



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
JOINT MEETING WITH
BLANDFORD & CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
July 15, 2019**

1. OPEN SESSION 6:30 pm Meeting is recorded Meeting held at Blandford Town Hall

C. Letendre, Chairman Blandford; **E. McVey**, Clerk Blandford; **T. Ackley**, Member Blandford; **J. Garcia**, Town Administrator Blandford; **K. Warden**, TA Chester; **E. Weiss**, PVPC; **J. Baldasaro**, Vice Chairman Chester; **B. Huntoon**, Chairman Chester; **Chief Ilnicky**, Chester/Blandford PD in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm Meeting is recorded Held at Blandford Town Hall

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Examination of the meeting minutes of Board of Selectmen Meeting of July 1, 2019

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the BOS of July 1, 2019 as written.

T. Ackley Seconded

C. Letendre Seconded for discussion

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to amend the previous motion to include amendments to the July 1, 2019 meeting minutes.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor of the Minutes as Amended

C. Letendre – Yes E. McVey – Yes T. Ackley - Yes

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Re-Appoint Keri Morawiec to the Recreation Committee for a 3-Year Term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

b. Re-Appoint Joanne Grybosh as Animal Control Officer for a 1-Year Term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

c. Re-Appoint Leon Ripley to the Agricultural Commission for a 3-Year Term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

d. Re-Appoint Eric Kinsherf as Town Accountant for a 1-Year Term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

- e. Re-Appoint Pamela Darrow as Election Warden for a 3-Year Term beginning July 15, 2019 to July 14, 2022.
- f. Re-Appoint Bob Twyman as a Registrar of Voters for a 3-Year Term beginning April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2022.
- g Re-Appoint Doug Emo as Inspector of Graves for a term beginning July 1, 2019 and not to exceed June 30, 2024.

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to re-appoint Action Item 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g on the agenda.

C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

- h. Appoint Jane Rohman on to the Agricultural Commission for a 3-Year Term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022

Jane joined the BOS to discuss her interest in volunteering on the Agricultural Commission.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Jane Rohman to the Agricultural Commission for a 3-Year term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor

- i. For the Board of Selectmen to Designate one of its members to review and approve bills or payment warrants, with a report provided at the proceeding Board of Selectmen meeting, during Moments of Necessity, as allowed in MGL under the Approval of Bills/Warrants (Section 57-58).

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to appoint the Chairman of the BOS as the designated person to review and approve payment warrants with a report that will be presented in the next meeting in the event that the other members of the BOS are unavailable.

T. Ackley Seconded
C. Letendre Abstained
All in Favor

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to appoint T. Ackley, Member of the BOS as a backup for signature in the event of the absence of the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

C. Letendre Seconded
T. Ackley Abstained
All in Favor

- j. Review and Approve FY20 Pay Rate for Watson Park Trust Employees

C. Letendre mentioned that we found the minutes that have the original motion to approve the pay rates for Watson Park. A motion will be presented based on the previous notes.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the pay rates for Watson Park Trust employees as listed on the schedule: FY19 will be \$15.00 per hour and FY20 will be \$15.00 per hour.

E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor

k. Review and Approve Line Item Transfer Requests

-Transfer from Account #015433.002 Transfer Station Expenses to Account #015433.001 Cartage & Tipping for \$1,315.00.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the line item transfer from the Transfer Station to the Cartage & Tipping line item for \$1,315.00

**E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

-Transfer from Account #015914.000 Group Insurance to Account #015913.000 Unemployment Compensation.

-Transfer from Account #015210.001 Police Expense to Account #015422.014 Highway Vehicle Fuel for \$625.26.

-Transfer from Account #015151.000 Town Counsel to Account #015422.007 Highway Secretary Expense for \$150.74.

-Transfer from Account #015151.000 Town Counsel to Account #015192.002 Town Hall Miscellaneous Expense for \$525.00.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the line items transfers as listed above.

**E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

-Transfer from Account #015151.000 to Account #015192.002 Town Hall Miscellaneous Expense \$955.00

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to accept the line item transfer for mowing services as listed above.

**T. Ackley Seconded
C. Letendre Abstained
Motion Passes**

-Transfer from Account #015151.000 Town Council to Account #015292.003 ACO Expense for \$376.35.

-Transfer from Account #015151.000 Town Counsel to Account #015192.004 External IT Support for \$323.75.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the line item transfer for the line items as listed above.

**E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

E. McVey mentioned a discussion he had with Finance Committee mentioning that the Animal Control Officer submitted all of her receipts in the last month of the year so there was no ability for a supervisor to step in and know that the ACO officer was over budget. We need to make sure as we move forward that

we are managing according to MGL because this is new for us. “We moved from Dog Catcher to Animal Control Officer who is being controlled by MGL instead of the dated dog catcher standard” said Eric.

l. Accept Letter of Resignation from Margit J. Mikuski from Council on Aging Board. NOTE: She will be leading the Council on Aging in her new capacity as Director.

Joshua Garcia noted that she will no longer be a member of the COA Board; she will be considered Director of the COA in this new position and forfeit her voting rights.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the resignation letter form Margit Mikuski relinquishing her voting rights from Council on Aging.

T. Ackley

All in Favor

m. Review and Approve Special Town Meeting Warrant

The BOS reviewed and discussed the Special Town Meeting Warrant which is scheduled for August 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm. J. Garcia mentioned that Rene Senecal, Highway Superintendent, found several unpaid invoices dating back to 2016. The Board reviewed and adjusted the 17 Articles to be presented to town residents on the Warrant.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the warrant with the amendments and the inclusion of an article on the moratorium for solar power subject to review by Town Counsel.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

n. Appoint the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and a designee to serve on the FRTA Advisory Board for a 1-Year Term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as defined in Section 5 of Chapter 161B of MGL

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to, as written on the agenda, appoint the Chair of the Board of Selectmen and a designee being the Town Administration to serve on the FRTA advisory board.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Joint Meeting with the Chester Board of Selectmen to Review and Discuss Shared Police Project

The Chester Board of Selectmen and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission joined the Board of Selectmen to continue the ongoing conversation about the two-Town project now called “Chester-Blandford Shared Police Services Partnership”. Eric Weiss of PVPC went over the agreement to form a “Partnership Oversight Committee” which will be comprised of at least two members from each Board of Selectmen of the member towns. This Partnership Committee will meet quarterly to review and discuss policy, goals, challenges, staffing, promotions and operations. Mr. Weiss discussed individual items in the agreement explaining that the goal is keep this new project as clean as possible and as close as we can get to the way things are presently done in the two towns. Eric Weiss believes that this project will be used as a model by the State going forward. The next review meeting will be August 19, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

b. Update on Ongoing Highway Capital Equipment Needs – R. Senecal

Rene Senecal gave the Board an update on his capital equipment plans. There was a discussion about the need for a Loader for the Highway Department which will be presented at the August 5, 2019 Special

Town meeting. Rene mentioned that there will be some serious tree work starting this week to reduce the 'canopy' over the roads so they are exposed to the sun. All his conversations with residents have been positive. Eric McVey inquired about the disposition of the downed trees and branches. Rene explained his plans going forward. Rene gave the Fire Chief an update about what roads will be closed for resurfacing.

c. Draft Vehicle Use Policy – Ongoing

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table this discussion until the July 29, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

5. NEW BUSINESS:

6. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

a. PILOT with Syncarpha Solar

Roy Bishop is working with Syncarpha Solar on this new PILOT agreement. Syncarpha has agreed to this PILOT in lieu of taxes. Eric reiterated that this is the general rate the Town has collected across the board from Syncarpha and all the other solar companies in town.

MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to allow Roy Bishop to proceed with the agreement so this will be available for our next BOS meeting.

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

b. Contract Between Watson Park Trust and Jeffrey Scott Penn

The Town Administrator informed the BOS that he drafted the contract and sent it to Town Counsel who reviewed it and corrected it accordingly.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the agreement between Watson Park Memorial House Trust and Architect, Jeffrey Scott Penn.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel not to reconvene.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

Roll Call Out: C. Letendre – Yes E. McVey – Yes T. Ackley - Yes

7. MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

8EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

*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 session if the Board of Selectmen find it warranted.

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

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Eric McVey, Clerk

Thomas Akley, Member