



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 11, 2019**

**OPEN SESSION 7:00 pm**

**C. Letendre**, Chairman; **E. McVey**, Clerk; **J. Garcia**, Interim Town Administrator in attendance.  
**B. Levakis** was absent.

**Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm            Meeting is recorded.**

**1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

**a. Examination of the meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting February 25, 2019**

**MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 2/25/19 as written.**

**C. Letendre Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**b. Examination of the Executive Session meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting  
February 25, 2019**

**MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to accept the Executive Session meeting minutes of 2/25/19 as  
written.**

**C. Letendre Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**2.\*AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

None

**3. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Resignation of Charles Benson as Chairman of the Recreation Committee**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table this resignation until we collect more information  
from Mr. Benson.**

**E. McVey Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**b. Healthy Hampshire Walk Friendly Community Program – J. Garcia**

Joshua Garcia reported on the grant available from the Healthy Hampshire Group to offer technical assistance to create walk-friendly maps particularly focused on small towns. Josh shared the examples that they worked on with Chester and Worthington. He has been communicating with COA and the BOH because this program supports healthy, active living. This program helps compliment what they are working on. He noted there is a lot of benefit to it. What he is looking for from the Board of Selectmen is a vote of support. The Board of Health and the Council on Aging have already offered their support. Joshua will apply for the grant going forward. E. McVey asked what the Town's responsibility would be. Joshua explained that the Healthy Hampshire Groups will facilitate the program; we identify walking areas for people who pro-actively look for small town areas where they can park their car and choose walking paths to explore.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to support the Walk Friendly initiative presented by the Healthy Hampshire Group.**

**E. McVey Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**c. Time Clock Policy – B. Levakis**

Tabled until the March 18, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting as B. Levakis is absent.

**d. Vehicle Policy – B. Levakis**

Tabled until the March 18, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting as B. Levakis is absent.

#### **4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS**

**a. Review Revenue Turnover & Tax Enforcement Policies – J. Garcia**

This policy is tabled until the March 18, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting of March 18, 2019 for further review.

**b. Flag Poles – B. Levakis**

Tabled until the March 18, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting of March 18, 2019 as B. Levakis is absent.

**c. Parcel 422 0 23 owned by Dale Hewlett – Gifting the property to the Town**

Joshua Garcia noted that they have forwarded this information to the Assessor's office. There is no building, just property; 1.8 acres and valued at \$40,000. E. McVey will walk the property and check for wetlands to assure the lot is buildable.

**MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to go before the town on a warrant and accept the property without covenant and with current taxes paid.**

**C. Letendre Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**d. Budget Hearing for Gateway – C. Letendre**

C. Letendre gave an update of the recent Gateway budget hearing. The towns' increase is 1.97% (\$30,291.00). With the assessment we voted on we are no longer a standard assessment model. If we had not voted, they would be asking for an additional \$100,000. The total proposed school budget for FY20 is \$1,536,505.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Parcel 401 1 18 owned by Timothy & Beverly Harris – Gifting property to the Town**

This parcel is 2 acres and is valued at \$28,000. R. Senecal will walk the property and check for wetlands to assure the lot is buildable.

**MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to go before the town on a warrant and accept the property without covenant and with current taxes paid.**

**C. Letendre Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**b. Review All-Department Expenditure Report**

The Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator reviewed the individual departmental budgets.

The Highway Superintendent, Rene Senecal, joined the BOS. Joshua Garcia had a discussion with Rene and the Board about creating a Vehicle Replacement line item for those vehicle the town just purchased going forward that will require the town to budget for replacement vehicles each year so when the life of the vehicle is used up, we are in a position to replace it.

**c. Notification of Free Cash Approval**

The Town Administrator presented the calculation from Eric Kinsherb summarizing the balance of \$1,132,591 of free cash available for FY19/20. The Board discussed ideas for budget distribution of the free cash.

**d. Chapter 90 Apportionment for Fiscal Year 2020**

Garcia presented a letter from MassDOT stating that the local transportation aid funding statewide for FY20 is \$200million – pending final legislative approval. Blandford’s Chapter 90 apportionment is \$258,115. Whatever was unspent from FY19 will rollover into the new fiscal year.

**e. Review Tax Recapitulation & Year-end Closing Craft policies – J. Garcia**

Tabled for review until the March 18, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to enter into executive session to MGL C30A, S21 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel not to reconvene.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm

**7. \*\*EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to MGL C30A, S21. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel not to reconvene.**

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

\*\*NOTE: Agenda may include items not reasonably expected 48 hours before the meeting. At any point, this meeting may go into executive section if the Board of Selectmen find it warranted.

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

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Cara Letendre, Chairman

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Eric McVey, Clerk

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William Levakis, Member