



MINUTES

Annual Town Meeting June 22, 2020 Commonwealth of Massachusetts County of Hampden, ss. Town of Blandford

The inhabitants of Blandford qualified to vote in elections and town affairs met at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 7 P.M., and acted on the following matters:

Consent Agenda

Moderator David Hopson read the following:

I request in the interest of expediency in the conduct of Town Meeting that the following motions be taken up at this time:

- 1) To allow the following articles to be considered and voted together under a single motion: Articles 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 27
Motion made and seconded, motion carried unanimously
- 2) To approve articles 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 27 as written in the warrant.
Motion made and seconded and carried unanimously

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officials and act thereon; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., c. 44, sec. 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with M.G.L., c. 44, sec. 17; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum of \$85,000.00 to purchase a Class 500 Series truck for the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$75,000.00 for the Building Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$97,752 to pay for Tropical Storm Irene Damage debt incurred by the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$25,000 for the Building Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$41,379.00 for the Reserve Account (account #015132.000); or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$535,082.80 from Water Department Receipts to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021; or take any other action relative thereto. (See proposed departmental budget).

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Department Retained Earnings the sum of \$6,251 to the Water Stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 110A, to allow the Office of the Town Clerk to remain closed on Saturdays and to treat Saturday as a legal holiday for the purposes of calculating the time frame for filing or taking other action required by law, or take any other action relative thereto.

-end consent agenda articles-

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,646,875.00 for the Gateway Regional School District as determined using the alternative assessment method for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends
Motion made and seconded; **Article 2 carried unanimously**

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 for Vocational Education (account #015301.000) for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends
Motion made and seconded
Article 3 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,200.00 for the transportation expenses (account #015302.000) for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends
Motion made and seconded
Article 4 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum of \$300,000 for the Capital Projects account (#015920.000); or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends

Motion made and seconded

Article 7 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to or transfer from the stabilization fund, the amounts of \$47,499 and \$48,916, totaling \$96,415, to pay for any outstanding costs or indebtedness related to the purchase of a new rescue truck for the Fire Department and a new plow truck for the Highway Department as previously acquired by the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends

Motion made and seconded

Article 9 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §5B to establish a special stabilization fund for the purpose of maintaining and repairing the Town Library, said fund to be called the Library Building Stabilization Fund; and further, to transfer from the Building Stabilization Fund the sum of \$100,000 to be deposited into the Library Building Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends

Motion made and seconded

Article 13 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2, 183,195.15 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021; or take any other action relative thereto. (See proposed Departmental Budgets).

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends

Motion made and seconded

Article 14 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Department FY20 Water Dept. Testing account (#225450.006) the sum of \$140.00 to pay for previous fiscal year MICROBAC invoice #DA8I01404 that was not included in the encumbrances, or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends

Motion made and seconded

Article 17 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Department FY20 Water Dept Utilities account (#225450.002) the sum of \$603.00 to pay for previous fiscal year Verizon invoices that were not included in the encumbrances, or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends

Motion made and seconded

Article 18 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote adopt the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §53 F ½ establishing the broadband operations as the Municipal Light Plant Enterprise Fund effective Fiscal Year 2021; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends
Motion made and seconded
Article 19 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to borrow up to \$50,000 to fund fiber optic drop construction and installation in connection with the construction and build-out of the Town's broadband system, or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation: Fincom recommends
Motion made and seconded
Article 20 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning By-law SECTION IV: PROVISIONS FOR DISTRICTS, Sub Section 4.2: BUSINESS DISTRICT, Sub Section 4.2.1; Sub Section 4.2.1.9, by deleting:

Any additional use, which is not specifically prohibited or already requires a Special Permit from another Board, for which the Board of Selectmen may grant permission, as contained therein and inserting in place thereof the following:

Any additional use, which is not specifically prohibited or already requires a Special Permit from another Board, for which the Zoning Board of Appeals may grant permission.

or take any other relative action thereto.

Planning Board recommends

Motion made and seconded

Article 21 carried unanimously

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO CONSIDER ARTICLES 22, 23, 24 AND 25 TOGETHER.

Planning Board recommends

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning By-law, SECTION VIII: GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS, subsection 8.1: PURPOSE, subsection 8.1.2: Definitions, by deleting:

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, LARGE SCALE GROUND MOUNTED:

A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof mounted, and has a rated nameplate capacity greater than 250 KW DC.

as contained therein and inserting in place thereof the following:

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, LARGE SCALE GROUND

MOUNTED: A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof mounted, and has a rated nameplate capacity greater than 250 kW DC or occupies more than 40,000 square feet of surface area.

or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning By-law SECTION VIII: GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS, subsection 8.1: PURPOSE, subsection 8.1.2: Definitions, to insert the following new definitions in alphabetical order:

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, MEDIUM SCALE GROUND

MOUNTED: A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof mounted, and has a rated nameplate capacity between 10 kW DC and 250 kW DC, or occupies at least 1750 square feet and no more than 40,000 square feet of surface area.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, SMALL SCALE GROUND

MOUNTED: A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and

is not roof mounted, and has a rated nameplate capacity of less than 10 kW DC, or occupies less than 1750 square feet of surface area.
or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning By-law, SECTION VIII: GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS, subsection 8.2: APPLICABILITY, subsection 8.2.2, by deleting:

All Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations shall require a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval issued by the Planning Board in accordance with this section and Section IX.

as contained therein and inserting in place thereof the following:

All Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations shall require a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval issued by the Planning Board in accordance with this section and Section IX.

or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning By-law, SECTION VIII: GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS, subsection 8.2: APPLICABILITY, to insert the following new subsections:

8.2.3 All Medium Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations shall require Site Plan Approval issued by the Planning Board in accordance with this section and Section IX.

8.2.4 All Small Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations with a maximum height of less than 9 feet shall require a building permit from the building inspector. Small Scale installations with a maximum height between 9 feet and 20 feet, in addition to a building permit shall require Site Plan Approval issued by the Planning Board in accordance with this section and Section IX. Small Scale installations with a maximum height exceeding 20 feet shall require a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval issued by the Planning Board in accordance with this section and Section IX.

or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLES 22, 23, 24, and 25 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws to rename the Board of Selectmen as the Select Board, and, for such purposes, to replace the words "Board of Selectmen" or "Selectmen" with "Select Board" and "Selectman" with "Select Board Member", and to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive ministerial revisions to ensure that gender and number issues in related text is revised to properly reflect such change in title; and, further, to amend Chapter II(A), Board of Selectmen, of the General Bylaws by inserting the following new subsections after the existing subsections thereof:

Select Board

Sec. 1. For purposes of these bylaws and otherwise, the Board of Selectmen shall be referred to as the Select Board. Members of the Board shall be termed "Select Board Members", and each year the Select Board shall select a chair from among its members.

Sec. 2. The Select Board shall have all the powers and duties of a board of selectmen under the general laws and any special laws applicable to the Town of Blandford as well as such other powers and duties as are provided in these bylaws.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion made and seconded

ARTICLE 26 carried unanimously

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Department

Stabilization the amount of \$20,000 to Water Department Capital expense account (#225450.029) to pay for ongoing water line upgrades or take any other action relative thereto.

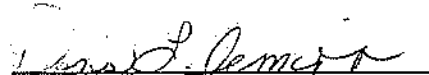
Hear finance committee recommendation: Fincom recommends

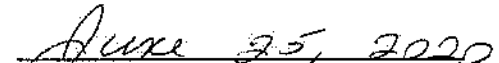
Motion made and seconded

ARTICLE 28 carried unanimously

A true copy, attest

Certified


Doris L. Jemolo, Town Clerk


date