



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
August 27, 2018**

OPEN SESSION 7:00 p.m.

Cara Letendre, Eric McVey, William Levakis and Joshua Garcia in attendance.
Meeting is recorded.

EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Executive Session meeting minutes for August 13, 2018 with one amendment.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in favor.

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes for August 13, 2018.

C. Letendre seconded the motion.

All in favor.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS*

None

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “New Business” Item #6C.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in favor.

6c: Water Commission/Water Quality

G. Avery from the Water Commission joined the Board of Selectmen to discuss the problem with off-colored water in town. C. Letendre voiced a few concerns of town residents about the color of the water. Mr. Avery stated that the cause is extreme warm weather and excess rain has caused erosion creating the color in the water. The levels reported are at 2.8 with is well within safe ranges according to the DEP. Mr. Avery gave a summary of the filter cleaning schedule and erosion to the reservoir. DEP has been contacted and assures the BOS that the water is safe to drink.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “Action Items” Item #4D.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in favor.

4d: Interview Temporary Police Chief

Brian Turner was interview by the BOS and was asked 9 prepared questions and gave the candidate an opportunity to ask questions of the Board.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “Action Items” Item #4E.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in favor.

4e: Review and Approve PILOT Agreement Terms with SunPin Solar

Roy Bishop presented a final contract for the PILOT Program to be presented to the residents at the next special town meeting. There was a discussion about this ongoing process. Mr. Bishop asked for a motion to accept the terms. SunPin Solar would like to execute the work immediately.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the contract with SunPin Solar for the PILOT agreement to be presented at the next special town meeting.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “New Business” Item #6A.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in favor.

6a: P. Langmore Broadband Update

Peter Langmore and June Masee updated the BOS on the progress of the ongoing Broadband implementation. There was a discussion about the Verizon Pole Attachment Agreement (on existing poles) that needs to be approved by the BOS. Once this is approved, this work will begin. There was a discussion with the Municipal Light Plant Board about closely monitoring the work so the Town will not be charged for work that is not necessary or has not been done. There will be a Municipal Light Plant Board meeting on Wednesday, August 29, 2018.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the Verizon Pole Attachment Agreement.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “Unfinished Business” Item #6e.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in Favor

6e: Rick Barnard: Pioneer Valley Assistance for Solar for Planning Board

Rick Barnard from the Planning Board approached the BOS about transferring incoming funds from SunPin Solar to move ahead and execute more solar projects. Mr. Barnard discussed the need for a hearing about Park Avenue Solar for breach of contract.

Mr. Barnard brought up the discussion about changing the name of Nigger Hill Road to Jethro Jones Road which will be put on the agenda to be changed in the by-laws at the next special town meeting.

There was also a discussion about speeding up the process of updating the Town of Blandford By-Laws. Mr. Barnard will contact PVPC again.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “Unfinished Business” Item #5a.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in Favor

5a: Fire Rescue 4 Repairs

Chief Harvey presented his recommendation to the BOS on the decision to purchase a red pick-up truck that will be altered to be used as an emergency vehicle. The BOS and Finance Committee discussed where the funds would come from. E. McVey requested that the Chief go to the State Bid List for a final check to be sure the Town is getting the best price.

There was a discussion about the Town having a craft fair on September 15 including a fund-raiser for the Fire Department.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to allow Rescue 4 to go out for auction as unserviceable.

W. Levakis seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “Unfinished Business” Item #5b.

E. McVey seconded

All in Favor

5b: Review Restructuring Plan for Financial Departments

The Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen discussed their ongoing restructure plan. There will be a Finance meeting on Wednesday, August 29 at 10:00 am. The goal is to have a long and short range plan ready for the next Special Town Meeting.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “Action Items” Item #4a.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in Favor

4a: ID Badges/Swipe Cards

The Selectboard Administrative Assistant will contact Protective Services agent Paul Allen with the building times in order to coordinate the town alarms with the current public open hours. The quote for tying in the swipe cards will be held until the alarm times are changed and the ID card machine has been programmed.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to “Action Items” Item #4b & #4c.

E. McVey seconded the motion.

All in Favor

4b: Contract extension with PVPC for Interim Town Administrator for 1 month

4c: Town Administrator Search Update

The BOS discussed the on-going search for the new Town Administrator. The current Interim Town administrator, Josh Garcia has agreed to take the position as TA through the current fiscal year. The terms of the agreement will be discussed in executive session.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the contract with amendment #2 between PVPC and the Town of Blandford to extend the services of Joshua Garcia through September 30, 2018.

Second: Eric McVey

All in favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table 5c: Pot Hole Damage to the next BOS meeting.

Second: Eric McVey

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table 5d: Time clocks to the next BOS meeting.

Second: Eric McVey

All in favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move \$4,000 out of management reserve to pay the balance of the cruiser maintenance which has been recommended by the Finance Committee.

Second: E. McVey

All in favor

MOTION: To go into Executive Session, pursuant to MGL C30A, S21. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions of contract negotiations with non-union personnel. Not to reconvene.

All in favor

Meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:35 pm

Submitted by: Joann Martin

Interim Administrative Assistant to the Board

Cara Letendre, Chairman

William Levakis, Member

Eric McVey, Clerk