



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN and CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 22, 2018**

OPEN SESSION 7:00 p.m.

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:

- a. Examination of meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen Meeting October 22, 2018
- b. Examination of meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen Meeting July 2, 2018
- c. Examination of the Executive Session meeting minutes of October 22, 2018

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of October 15, 2018 with amendments.

E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of July 2, 2018 as written.

E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor

2.*AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None

3. ACTION ITEMS

3a. Council on Aging – Appointments (2)

Margit Mikuski, COA Co-Chair, joined the BOS meeting to present reappointment letters of intent for Judith McKinnen's reappointment as COA Member and Barbara Langmore's reappointment as COA Treasurer for a term of 3 years.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to reappoint Judith McKinnen to the Council on Aging for a 3-year term.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to reappoint Barbara Langmore to the Council on Aging for a 3-year term.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

3b. Conservation Commission – Appointment

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to appoint Jon Letendre to the Conservation Commission for the remainder of Florentino Vazquez’s term.

B. Levakis Seconded

C. Letendre Abstained

Motion is Approved

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

4a. Fire Department Rescue Truck Bid Opening Update

Chief Harvey joined the BOS to talk about the Rescue Truck Bid Opening noting that the sale of Engine 2 and the sale of the Rescue Truck will be helpful in paying for the new vehicle being purchased. There was a discussion about replacing these vehicles and the cost to the Town. The Chief is continuing to look for better pricing attempting to get 3 quotes per vehicle. B. Levakis asked the board to consider short-term borrowing to avoid high interest rates. This will be presented to the Treasurer to consider. The Chief spoke of the **Firehouse roof leak** stating that he will look into it carefully as to where the leak is coming from and he is still looking for quotes for repair. The Fire Department is going forward on State mandated **training on OSHA** regulation which will impact the budget for next year. Chief Harvey will give the impact report to the BOS. He reported on the recent **Life Star Helicopter Training** with Ski Blandford stating that it went well. Engine 1 went out for evaluation today and he is hoping for a quote soon. The Fire Department will be present at the Recreation Committee’s public Trunk-or-Treat night on October 27, 2018.

4b. Highway Department – Vehicle Update

The Highway Superintendent talked about the possible purchase of a vehicle to replace some of the aging Highway equipment. There was a discussion about the possibility of trading the dump truck for a new vehicle and will discuss an extended warranty. There was a discussion about how many vehicle and employees are used to efficiently clear snow in Blandford. B. Curry and J. Grybosh will get a complete list of vehicle together for the BOS so it can be determined vehicle replacement priorities. The Highway Department contacted Representative Pignatelli and it was recommended that the Town apply for a Strapp Grant. It was noted that the Strapp Grant closing was in August so this is only a possibility for 2019. E. McVey suggested that we move forward on removing trees on Birch Hill Road in preparation for making necessary future repairs and widening of the road. E. McVey requested that the Highway Department take the grader truck out to grade some of the Town’s dirt roads. The Superintendent said he would work on that. B. Levakis talked about repairing/replacing the swale on Birch Hill Road to regrind, reshape, repave and berm up the road. The BOS recommended they move forward on this.

4c. Building Inspector – Curb Cut Update; Russell Stage Road

The Town Administrator has been in contact with the Building Inspector about the curb cut problem on Russell Stage Road. He gave an update about the need for a curb-cut as the property is moving trailers on

and off the property over the curbing necessitating the need to apply for a proper curb cut. Highway is looking into addressing these violations and will work with the Town Administrator.

4d. Cemetary Building Update – North Blandford Road

E. Mcvey inquired about the new building being erected on North Blandford Road for the Cemetary Commission to house their equipment. T. J. Cousineau noted that the building will be funded by the Tiffany Fund. They are trying to get this building up due to the fact that the barn they are using is in very bad shape. E. McVey inquired about the disposition of the 175-year-old barn. Mr. Cousineau will refer to the Historical Society.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5a. Budget Calendar Kickoff – Preparing for FY20

The Town Administrator presented the BOS with his line-up of the Town’s goals, objectives and strategies including a list of tasks that should be accomplished on the budget before May, 2019. He discussed the importance of getting a capital plan together for the individual departments. There was a discussion about the important component of having a strong Finance Committee which we are short on at this time. C. Letendre mentioned we need to recruit qualified, strong people to this team. J. Garcia discussed the need for the TA and BOS to be proactive in this area until a team can be formed. B. Levakis advised the TA to get involved in the weekly Treasurer/Accountant meetings. E. McVey noted that there will be more funding needed for the Planning Board and Conservation Commission because of the many solar projects that are currently being developed in town which creates the need for the many hearing their current budget cannot cover.

5b. New Building for Highway/Fire

There was a discussion about the possibility of looking into a new building for the Highway Department and the rehabilitation of their current space to be used for the Fire Department. The search for an architect to do the initial design phase is in progress. The cost for the architect will be approximately \$50,000 - \$65,000 which will come out of the building stabilization fund. B. Levakis recommended that we look at property the town already owns. E. McVey stated we need to go to the Planning and Zoning Boards to make sure the property chosen is zoned properly.

5c. Kennel for the Animal Control Officer

J. Grybosh discussed the need for a temporary shelter for lost animals. She stated that it can be a simple structure with a roof and separate fenced-in runs and should not be very expensive. E. McVey recommended we construct this behind the Highway building as it would be easy to build and attached runs to the back of the building. This facility will be used to temporarily house animals as they are picked up.

5d. Blandford Ski Area Unveiling - TA

November 3 will be the Blandford Ski Area unveiling from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. The BOS will attend the ribbon cutting. The Town Administrator will reach out and make sure the proper permits are issued for this public event.

6. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

6a. Early Voting Results – Town Clerk

The Town Clerk gave a summary of the first early voting event on October 22, 2018. Fifteen people utilized this service. She also reminded the BOS to sign and have the constables post the Warrant for

Election Day, November 6, 2018.

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

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to enter into Executive Session not to reconvene pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

Roll Call Vote Taken:

C. Letendre – Yes

E. McVey – Yes

B. Levakis – Yes

Meeting adjourned at:8:37 pm to Executive Session.

*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