



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 20, 2018**

**Attendance:** Cara Letendre, Eric McVey, William Levakis, Joshua Garcia

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Roll Call In Vote taken:** C. Letendre – yes E. McVey – yes W. Levakis – yes

**Discussion:**

This meeting was called to talk about the restructuring plans for the Finance Committee. The Interim Town Administrator put together an outline for the Board and Finance Committee. The DOR met with assessors and gave guidance about going forward. We're looking at having to spend a good amount of money for outsourcing of the assessor's clerk and need the financing to get the department professionalized. There was a discussion about moving our goals of building stabilization to our Finance Department. The Interim TA is meeting with DLS who is pushing the urgency to stop wasting time with training. These departments need to be staffed with skilled people quickly in order to catch up with the backlog of 5 or more years. The town accounting function has been outsourced so there is a feeling of being on the right road. The Treasurer's and Assessor's Offices are working on presenting the scope of the needs in these departments and where the costs lie. Finance gave a summary of what we have in the budget and what we need. E. McVey spoke of the Town's past focus on to be frugal with our stabilization and savings so much so that there was little attention paid to our tax collection situation. He spoke of the need to move quickly in the Assessor's Office sending the tax title liens out on those properties that have not paid taxes. There was a detailed discussion about outsourcing this work to RRG. The BOS reviewed the quote from RRG and the different scenarios that could be used; hiring RRB or hiring a clerk and taking the time to train. It was strongly noted that we been told we cannot waste any more time on training.

The Assessor's Office presented information about the possibility in the future of having a digital Telepresence Kiosk that residents can use to communicate with the town. It was decided that this is a good possibility for next year keeping in mind that there is a large elderly population in town and there would need to be some kind of training offered.

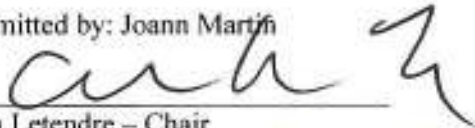
The BOS moved into a discussion about the next special town meeting which will be schedule for September 24 at 7:00 pm and the BOS will work on getting a draft of the meeting warrant.


E. McVey approached Senator Hinds for help with purchasing an emergency response vehicle for the town. The Senator agreed to include the price of the vehicle in the Fall budget reconciliation. It still needs to be included in a bill. It is not paid for, it is in the legislative process of being added as a one time inclusion if possible.

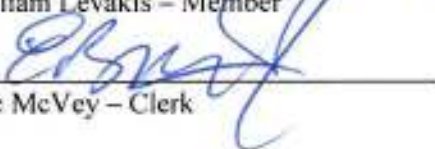
Roll Call Out Vote Taken: C. Letendre – yes E. McVey – yes W. Levakis – yes

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 pm

Submitted by: Joann Martin

  
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Cara Letendre – Chair

  
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William Levakis – Member

  
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Eric McVey – Clerk