



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD**

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 17, 2018**

OPEN SESSION 7:00 p.m.

C. Letendre, Chairman; E. McVey, Clerk; W. Levakis, Member; J. Garcia, Interim Town Administrator 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 of August 27, 2018 as amended.

E. McVey seconded the motion

All in favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2018 as amended.

E. McVey seconded the motion

All in favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2018 as written.

E. McVey seconded the motion

All in favor

Warrant for Special Town Meeting approved and signed. Chief Inicky to post in 3 public places.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to skip to 'New Business – 6b'.

E. McVey seconded the motion

All in favor

6b. Police Department Structure; Chief Ilnicky Update

Police Chief Ilnicky gave a visual presentation as well as handouts to the BOS and meeting attendees. He presented a summary of the assessment process he is looking at in his 2 weeks in this position. The Selectboard asked several questions as well as the resident attending the meeting. He touched on office operations, personnel, budget, vehicle maintenance and improving public communication and trust. His hours will be the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

E. McVey inquired about the outstanding firearms licenses. The Chief reported that everything is now current or in the processing stage. He stated that there were about 24 backlogged and he has received 19 so we are almost caught up.

C. Letendre inquired about where we stand on police coverage from the MA State Police. The Chief stated he is in contact with the Russell State Police barracks and he advises them when he is on duty. When he is not, the State Police run regular patrols through Blandford, and as calls come in to Berkshire Patrol, they handle the calls in his absence.

C. Letendre updated the Chief on the ongoing process of appointing constables.

C. Letendre inquired about CORI Checks. There was a discussion about the importance of keeping a process in place.

A resident of 56 North Blandford Road updated the Chief on the problems of speeding in this area. The Chief talked about how he will go forward to help alleviate this problem in the future.

E. McVey brought up the fact that a streamline process needs to be in place for the future when paying our police officers for detail duty. The Chief will work with the BOS.

Chief Ilnicky was officially sworn in by the Town Clerk as Interim Police Chief for the Town of Blandford.

ACTION ITEMS

4a. Engagement Letter from Tom Scanlon Update

C. Letendre mentioned we have two engagement letters for our upcoming town audit; Tom Scanlon & Associates and Roselli, Clark & Associates. There was a conversation about the stipulation from Roselli which requires Blandford to change their accounting methods to a ‘capital asset data base’ to accommodate this audit. Scanlon & Associates will work with our existing accounting format. The BOS is concerned that changing our accounting system at this time would be costly and timely. E. McVey reiterated his belief that the audit should be completed by April 15, 2019 so we are ready to present at the Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to engage Tom Scanlon & Associates for an audit for the Year End 6/30/18 for a price of \$18,000 with a possible incentive of \$1,000 with the stipulation that it is to be completed by April 15, 2019. The TA will handle the negotiations.

E. McVey Seconded

All in favor

6b. Treasurer/Collector Contract Extension

The BOS and TA had a discussion about extending the Treasurer/Collector’s Contract for 1 month.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to extend the Treasurer/Tax Collector’s Contract to October 31, 2018.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FORM PRIOR MEETINGS

5a. Selectboard Administrative Assistant

The Town Administrator has drafted the position profile language and will put it out for posting with our regular sources and advertise until the position is filled.

5b. ID Badges/Swipe Cards

Protective Services has been contracted to sync the alarms/doors. The Interim Administrative Assistant will follow up with Paul Allen. The balance of the work will be completed after the new TA is on-board October 1, 2018.

5c. All Department Expense Report

On the request of the BOS, the TA issued the latest departmental expense reports for Water, Highway and IT for general review.

There was a discussion about the North Road plan to replace the water pipes and the need to ask the State for assistance. This subject will be an agenda item for the 9/24/18 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

6a. Appointments Update

The Interim Town Administrator gave an update and stated he has received the most recent list of appointments. He is continuing to work with the Town Clerk to update this process. E. McVey suggested the subject of recruiting volunteers to these appointed positions should be presented at the Special Town Meeting so residents are aware. The TA also suggested engaging in a press release to move this forward.

6c. MMA Survey for Background Information

E. McVey talked about the MA Municipal Association Chapter 9 Survey request sent from the MMA to the State requesting more money for towns to maintain their roads across MA. The MMA calculated that Blandford should be receiving funding of \$829,000 per year to keep up with our current 63 miles of roads. Blandford is currently receiving \$260,000 or less every year. He noted that with our population of 1,200 and 63 miles of road, we cannot keep up with the needed repairs/replacements. It was noted that the town currently gets one-quarter of the funds needed.

The Highway Department will be on the next agenda for the 9/24/18 meeting to talk about Russell Stage Road and the disposition of the millings.

6d. Assessor’s Office Litigation

The BOS gave the Assessor’s Office the paperwork needed to reach out to Town Council to take care of their current litigation.

6e. Shared Policing Policy

The TA stated that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has given affirmation of commitment for the data request letter to do the joint analysis for shared policing. They are allocating \$15,000 to do the tasks outlined. This will pay for an outside consultant plus staff times to accomplish the process of coordinating shared policing between Blandford and Chester. E. McVey expressed the need to have this organization present at our Special Town Meeting on October 1 to discuss this with town residents.

ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 pm

Submitted by: Joann Martin
Interim Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Eric McVey, Clerk

William Levakis, Member