mr. Allen will also look into giving a quote to get the ID Card process in place to create ID/Swipe Cards for employees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

- **Removal of the Old Chlorinator**

In reference to the removal of the old Chlorinator, C. Letendre opened 2 quotes received by the BOS. Cooper Excavating quoted \$6,000; M&M Site Surveys quoted \$8,000. It is believed both quotes offer the same service. B. Levakis asked that a contract be drawn up adding the need to add grass seed upon completion as well as a start and finish date. Karen Shaw will draw up a contract.

MOTION: C. Latendre made a motion to accept the quote from Cooper Excavating pending approval at the next special town meeting.

B. Levakis seconded the motion.

All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Update on Interim Police Chief Sarnacki**

C. Letendre gave an update on the progress of the Interim Police chief. The Chief has been spending time on the roads looking for speeders and will continue to do so. She is currently working with requests for fire arm permits that have not yet been processed. She advised the Board of the problems with the current police vehicles that need to be addressed and corrected. Chief Sarnacki is planning a National Night Out event at the town hall.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote taken

C. Letendre - yes

W. Levakis - yes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. to Executive Session.

Submitted by: Karen Shaw
Administrative Assistant to the Board
As transcribed by Joann Martin
Assistant

Cara Letendre - Clerk

William Levakis – Member