



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECT BOARD

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD

May 17, 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

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

Joann Martin produced the meeting minutes for review.

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

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

b. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2021

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 10, 2021 as written

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

c. Examination of the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2021

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2021 as written

E. McVey Seconded

All in Favor

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident suggested we plan a Memorial Day ceremony in the future to allow residents to bring in their old flags that need to be retired. The United States flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. McVey stated he believes the proper setting for this should be done at night and we should investigate this for 2022.

4. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Appoint Dave Mottor as Fire Chief for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Dave Mottor as Fire Chief for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

b. Appoint David Mottor to Forest Warden for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Dave Mottor as Forest Warden for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

c. Appoint David Mottor as Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Dave Mottor as Deputy Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

d. Appoint Jennifer Girard to Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Jennifer Girard to Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

e. Appoint Tammy Weidhaas as Police Chief for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Tammy Weidhaas as Police Chief for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

f. Appoint Tammy Weidhaas as Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Tammy Weidhaas as Emergency Management the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

g. Appoint Sumner Robbins as Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Sumner Robbins as Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

h. Appoint Gordon Avery to Water Department for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Gordon Avery to Water Department for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

i. Appoint Doug Emo to Inspector of Veteran's Graves for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Doug Emo to Inspector of Veteran's Graves for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

j. Appoint Doug Emo to Watson Park Groundskeeper for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Doug Emo to Watson Park Groundskeeper for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

k. Interview Candidate/s for Highway Superintendent

David Waldon joined the Select Board to be interviewed for the Highway Superintendent position. The Board asked a series of 11 questions.

l. Review and Take Action on Contract between the Town and City Point partners for OPM Service

Garcia reported the contract is still being reviewed by Town counsel and will be in front of the Board at the May 24, 2021 meeting.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the contract between the Town and City Point Partners for OPM Services
E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

m. Review and Take Action on Warrant for Annual Town Meeting
The Board did a final review of the final changes that were made.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant with edits
E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. COVID-19 Update

Garcia reported that the Town Hall will be open to the public as of May 29, 2021 with specific social distancing guidelines. Jennifer Girard from the Board of Health looks forward to joining the Select Board at next meeting to share opening plans.

**MOTION: E. McVey made a motion to resume normal operations at the Town Hall as of Saturday, May 29, 2021. Guidance will be appropriately posted
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor**

b. Sheperd Farm Update
Nothing new to report

c. FRCOG Fuel Bid Lock-in

Garcia presented the results of the 3 bids for FY22 Fuel for the Town. He reported that Dennis Burke was the lowest bidder and is the only fixed-price bid.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Joshua Garcia as a signatory on behalf of the Town of Blandford in selecting Dennis K. Burke as the awardee for FRCOG fuel/gasoline contract for FY22
C. Letendre
All in Favor**

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review All Department Expense Report.

The Board reviewed the current report and found no unresolved problems

7. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

a. Sara Hunter – Treasurer/Collector

Sara Hunter, Blandford Town Treasurer called in to speak to the Board about her department's progress collecting back taxes. She reported that they sent out 100+ letters to residents reminding them of their delinquent tax bills. To date, they have collected \$155,000.

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 7:15 pm

MOTION: C1 Letendre made a motion to move to Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel to reconvene.

Roll Call Vote In: C. Letendre, Yes T. Ackley, Yes E. McVey, Yes

10.*EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pursuant to MGL C30A, §21(a)(1) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to reconvene the regularly scheduled Select Board Meeting at 7:47 pm

**E. McVey Seconded
All in Favor**

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to allow Josh Garcia, Town Administrator to make a contract with David Waldron for the position of Highway Superintendent.

**T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm

*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