



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2019**

OPEN SESSION 7:00 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm Meeting is recorded.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to 4a. Presentation from Novak Consulting
E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

**a. Examination of the meeting minutes of Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen and Finance
Committee Meeting December 4, 2018**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 4, 2018 as written.
E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

b. Examination of meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen Meeting December 10, 2018

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 10, 2018 with
amendments.
E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

**c. Examination of meeting minutes of Joint Meeting with Blandford Board of Selectmen and
Chester Board of Selectmen December 14, 2018**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 14, 2018 as written.
E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

d. Examination of meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen meeting December 17, 2018

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 17, 2018 as written.
B. Levakis Seconded
E. McVey Abstained
Motion Passed**

e. Examination of meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen meeting December 20, 2018

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 20, 2018 as written.
B. Levakis Seconded
E. McVey Abstained
Motion Passed**

f. Examination of meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen meeting December 28, 2018

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 28, 2018 as written.
B. Levakis Seconded
E. McVey Abstained
Motion Passed**

2.*AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Review and Approve Investments and Overlay Financial Management Policies

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to adopt the “Investments” and “Overlay” chapters of the Financial Policies.

**E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

b. Strategies on Hiring Highway Superintendent

The Board of Selectmen discussed their strategy going forward to encourage interest in the Highway Superintendent position. They requested that Josh Garcia post the position with a salary range of \$60,000 to \$70,000 for this management position.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Eric McVey as Interim Highway Superintendent.

**B. Levakis Seconded
E. McVey Abstained
Motion Passed**

AMENDED MOTION: C. Letendre made an amended motion to hire Eric McVey as Interim Highway Superintendent until a permanent Highway Superintendent is hired or until such time as Eric McVey returns to his permanent job.

**B. Levakis Seconded
E. McVey Abstained
Motion Passed**

c. Notice of Intent to sell Pursuant to M.G.L.ch.71b by Owner/s of plot located on Chester Road; ID #408-0-13. Board of Selectmen have first right of refusal.

Josh Garcia presented a Notice of Intent to sell to the BOS which is 75 acres off Chester Road to be sold for \$164,000. B. Levakis recommended the Town purchase the property. E. McVey pointed out that the Town is in no position to purchase the property as logging property nor does the Town have any interest in dealing with selling real estate. It is recommended by B. Levakis that the BOS walk the property before it is sold. E. Mcvev noted that we will arrange a time to walk the property with the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board and the Selectmen under our rights within the next 120 days.

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to decline our right of refusal on Plot #408-0-13 on Chester Road.

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

a. Presentation from Novak Consulting of Shared Police Report

Novak Consulting and Eric Weiss, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission presented a power point presentation to the Board of Selectmen, town residents, the State Police and Daniel Ilnick, Chester/Blandford Chief of Police. Novak pointed out the cost savings in equipment, vehicles and this arrangement will allow a larger pool of officers patrolling our towns. As police responsibilities become more and more complicated, the training costs will be cut as well as the many administrative functions. Novak noted that as long as this arrangement is agreed upon by the residents of the town and is an agreement that is both equitable and fair to each town, this should work very well. Novak Consulting made a reference the Hilltown's long history of collaboration starting in 1949 when we first started talking about a joint school district which opened in 1963, we have the Hilltown Collaborative which has been fostering collaborative efforts among the six towns, we have hired an economic development organization, we have looked at shared finance operations, and we now have the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association working for us. It was pointed out that Chester/Blandford is in a very unique situation as we are small police department with low crime rates with coverage from State Police and we are currently sharing the same Police Chief.

C. Letendre asked for input from community members who attended the meeting. The audience asked several questions to Novak, Chief Ilnick and the Board of Selectmen and they were all positive about this project.

E. McVey commented on the grant possibilities that are available at this time. Eric Weiss noted that that there are 2 ways PVPC can help out 1) next phase of the DLT Grant that helped get us to this point and 2) PVPC will give a shot at the efficiency and regionalization grants. The PVPC stands ready to help our town.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to 6b, Update Broadband Project

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

6. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

a. Review all Department Expense Report

Josh Garcia presented the board with the current All Department Expense Report for their review and action.

b. Review 'Procurement Conflict of Interest' and 'Reconciliations' Financial Management Policies

Josh Garcia issued the next package in the Financial Management Policies manual for the Board of Selectmen to review and comment before distributing to the Town departments.

c. P. Langmore – Update Broadband Project

Peter Langmore of the Municipal Light Board presented an update on the Broadband Project in Blandford. He touched on several points in the progress:

- 1) The cable design for the network is nearing completion for the whole town, except Route 23 south of the turnpike. They are working with Otis to get this completed.
- 2) They will meet with Westfield Gas on January 28. At this time they will go over the pole design and will submit the pole applications.
- 3) E. McVey pointed out the importance of reaching out for rural development grants in a timely fashion.

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 collective bargaining.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

Roll Call Vote Taken:

C. Letendre – Yes

E. McVey – Yes

B. Levakis – Yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm to Executive Session.

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

*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