



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
July 2, 2018**

OPEN SESSION 7:00 pm

C. Letendre, Chairman; **E. McVey**, Clerk; **W. Levakis**, Member; **J. Garcia**, Interim Town Administrator in attendance.

Open Meeting at 7:02 pm Meeting is recorded.

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

No minutes from June 25, 2018

2. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

- a. J. Garcia presented an update on the search for a new Town Administrator. He stated that the committee has been working on interviewing and they have narrowed their search down to 5 individuals. There was a discussion about the interview process, dates and times. The interviews will begin on September 25, 2018.
- b. J. Garcia and M. Lynch are working on a press release about the advancement of the Finance Committee and an update of the operating status in Blandford.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4a. Appointments

The BOS interview Joanne Grybosh as the appointed Animal Control Officer for the town. J. Grybosh is planning a rabies clinic and dog wash for the Town and is hoping for a successful turnout. She is working on getting spay and neuter vouchers to owners at a reduced price.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Joanne Grybosh Animal Control Officer for the Town of Blandford for a period of 1 year.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: c. Letendre made a motion to appoint Brad Curry to the Highway Department as Highway Superintendent for a term of 3 years.

E. McVey Seconded

Discussion: B. Levakis commented on the dedication of Mr. Curry to this town and commended him for his hard work.

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Brad Curry as the Emergency Management Co-Director for a term of 1 year.

B. Levakis Seconded

All in Favor

4b. Planning Board Contract with PVPC

C. Letendre noted that the Contract with PVPC has gone through Town Counsel.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Planning Board Contract for PVPC for local planning assistance for FY19.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

4c. Notice of Intent to Abutters – 3 Huntington Road

E. McVey recommended the BOS walk the property line to make sure all permits are in order on 3 Huntington Road.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to receive the Notice of Intent to Abutters from Steve Poteat dated 6/20/18.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

4d. Notice of Intent to Sell Chapter 61 Land for Other Use; Otis Stage Road, Map 402, Lot 43

The Board of Selectmen met with the law firm representing SunPin Solar to discuss Blandford's "Right of First Refusal" stating that the owner of the property is ill and would like to sell the 185 acres; 49 acres being used to construct a solar array.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to waive Blandford's First Right of Refusal and the property Parcel 402; Lot 43 on Otis Sage Road, Blandford MA.

E. McVey Seconded

C. Letendre – Yes; E. McVey – Yes; B. Levakis – No

Motion Carried

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to do a partial release of the 49 Acres on Otis Stage Road; Map 402; Lot 43 to Chapter 61 to be used as a solar property for SunPin Solar.

E. McVey Seconded

C. Letendre – Yes; E. McVey – Yes; B. Levakis – No

Motion Carried

4e. Vote to receive the Planning Board Proposal from SunPin Solar & Storm Water Management Report

The Planning Board presented information to the BOS in order to officially notify them of the process about the Storm Water Management Report. A copy of the report is located in the Planning Board room. There was a discussion about the fact that there is another solar project in the works and the need to hire a consultant.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to receive the Planning Board Proposal from SunPin Solar for Storm Water Management; for informational purposes only.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

4f. Treasurer/Collector Contract

There was an in-depth discussion about the renewal off the Treasurer/Collector contract with Sara Hunter.

MOTION: c. Letendre made a motion to approve the contract with Sara Hunter for the position of Interim Treasurer/Collector.

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to amend C. Letendre’s motion to send the pending contract for Sara Hunter’s services to Town Counsel to negotiate a contract for 1 year instead of 3 months.

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

4g. Purchase Trash Receptacles for Watson Park

The Historical Commission discussed several quotes they received to purchase trash bins for Watson Park.

C. Letendre suggested a combination trash/recycle bin should be purchased. K. Milford will get quotes.

4h. Smith Vocational Invoice \$27,880

This invoice was presented at the Special Town Meeting on October 8, 2018 and approved.

4i. Library Lighting Funding, Capital Expenditure

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to pay for the Library Lighting and Painting for a total of \$13,075 out of the Capital Expense Line Item.

E. McVey Seconded

Discussion: B. Levakis is requesting that all contracts should come before the BOS to be sure we are following procedure.

All in Favor

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

5a. Highway Employee working for Water Department

C. Letendre raised the issue of having Highway Department people working for the Water Department. She noted that she is fine with this as long as it doesn’t move into overtime. E. McVey will touch base with the Union to see if this is feasible. The BOS will tell the Water Department they are okay with hiring the Highway Person for 1 shift pending approval by the union.

5b. Old Chlorinator – Bill Levakis Quotes

B. Levakis stated he went out for 4 quotes to knocking down and grading the old Chlorinator. No quotes have been received to date.

5c. Line Painting in Town Hall Parking Lot

J. Hoppe and B. Levakis will get quotes.

5d. Old Chlorinator Board Up

B. Levakis requested that the Chlorinator be boarded up as it is dangerous. E. McVey will take care of this.

5e. Door Alarms

B. Levakis reported that Paul Allen from Protective Services will be here this week to fix the door alarms.

5f. Police Department Resignation Procedure

B. Levakis would like to send a message to the Chief of Police as a reminder to retrieve keys and equipment from employees who resign.

5g. New Police Office Hiring

C. Letendre joined the Chester Selectboard for a joint meeting where they discussed shared policing. At this stage of the transition, she would recommend we hold up on hiring and offer more hours to the current officers and Police Chief.

5f. Landscape Bids

The BOS went out for bids on mowing and trimming of the Town Common. Only one bid was received.

MOTION: B. Levakis made a motion to accept the quote from J. Letendre for \$50/hour for mowing and trimming the Blandford Town Common.

E. McVey Seconded

C. Letendre - Abstained; B. Levakis – Yes; E. McVey – Yes

Motion Passed

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6a. COA – Use of Auditorium

The COA Co-Chair informed the BOS that the Consortium is no longer in Russell. They have pulled out so they are not the lead town for State funded Town Monies. Blandford, Chester and Huntington are left. The COA voted to ask if Blandford can be the lead for now handling the COA dues money. The BOS will give the COA a letter accordingly.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to allow the Council on Aging to use the auditorium two days per week for exercise programs.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

6b. All Department Expense Summary

There was a discussion about the individual department expenses and balances.

6c. Regional Transit Charges

Finance questioned this line item charge and the BOS advised that this is paid every year.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve pay raises effective July 1, 2018 as approved at the All Town Meeting.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

Proposed Agreement – In Lieu of Taxes – Blandford Sun, LLP
No Discussion

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:36 PM

B. Levakis Seconded

All in Favor

*NOTE: Audience participation / public comment is welcome only when acknowledged by the Chair and limited to two minutes. Participation / public comment is only limited to Blandford residents and can only comment on agenda items only

**NOTE: Agenda may include items not reasonably expected 48 hours before the meeting. At any point this meeting may go into executive session if Selectboard finds it warranted.

Submitted by: Joann Martin
Interim Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Eric McVey, Clerk

William Levakis, Member