



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECT BOARD

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD

May 10, 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; C. Letendre, Member; T. Ackley, Member; J. Garcia, Town Administrator

2. EXAMINATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2021

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the meeting minutes of May 3, 2021

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to Unfinished Business 5a. COVID-19 Update

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

4. ACTION ITEMS:

b. Appoint Sonja Hutchins as Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Sonja Hutchins as Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

c. Appoint Janet Lombardo to Finance committee for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024

Tabled. Lombardo will be appointed by the Finance Committee with the Select Board, Town Clerk and Moderator later.

d. Appoint Jennifer Girard as Deputy Election Warden for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Jennifer Girard as Deputy Election Warden for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

e. Appoint Charles Benson to Recreation Committee for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Charles Benson to Recreation Committee for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

f. Appoint Aaron Poteat as Plumbing & Gas Inspector for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Aaron Poteat as Plumbing & Gas Inspector for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

g. Appoint John VanHeynigen as Electrical & Wiring Inspector for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint John VanHeynigen as Electrical & Wiring Inspector the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

h. Appoint Joseph Henning as Veteran's Agent for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Joseph Henning as Veteran's Agent for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

i. Appoint Joann Martin to Recreation Committee for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Joann Martin to Recreation Committee for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

j. Review and take action on the Berkshire County Fire Chief's Association, Inc. Mutual Aid Agreement

Ackley explained that we are agreeing to be part of the Berkshire County Mutual Aid system which has already been reviewed and vetted by Town Counsel

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Berkshire County Mutual Aid.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

k. Review and take action on contract between the Town and City Point Partners for OPM Services

The Board reviewed the revised contract which has been reviewed and approved by Town Counsel and it has been reviewed by the Board as well.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the contract between the Town of Blandford and City Point Partners for OPM Services.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

Garcia explained that a motion is not necessary at this time. He will present the final contract at the May 17, 2021 Select Board meeting.

RESCINDED MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to rescind the previous motion approving the contract between the Town of Blandford and City Point Partners for OPM Services

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

l. Review and receive 2019-2020 Audit from the Gateway Regional School District

The Select Board reviewed the Gateway Regional School District audit.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to receive the 2019-2021 Audit from Gateway Regional District

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

m. Annual town Meeting - Mullin Rule Adoption – Planning Board

The Planning Board is requesting that the Town adopt the following statute known as the Mullin Rule to help the committee adhere by MGL laws when members of municipal boards or commissions who are absent from no more than one session of an adjudicatory hearing may still act on the matter at future session, provided that the municipality accepts this section of the law and that the absent member reviews a transcript or video or

audio recording of the hearing and certifies that they had done so. The final version of this proposal will be presented at the next Select Board meeting for approval at the Annual Town Meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. COVID-19 Update

Jennifer Girard joined the Board and reported that the Hilltown Community Health Center is offering free vaccines to all town residents in surrounding town. Call 413-667-3009 for an appointment. Girard reminded that the Recreation Committee will have to apply for a permit for the upcoming Grab-and-Go Picnic on May 31. Girard talked about opening the Town Hall suggesting we wait until May 29 to open to the public. She presented the reopening recommendations from Governor Baker's office. The Select Board agreed.

b. Sheperd Farm Update

No new information to be reported at this time

c. Update on Highway Superintendent Search and next steps

Garcia reported that there were three candidates that had applied for this position, one of which did not meet the minimum qualifications. The Advisory Board moved forward with interviews with the other two candidates, one of which was recommend for this position, however, the Advisory Board wanted to report back to the Select Board to see how they want to proceed. There was one internal and one external candidate considered. Both candidates had much to offer, however, the internal candidate is believed to be a better fit by the Advisory Board. Ackley, McVey and Letendre would like to see us proceed with the internal candidate. This interview will proceed on May 17, 2021 at the regular Select Board meeting.

d. Ongoing review of Draft Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

Garcia updated any changes that were made to the ATM Warrant. The final draft of this warrant will be presented for final approval at the May 17, 2021 Select Board meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review All Department Expense Report

The Board reviewed the recent report and found no problems.

b. Notice of Decision from Planning Board – Belle Fleur

The Planning Board presented the decision from the Planning Board regarding the Belle Fleur project which will be a two-story 39,218 square feet for a total of 78,436 square feet for adult use marijuana cultivation and marijuana products manufacturing. The Planning Board is asking for approval from the Town Clerk.

7. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

8. TABLED ITEMS:

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

9. MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the governmental bargaining or litigating position according to M.G.L. c.30A§ 21

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

Roll Call Vote:

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