



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 15, 2018**

OPEN SESSION 7:00 p.m. Meeting is recorded

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

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 9, 2018 with 2 amendments.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 24, 2018 with 3 amendments.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 25, 2018 as written.

B. Levakis Seconded

All in Favor

2.*AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

a. Birch Hill Road Residents

Kim Blanchette, Christine Southall, Corinne Shartrand and Leo Shartrand, all of Birch Hill Road, approached the BOS asking for their help with the pot-hole damage on Birch Hill Road. Ms. Blanchette presented a power point presentation showing the damage and wear on Birch Hill Road. She described one of the ditches to be 'waist high'. She noted that some minor repairs have been done but are not very effective. Ms. Blanchette also voiced her concern about a neighbor that has blocked the culvert that had just been cleared with stone and dirt. The residents are requesting help getting the proper funding to the Town because of the lack of tax money generated in our small town to resolve these problems. The BOS explained that these roads are paid with Chapter 90 money from the State and the Town can't always pave the roads they feel should be paved. Frequently, the State will intervene and find a road that is more heavily traveled or has more school children and request the Town move their funding to a different road. E. McVey re-capped the assessment process the Town just submitted to the State. He noted that the recommended amount that should be allocated to Blandford is approximately \$900,000; the Town actually receives around \$250,000. This assessment has been presented to the State House requesting more money

for these roads. The residents ultimately decided to send letters, email and make phone calls to Representative Pignelli and Senator Hines to stress the need for these repairs. The Highway Department will take action with the resident that has blocked the culvert to correct this situation.

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Resignation of Conservation Position

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the resignation of Florentino Vasquez from the Conservation Commission immediately.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

a. Tom & Rayette McMann – Zoning Update

The Board of Selectmen reported their input from Town Counsel regarding the problem with the motocross track on the adjacent property. The Building Department will take the lead and contact the seller and the agent to inform them that they do not have a current license variance and they should be aware of this and so should the potential buyer.

b. Stefanie & Matt McGinty Re: Solar Project Otis Stage Road Update

The McGinty's have filed an appeal with the Planning Board about the activities and lack of cooperation on the part of SunPin Solar. Their assertion as a land owner is that they were required to move their original driveway location because of wetland issues whereas; SunPin plans to put their driveway in the same area. They have also filed a complaint with the Police Chief to get this on record because they have financial losses because of damage done to their property by SunPin and their affiliates. The Planning Board and Conservation are working together on the process necessary to go forward. C. Letendre recommenced that the Conservation Commission have a joint meeting with the Planning Board and the McGintys. The Planning Board agreed to meet and revisit their initial approvals.

c. Vehicle Updates

The Police Chief told the BOS that Senator Hines has donated an excess State vehicle; a 2013 Explorer SUV 4-Wheel Drive, at no cost to the Town. Once the vehicle is equipped, it will be put into service allowing the Town two police vehicles in good working order.

The Chief also updated the BOS noting that the backlog of license-to-carry permits is caught up and they are making good progress on the assessment of police equipment stating he is very pleased with the progress.

The Town Administrator Vehicle Update:

Engine 1: In need of considerable repairs and waiting for quotes

Rescue 4: Is currently out for bid with no word

Brush 93 Army Truck: The truck has been examined and is reported to be mechanically inclined. The Fire Chief and Highway Superintendent and looking into replacing this vehicle.

Animal Control Vehicle: Due to the fact that the current Animal Control Officer is using her own vehicle for transporting animals, injured and sick, the Town is looking into getting a proper vehicle for this use.

d. EPA Help with Solar Projects

E. McVey approached the State asking for assistance with the 3 solar projects in Town. The EPA is now involved to assist the Conservation Commission in the monitoring of these projects going forward.

e. Long Pond

The deeds have been sent to the attorneys to look at using this area for recreation purposes. This will be tabled until the BOS gets the recommendations from Town Counsel.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Fire House Structural Concerns

C. Letendre summarized the problems with the Fire House roof leaking. There was a discussion about purchasing shingles and getting some volunteers to repair. E. McVey recommended we contact a couple construction firms for quotes to repair the roof. The Town Administrator will get 3 competitive quotes.

6. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

None

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to MGL C30A, S21. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

None

*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 section if Selectboard finds it warranted.

Submitted by: Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Board

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Eric McVey, Clerk

William Levakis, Member