



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECT BOARD

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

**MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
March 15, 2021
6:00 pm**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.C. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Blandford Select Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so by visiting either of the following options:

- **Zoom Video Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87116077710>
- **Meeting ID:** 871 1607 7710
- **Phone Dial In:** 1-929-205-6099, dial in meeting ID when prompted

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted unless you are on the agenda ahead of time, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Blandford website a transcript or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

If you have any comment regarding items that are on the agenda, please forward to Joann Martin, Administrative Assistant, at Selectboardadmin@townofblandford.com or 413-848-4279 x206.

1. Open Session at 6:00 pm

Meeting is recorded

Meeting held virtually/Zoom

In attendance: C. Letendre, Chairman; ~~E. McVey, Member, absent~~; T. Ackley, Member-Absent; J. Garcia, Town Administrator

2. EXAMINATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2021

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2021 as written
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor

b. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2021

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2021 as written
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT:

A Resident reported 18-wheeler vehicles traveling up and down Beach Hill Road all day beginning at 6:00 am. Letendre suggested reporting this to the Highway Department and to Blandford Police. The Highway Superintendent joined via conference call and reported that this road is rated for tri-axle vehicles so there is not much that can be done about it. He will investigate.

4. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Confirm date for Annual Town Meeting

Governor Baker has left the decision up to the individual cities and towns to set the date for their annual town meeting for FY2021. The Select Board discussed various dates for the Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to set the date for Blandford’s Annual Town Meeting to June 21, 2021

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

b. Review and Take Action between the Town and the Massachusetts Councils on Aging for a \$17,622 grant

The Select Board reviewed this agreement March 8, 2021. Garcia presented the contract to be accepted by the board.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the agreement between the Town and the Massachusetts Councils on Aging Association for a \$17,622 Grant.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

c. Review and Take Action on notice to participate in FRCOG’s vehicle diesel/gasoline BID for FY22

Garcia explained that we participated in this procurement bidding process last year for the first time and it saved the Town a lot of money. This will reconfirm and ensure a fixed price for FY 2022

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to participated in FRCOG’s Vehicle Diesel/Gasoline BID for FY22

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

d. Review and Take Action on the OPM recommendation from the Building Project Advisory Group for the Highway/Fire Garage project

Ackley, who was one of the members of the Building Project Advisory Group, gave the Board a summary of how they came to their selection decision. R. Senecal joined the Board via conference call to give his summary of the steps the Advisory Group took to arrive at the 3 OPM’s chosen to bid in ranking order.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Building Project Advisory Group for the Highway Garage/Fire Garage project to move forward with negotiations with the OPM’s in ranked order.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion move to Unfinished Business c. Review Position Profile/Job Description for the Highway Superintendent Position

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

e. Review and Receive Communication from Massachusetts Commissioner Carol W. Gladstone of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) regarding their decision to keep the publicly funded Cobble Mountain Road closed to non-emergency personnel, in favor of protecting the interest of Springfield Water and Sewer

The Board discussed the letter received from DCAMM regarding the possible re-opening of Cobble Mountain Road. Garcia and the Board expressed disappointment of DCAMM's response as the letter seems vague without much thought and no explanation. The Highway Superintendent reported that the Town has been absorbing the cost to maintaining this road that the town does not own. We do receive Chapter 90 but it is not adequate for what the road needs to be maintained therefore we supplement costs with local appropriation. Letendre believes that we should push for passive recreation on this road. Garcia is exploring other options and will report back. One of which we request from DCAMM to transfer ownership of the road to the Town from route 23 to the town line to honor our commitment of maintain the road. The Town should no longer maintain the road unless ownership is provided to Blandford. Letendre mentioned she reached out to the Lieutenant Governor's office and left a message. She has not received a return call to-date. Garcia reached out to the Governor Baker's office leaving several messages with no return call to-date. Letendre hopes we continue to pursue this cause.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to receive communication from the Massachusetts Commissioner, Carol W. Gladstone, of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) regarding their decision to keep the publicly funded Cobble Mountain Road closed to non-emergency personnel, in favor of protecting the interest of Springfield Water and Sewer

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. COVID-19 Update

None

b. Discuss Shepard's Farm

None

c. Review Position Profile/Job Description for the Highway Superintendent Position

The Board discussed the vehicle licensing requirements needed when hiring a new Highway Superintendent. Senecal believes that the details about licensing should not be so stringent suggesting instead the Board focus on a candidate who has the administrative strengths, basic licenses, the ability to do the road work and chapter 90, ability to handling the paperwork, knowledge of working with the state, ability to effectively handle the Highway Department staff, etc. Senecal believes the restrictions on licensing should not reject an application that has all these other necessary strengths.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review All Department Expense Report

None

8. TABLED ITEMS:

a. Discuss creating a committee to research and provide recommendations for stipends for elected and appointed Town boards, commissions and committees that exist per Town bylaws

Garcia explained that this committee has been formed and will be moving forward suggesting that it be removed from tabled items.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to remove Tabled Item a. Discuss creating a committee to research and provide recommendations for stipends for elected and appointed Town Boards, Commissions and Committees that exist per Town bylaws

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

b. Review and Take Action on Temporary COVID-19 Leave Policy

The Board discussed extending the Temporary COVID-19 Leave Policy. Letendre noted that McVey is the member that had reservation about this policy. Letendre feels this is a good policy that is very straight forward and should be extended.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to extend the Temporary COVID-19 Leave Policy from January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

10.*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 section if Selectboard finds it warranted.

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board
and Town Administrator

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Absent
Eric McVey, Clerk

Thomas Ackley, Member