



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
JOINT MEETING WITH
CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 20, 2019**

OPEN SESSION 6:30 pm

C. Letendre, Chairman Blandford; ~~**E. McVey**, Clerk absent~~; **T. Ackley**, Member Blandford; **J. Garcia**, Town Administrator Blandford; **B. Huntoon**, Chairman Chester; **J. Baldasaro**, Vice Chairman Chester, **Kathe Warden**, Town Administrator Chester; **E. Weiss**, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Chief Ilnicky, Chester/Blandford PD in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 6:50 pm

Meeting is recorded.

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

None

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

a. Review and Discuss Shared Policing Project

Eric Weiss joined the Blandford and Chester Board of Selectmen to discuss the on-going process of developing a mutual agreement between the two towns for shared policing. The focus of the meeting was to establish best practices for implementation of the community compact grant to support efforts to establish a shared police department. Grant resources are to support the purchase of dual band radios, digital vehicle repeater systems, crime star management systems, software standardization, standardization of uniforms, re-marking of cruisers, and technical assistance for legal issues/reviews, consulting/PVPC, etc.

Eric turned the meeting over to Chief Ilnicky for his update. The Chief noted that the grants support the purchase of radios and repeaters which will include the re-programming of all the radios so we share communication of all the frequencies on each of those radios including mobile phones and pagers. Chester is using Northampton Control at this time and Blandford is using Berkshire Control. He stated that Blandford will be able to move to Northampton Control without a problem. The Chief spoke of the advantage of having one communication system so one contact point knows everything that is going on in both towns. The Chief emphasized that the benefits to both towns will be increased police patrol and response and decreased expenses.

Eric Weiss, PVPC, gave a background summary of the Inter-Municipal Agreement stating that there are 6 or 7 parts to this; shared police chief, determining the responsibilities of the towns, creating a budget process, developing an agreement on how an assessment is determined, annual and regular reporting by

the Chief back to the towns, deployment and ownership of the assets (example: cruisers), other items, etc. Eric noted that the towns can have an agreement with no term limit because it's an open agreement between the towns with a very clear exit clause. Weiss emphasized that this agreement should have an annual report (police annual report and partnership annual report) and costs should be shared equally across the board. He recommended creating an organizational chart and setting standards for pay, health insurance costs.

There was a discussion about creating a decision-making advisory committee which should include at least 2 members from both Boards which should meet quarterly until this agreement is solid.

There was a discussion about the possibility of another town joining this 'partnership' and the need to require a one-time buy-in fee. C. Letendre recommended that we have a plan in case an interested town does not have the finances up-front. In this case, the boards should consider a payment plan.

Chief Ilnicky noted that we should establish a rotational vehicle replacement policy going forward.

Eric Weiss spoke of his pleasure with the progress the Boards have made so far and all were in agreement.

The next joint meeting with Blandford/Chester Board of Selectmen will be June 17, 2019 at 6:30 pm in Blandford BOS office.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm

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

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Absent
Eric McVey, Clerk

Thomas Ackley, Member