



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
SELECTBOARD

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
January 27, 2020**

**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**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to Action Item 4a: Appoint an Environmental Officer  
E. McVey Seconded  
All in Favor**

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

***a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2020***

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2020 until the February 10, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting.  
E. McVey Seconded  
All in Favor**

***b. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020***

**MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020 as written.  
T. Ackley Seconded  
C. Letendre Abstained**

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

**4. ACTION ITEMS:**

***a. Appoint an Environmental Certifying Officer per CDBG requirements***

McVey mentioned that it has been recommended that the town appoint an Environmental Certifying Officer. McVey recommended that this officer either be a member from the Board of Health, a member from the Conservation Commission or the Fire Chief. Garcia mentioned Dunphy from PVPC recommended that it be the Town Administrator for purposes of efficiency. Most of the communities he works with has their Town Administrators serve as the Environmental Certifying Officer. So, if not the Town Administrator than it's the Chairman of the board of Selectmen. The conversation turned to recommending Jen Girard. Garcia stated that he spoke to Girard and she is willing to take on this responsibility.

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Jennifer Girard as Environmental Certifying Officer for a 3 year term.

**E. McVey Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**AMENDMENT:** E. McVey made an amendment: Motion to appoint Jennifer Girard as Environmental Certifying Officer for a 3 year term coinciding with the expiration of her appointment on the Board of Health.

**T. Ackley Seconded**

**All in Favor**

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

***a. Municipal Light Board Update – Broadband: Peter Langmore***

*No Update*

***b. Review and take action on collective purchasing agreement with FRCOG to bid on Blandford's behalf services for fire alarm testing, sprinkler testing and smoke detector cleaning***

Garcia explained to the Board how this procurement program works. McVey stated that the initial fee to be a part of this purchasing agreement is minimal and there is no requirement for the Town to participate. Letendre agreed and stated that this is just a good tool for soliciting bids.

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the collective purchasing agreement with FRCOG to bid on Blandford's behalf services for fire alarm testing, sprinkler testing and smoke detector cleaning

**E. McVey Seconded**

**T. Ackley Nay**

***c. Ongoing review of Building Commissioner's fee schedule***

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to table the Building Commissioner's Fee Schedule until the next BOS meeting 2/10/20.

**E. McVey Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

***a. Bruce Wyman: Blandford Fair President regarding Annual Snowmobile Races***

The President of the Blandford Fair joined the BOS to discuss the details of the Second Annual Snowmobile Races which will be held February 29, 2020 at 7:00 am – roughly 5:30 pm. He mentioned that they have increased the number of classes by request of the attendees. He reported that he has been in touch with the Blandford Fire Chief as well as Hill Town Ambulance and there will be canine police from the State Police. He stated he will also reach out to the Blandford/Chester Police Department. He reported that he will be taking out a permit for this event as he is expecting more than 100 people this year.

***b. Blake Mensing, The Mensing Group: Representing Belle Fleur Holding, LLC Re: Cannabis***

Attorney Blake Mensing, a Cannabis attorney met with the BOS to represent Belle Fleur Holding. Also in attendance from Belle Fleur Holdings, LLC is Domenico Cardarelli, CFO, Rolandy Romelus, Associate and Occide Gaston, Associate. The company is looking at constructing a 32,000 sf building for the purpose of growing cannabis. The Board and Attorney Mending's clients discussed the strict intricacies of the State requirements, zoning regulations, agriculture regulations and what to expect going forward. Letendre mentioned that this is the first of many meetings that may take place with Belle Fleur if they continue to pursue their endeavor in Town. There was talk about negotiating a Community Host Agreement. Letendre mentioned to the attorney, and the business owners, that the Town voted in support of the marijuana law and that we are very excited to hear about this possible venture taking place in Town. She encouraged them to proceed through the process and ensure all is in order prior to reaching a point of negotiating any terms for a host agreement. Several questions were taken from the residence attending this meeting.

***c. Elm Electric: Repairs to Library basement***

Garcia presented the bill for the repairs to the Library basement, which was recently flooded, and asked for some direction/recommendation as to what account to take these emergency funds out of. He said the Finance Committee will be meeting on Wednesday to discuss but would like to share with them input from the BOS. Since it was an unexpected emergency, it was recommended to pay for this from the reserve account.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to pay the Elm Electric repair bill out of the Town Reserve Account contingent upon the Finance Committee's approval.**

**E. McVey Seconded**

**All in Favor**

***d. Review Updated All-Department Expense Report***

The Board reviewed the All Department Expense Report line item.

***e. Review and discuss Relay Power Agreement for the Town Hall to participate on local community solar program***

Garcia requested that this agenda item be tabled until the 2-10-20 meeting as he is reviewing more information.

***f. Highway Update – Rene Senecal***

Senecal joined the BOS to update the Board on the progress of the Highway Department.

- All trucks are fully operational
- Working on electrical updates to the shop – all within budget
- Working on electrical upgrades to salt building – all within budget
- Beaver trapping; a licensed trapper was hired for selective trapping and relocating the over-population of beavers in Town humanely. The damns cannot be removed without the Army Corp of Engineering approval because it is illegal to remove them, including on private property, without their approval.
- Senecal confirmed that the Town has collected \$45,712 with another \$3,275 is in process for vehicles that he send out for bid.
- The Department is working on pothole patching
- The Department will be dealing with dirt roads in town to level the ruts

**7. TABLED ITEMS:**

***a. Reorganize Board of Selectmen***

- b. Review and Approve Photovoltaic Solar PILOT Agreement with DG MA solar, LLC: On-Going*
- c. Review updated draft policies for personnel handbook – General Administration*
- d. Review draft policies for personnel handbook – Preamble; General Provision; Recruiting; Hiring*
- e. Review draft policies for personal handbook – Standards of Conduct*

**8. MEETING ADJOURNED:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

**9.\*EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*None*

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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Thomas Akley, Member