



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECT BOARD

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

**JOINT MEETING MINUTES with
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD, FINANCE
COMMITTEE and WATER COMMISSIONERS**

April 26, 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. If 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; T. Ackley, Member; J. Garcia, Town Administrator

2. EXAMINATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2021

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 12, 2021 as written.
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Review and Take Action on recommendation from the Water Superintendent and Water Commissioners to negotiate contract for SCADA upgrade design services for the Water Plant. Avery reported he and the Blandford Water Commissioners joined in the rating review process. The result was that Wright & Pierce had offered the most advantageous proposal.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to direct the Water Department Superintendent and Water Commissioners to negotiate a contract with Wright & Pierce
E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

b. Receive Communication from Eversource regarding plan for tree maintenance on several distribution right of ways

The Board reviewed the notice of vegetation control maintenance in Blandford.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to receive communication from Eversource regarding plans for tree maintenance on several distribution right of ways
E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

**AMENDED MOTION: E. Mcvey made a motion to receive communication from Eversource regarding helicopter vegetation control in remote wooded areas and share this information with both the Fire Department and the Police Department as it is new methodology for controlling vegetation
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor**

c. Receive Notice of Public Hearing communication from Planning Board regarding proposal to install a marijuana cultivation establishment

The Board reviewed the notice from the Planning Board regarding their upcoming Public Hearing.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to receive notice from the Planning Board regarding their meeting of May 5 at 6:00 pm regarding the proposal to install marijuana cultivation
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor**

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. COVID-19 Update

The Board of Health is inquiring as to whether the Board will be approving opening the Town Hall soon. Letendre noted that she believes we are currently in a phase where we can do this, however, she is suggesting we meet with the Board of Health to talk about strategies to open safely. The Board will also be discussing the safety logistics of the annual Memorial Day Parade and the annual Memorial Day Picnic with the Board of Health. The Board agreed to meet and discuss safety issues as well as speaking to Doug Emo to discuss the parade on May 5, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

b. Sheperd Farm Update

Garcia reported that he and the Historical Commission have received feedback from the Commonwealth on their submitted expression of interest letter and he is meeting with the Historical Commission this week to review this feedback, as well as to discuss other potential projects in town.

c. Highway Superintendent Search update

Garcia reported that there were three submitted applications, 2 of which that met the minimum criteria. Interviews are scheduled for next week.

d. Gutter Replacement Work - Library

Garcia reported that the gutter replacement will start on April 27, 2021.

e. Dangerous or Nuisance Dog Hearing

Garcia is preparing for this hearing to be scheduled at the next Select Board meeting on May 5, 2021

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review All Department Expense Report

The Board reviewed this report. It was noted that an account at the Town Clerks budget was overspent by a few dollars. Garcia will investigate and notify the Town Clerk regarding the account.

b. Review Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Garcia presented the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant which has been reviewed by Town Counsel who provided suggested edits. Garcia believes he will have the warrant finalized in the next week or two.

c. Request from the Building Commissioner to consider seeking appropriate authorization to amend existing unregistered vehicle bylaw

Building Commissioner, Jason Forgue, joined the Board to explain his recommendation to amend Blandford's existing unregistered vehicle bylaws regarding unregistered vehicles on residential properties. Forgue is recommending a process where residents would be able to 'permit' these vehicles that they do not have registered at this time but do not necessarily want to get rid of. He is also suggesting a structured fine schedule for those who do not abide by the Town bylaws. Garcia will investigate this and plan for a possible new bylaw inclusion for a future town meeting.

d. Procurement for Treasurer/Collector Services

Garcia presented a draft RFP for Treasurer/Collector Services. He noted that the Town's 3-year contract with MassMuniFin expires June 30. Because of the dollar amount, the Town must go out to bid. He explained we will be entering year 4 of MassMuniFin's 5-year plan with the town. In the RFP, it is expected for the selected consultant to achieve the necessary day-to-day operations of the department during Year 1 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022), and provide transitional support services for a new hire during year 2 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) and year 3 (July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024); and phase out its services to the Town during the three-year contract.

7. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

a. M. Kronholm, Porter Memorial Library Trustee

Mary Kronholm shared the citation she received from the Massachusetts Senate to congratulate her hard work and dedication to the Western Massachusetts Libraries. This citation was signed by the Senate and authored by Senator Adam Hines.

8. TABLED ITEMS:

9. MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to G.L.c. 30A §21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health of an individual not to reconvene.

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

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

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 session if Selectboard finds it warranted.

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

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Eric McVey, Clerk

Thomas Ackley, Member