



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
JOINT MEETING  
CHESTER AND BLANDFORD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 17, 2019**

**OPEN SESSION 6:30 p.m.**

**C. Letendre**, Chairman; **E. McVey**, Clerk; **T. Ackley**, Member; **J. Garcia**, Interim Town Administrator; **B. Huntoon**, BOS Chairman, Chester; **J. Baldasaro**, Vice Chairman, Chester; **K. Warden**, Town Administrator, Chester; **E. Weiss**, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; **Chief Inicky**, Chester/Blandford PD in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm      Meeting is recorded      E. McVey joined at 7:00 pm

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to move to Unfinished Business 4a: Joint Selectmen Meeting with Chester to review and discuss shared police project

**T. Ackley** Seconded

All in Favor

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

Examination of the meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen Meeting of June 3, 2019

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting of June 3, 2019 as written.

**T. Ackley** Seconded

All in Favor

Examination of the meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen Meeting of June 10, 2019

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting of June 10, 2019 as written.

**T. Ackley** Seconded

All in Favor

Examination of the Executive Session meeting minutes of the BOS Meeting of June 3, 2019

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting of June 3, 2019 as amended.

**E. McVey** Seconded

All in Favor

**2. \*AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**3. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Review and Approve FY20 Pay Rates**

The Board reviewed the updated pay rates for FY20.

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to table the pay rate increase information until the July 24, 2019 BOS meeting.

**T. Ackley Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**b. Review and Approve Contract with Mass Munifin for Treasurer/Collector Services**

Garcia informed the Board that this contract has been reviewed and approved by Town Counsel.

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the contract with Mass Munifin for Treasurer/Collector services for 1 year to revisit for FY21.

**E. McVey Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**c. Review and Approve Final Contract with Hilltown Community Ambulance**

Thomas Ackley recused himself from this discussion. This contract has been reviewed and approved by Town Counsel.

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the final contract with Hilltown Community Ambulance.

**E. McVey Seconded**

**T. Ackley Abstained**

**All in Favor**

**d. Review and Approve Contract with MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant**

The Town Administrator presented the Contract section and the Proof of Signature Authenticity section for the Board to sign.

**MOTION:** E. McVey made a motion to approve the MVP contract.

**T. Ackley Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**e. Review and approve Year-End Line Item Transfer Requests**

None

**f. Operation of Town Equipment Brush Mower – Adjustment of Licensed Employee Hour**

McVey referenced provisions in the union contract that describes what members can do with unused vacation days at the end of a fiscal year. No further action was required.

**g. Review and Approve Contract Authorized Signatory form to authorize Fire Chief Harvey to sign a Contract with the MA DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Fire Chief Edward Harvey as an authorized signatory for the contract with MA DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control.**

**E. McVey Seconded  
All in Favor**

**h. Council on Aging Request for a Study about Acquiring a Vehicle to help with town senior citizens**  
The Board of Selectmen would like it reflected in the minutes that the Selectboard is aware of the article in the Country Journal written by a Council on Aging member that inaccurately reflects the preliminary discussion that took place at the Board of Selectmen meeting as the Selectboard is not aware of an official request, plan or specification from the COA to purchase a vehicle.

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

**a. Joint Selectmen Meeting with Chester to Review and discuss Shared Police Project**

The Blandford Board of Selectmen met with the Chester Board of Selectmen to discuss shared policing between the two towns.

The subjects discussed include:

The definition of what a police department shall do; what the joined police department will be titled; term agreement and termination terms; agreement amendments; governance; formation of a partnership oversight committee to meeting quarterly including a minimum of 2 Board members of each town; rules for the host community (Chester); discussion about yearly shared costs; maintenance of shared assets; budget agreements; annual reporting timing; discussion about other municipalities joining this current shared policy and the costs incurred emphasizing that any and all of these conversations and decisions will be decided in joint discussions between the towns. The next joint meeting will be July 15, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Blandford Town Hall

The Joint Chester/Blandford meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. The Blandford Board of Selectmen continued their regular meeting at 7:30 pm.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to New Business 5b. School Committee Meeting Update**

**E. McVey Seconded  
All in Favor**

**b. Three Month Performance Review of the Highway Superintendent**

The board met with Rene Senecal, Highway Superintendent hired March 2019, to review his 90 days as superintendent of the Highway Department. There was a group discussion and each select-person commented on several areas that are required in this position noting that this has been an extremely smooth transition. The group decided that Rene's performance has been above average to outstanding in all areas of this position. Josh Garcia and Tom Ackley commented on the positive input they have received from the Highway team as well as members of the public.

**MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to retain the services of Rene Senecal as Highway Superintendent.**

**C. Letendre Seconded  
All in Favor**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to New Business 5a: Cemetery Building and Hut Update**

**E. McVey Seconded  
All in Favor**

## **h. Weekly Board of Selectmen meetings – Summer Schedule**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to meet every other week for the summer season starting June 24, 2019 and meeting every two weeks.**

**E. McVey Seconded**

**All in Favor**

### **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **a. Cemetery Building – Hut Update – TJ Cousineau**

TJ Cousineau, Cemetery Commissioner, joined the BOS to discuss the building of the Hut and the new construction of the cemetery building. TJ brought to the attention of the BOS that the project cost of the construction of the Hut is going to be more than what he anticipated. He noted there will be a good change he will seek funds from the town to meet the gap. Garcia recommended that he meet with the Accountant, Treasurer and the Finance Committee to navigate options on how to cover the cost difference needed to complete construction.

#### **5b. School Committee Meeting Update**

The Blandford representatives of the Regional School committee joined the BOS to continue the ongoing MARS discussions. The Regional School Agreement was the focus of the discussion and the challenges the towns are facing and the problems with the continued decline in enrollment in our high school.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to Unfinished Business 4b. Three Month Performance Review of the Highway Superintendent**

**E. McVey Seconded**

**All in Favor**

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

None

### **7. MEETING ADJOURNED:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

### **8 \*\*EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

~~Emergency Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body. Potential enforcement litigation in the Western Housing Court against the owner of 16 Russell Stage Road, and the Chair so declares that having a discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position.~~

### **CANCELLED – NO MEETING REQUIRED**

\*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

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Cara Letendre, Chairman

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Eric McVey, Clerk

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Thomas Ackley, Member