



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECTBOARD

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

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 7, 2019**

1. Open Session at 7:00 pm Meeting is recorded Meeting held at Town Hall

C. Letendre, Chairman; E. McVey, Clerk; T. Ackley, Member; J. Garcia, Town Administrator

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2019

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of September 23, 2019 as written.

C. Letendre Seconded

E. McVey Abstained

All in Favor

b. Examination of the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2019

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2019 as written.

T. Ackley Seconded

E. McVey Abstained

All in Favor

c. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2019

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2019 as written.

T. Ackley Seconded

E. McVey Abstained

All in Favor

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT:

T.J. Cousineau, Sonja Hutchins and Michael Hutchins requested to speak to the BOS about the I-90 Interchange. Other members of the audience also spoke on this subject.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to Action Item c: Reorganize the Board of Selectmen.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

4. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Review and approve Contract with Ladies Landscaping, LLC for Landscaping Work at Watson Park

Garcia recommended that the Historical Commission join the Board in their discussion. C. Letendre updated the Historical Commission on the motion that the Board approved at the last board meeting and exactly what their decision was for Ladies Landscaping to accomplish this fall in Bicentennial Park and Watson Park. It was decided to do only part of the quote from the landscaping company and have the remaining work done in the future. Letendre noted that it was also taken into consideration that there will be other incidentals that need to be taken out of this fund. Garcia researched the fund, the interest gained and past yearly expenses and shared this information with the Board.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Watson Park Trust and Ladies Landscaping agreement as written for up to \$49,825 throughout the course of the 3 year contract including yearly maintenance.

**T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor**

b. Review and approve Contract with Ladies Landscaping, LLC for Landscaping Work at Bicentennial Park

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the contract for Ladies Landscaping work at Bicentennial Park totaling up to \$6,450.

T. Ackley Seconded for Discussion

Discussion: Garcia noted that this dollar amount did not include what they proposed for annual maintenance.

MOTION: C. Letendre amended the motion to accept the contract for Bicentennial Park and Ladies Landscaping not to exceed \$10,875 including yearly maintenance over the 3 year contract.

**T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor**

c. Reorganize Board of Selectmen

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to have Cara Letendre remain as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the next year.

E. McVey Seconded for Discussion

There was a discussion about tabling this decision.

MOTION: T. Ackley rescinded his motion to have Cara Letendre remain as Chairman of the BOS for the next year until a later date.

**E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Review and Approve Photovoltaic Solar Pilot Agreement with DG MA Solar, LLC – On-Going

Garcia reported that he has invited DG MA Solar to meet with the BOS. The Board directed a discussion at the last meeting regarding DG MA Solar’s request to lower the PILOT payment rate to \$10,000 per MW from the current \$12,500 per MW – on a project that is estimated to produce about 4.45 MW’s. It was directed that the meeting could possibly be by Skype or a conference call if not in person. The company is looking at their schedule. McVey recommended that the Board not agree to the request for a few reasons: 1) the existing rate of \$12,500 per MW is what we are agreeing to with all other solar projects. Negotiating anything different can make other companies want the same; 2) Agreeing to this change will only decrease their annual PILOT payment to about \$11,000+. McVey explained that isn’t much of a major difference especially for such a large company recognized nationally with a huge nationwide inventory of solar developments. McVey wasn’t sold on their argument of financial hardship due to the long permitting process. Rick Barnard, Chairman of the Planning Board gave a brief update on this project and why the permitting process was delayed. He explained that the company kept changing the plans and made it difficult for the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission to properly review the information in a timely manner. Letendre and Ackley stood in agreement with McVey and directed Garcia to notify them and let them know we are sticking to the \$12,500 per MW as originally agreed to.

b. Review and Approve Photovoltaic Solar Pilot Agreement with Syncarpha Blandford, LLC – On-Going

Garcia talked about the contract pending with Syncarpha which has not yet been signed. The Planning Board needs to approve the changes to this project before it can be approved.

c. Treasurer/Collector Request for Fee to be raised from \$25 to \$50 for Municipal Lien Certificates

Garcia explained that although this was discussed at the last meeting, it was unclear what the decision was, whether to table or to approve the increase. Because it involved increasing a fee, he wanted to be sure on the decision therefore, bringing it up once again so that the change is appropriately approved and recorded.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to raise the fee from \$25 to \$50 for Municipal Lien Certificates.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

d. Chief Harvey: Agreement to allow the Chief to Sign grant

Garcia reported that Chief Harvey was able to secure a \$2,700 grant and intends to purchase an emergency trailer to store equipment for hazmat, etc. Garcia said the Board can vote to approve and have Cara sign the contract or vote to approve and give authority to Chief Harvey to sign the contract. Letendre recommended that the Fire Chief have the authority to sign the grant. McVey and Ackley agreed.

e. Finance Meeting Update - Garcia

The target goal is to get FY19 closed and get Free Cash Certified by December. Garcia is hoping that we can look at getting an audit started in February or March 2020.

f. Highway – Liquid Pre-Treat for Roads

Garcia referred to the meeting when the Highway Superintendent spoke about using a liquid pre-treat for town roads to increase the life of our roads. The Highway Superintendent would like to invite this company to do a demonstration for the BOS. Garcia asked if it would be better for them to participate in a day meeting for the presentation or should we have them present during a Board of Selectmen evening meeting? It was requested that they attend an evening BOS meeting to present.

g. Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official Program

Garcia shared information regarding the MA Certified Public Purchasing Official Program to become a certified procurement officer. The registration fee of the introduction course is about \$500. The Board directed Garcia to work with the Finance Committee to evaluate where funds can come from and return at a future BOS meeting with a recommendation on where to draw funds from to pay for this.

h. Borrowing Bond for Emergency Storm Damage

The Town Clerk was present to sign the bond anticipation note for \$95,939.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$95,939 in order to roll over emergency storm damage funds.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Jane Pinsley of 44 North Street to address the Board about the 1-90 Interchange

Jane Pinsley notified the Selectboard that she would not be attending this meeting.

b. Steve Jemiolo, Assessor to meet with the Board about Stannard Road

S. Jemiolo met with the Board to discuss the maintenance of Stannard Road. There was a discussion about the history of this property and the maintenance of the road. Jemiolo is maintaining that when the present owner purchased this property he was given a letter saying the Town would maintain this road. Letendre suggested Jemiolo reach out to the Highway superintendent as he has plans in place to take care of these dirt roads when the current paving project is complete.

Jemiolo mentioned that the flags in Veteran's Park should be taken down for the winter and a single flag put up. Letendre asked that a 3x5 flag be purchased for this purpose.

c. Review All Expenditure Report

The Board reviewed the current All Department Expenditure Report. Currently, we are just over a quarter in the Fiscal Year and departments should be around 25% to 30% spent.

7. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

a. Fire Prevention Week – T. Ackley

Ackley wants to go on record asking everybody to check the batteries in their smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors when changing the clocks, spring and fall.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

9 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:

*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 session if Selectboard finds it warranted.

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

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Eric McVey, Clerk

Thomas Akley, Member