



CERTIFIED MINUTES
Annual Town Meeting
June 21, 2021
Town of Blandford

Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7 P.M., the inhabitants of Blandford qualified to vote in elections and town affairs met at the Blandford Town Hall then and thereto to act on the following matters:

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.

Motion made and seconded; Article 1 passed unanimously

ARTICLES 2,3,4,and 5 taken as Consent Agenda item

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, 2021 through June 30, 2022; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

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, 2021 through June 30, 2022; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

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, 2021 through June 30, 2022; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,034.00 to the Building Stabilization Fund (account #015901.002); or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLES 2,3,4, and 5 motion made and seconded with finance committee approval, unanimously passed.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, in accordance with the provisions of 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 G.L. c. 44, sec. 17; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion made and seconded; ARTICLE 6 unanimously passed

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,212,286.02 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022; or take any other action relative thereto.

(See proposed Departmental Budgets).

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

Motion made and seconded; amendment to budget line for Transfer Station Salaries to

increase by \$1,500; from \$16,227 to \$17,727 increasing total operating budget from \$2,210,786.02 to \$2,212,286.02

Motion to amend made and seconded, ARTICLE 7 passed unanimously with Finance Committee support.

ARTICLES 8, 9, 10, 11.1 and 11.2 taken as Consent Agenda item

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$287,000 for the Capital Projects account (#015920.000); or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Emergency Stabilization Fund account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to be deposited into the Library Building Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 11.1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$100,000 to pay toward the principal of the road bond debt; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 11.2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$541,982.00 from Water Department Receipts to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022; or take any other action relative thereto.

(See proposed departmental budget).

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLES 8, 9, 10, 11.1 and 11.2 motion made and seconded; passed unanimously with Finance Committee approval.

ARTICLES 12 and 13 taken as Consent Agenda item

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Department Retained Earnings the sum of \$5,000.00 to the Water Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Department Retained Earnings the sum of \$188,088.00 to the Water Department Capital Expenses Account (#225450.028); or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLES 12 and 13 motion made and seconded; articles passed unanimously

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Stabilization Fund a sum of money to the Water Breaks and Repair Account to pay for emergency repair of the water main break on Russell Stage Road, including any incidental and related expenses; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 14 motion made and seconded; ARTICLE 14 passed with more than two-thirds vote as declared by Moderator

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Municipal Light Stabilization Fund the sum of \$70,000 to defray the broadband operating expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 15 motion made and seconded; ARTICLE 15 passed unanimously

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to fund fiber optic drop construction and installation in connection with the construction and build-out of the Town's broadband system, including any incidental and related expenses, and further to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board to borrow said sum pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, sec. 7 or 8 or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, provided that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, sec. 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount, or take any other action relative thereto.

Hear Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 16 motion made and seconded; passed unanimously

ARTICLES 17, 18, 19 and 20 taken as a Consent Agenda item

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-laws, Section I. Town Meeting, category A. by deleting:

The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the First Monday of May each year.

as contained therein and inserting in place thereof the following:

The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the First Monday of June each year.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-laws, Section I. Town Meeting, category B. by deleting:

The Annual Town elections shall be held on the second Saturday in May of each year from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

as contained therein and inserting in place thereof the following:

The Annual Town elections shall be held on the second Saturday in June of each year from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-laws, Section VII. Dog Control, by inserting the new subsection as follows:

10. Fees; certification or statement that dog has been spayed; dogs serving blind persons; dogs owned by persons aged 70 or over; dogs serving deaf persons; refunds

No fee shall be charged for a license issued under this section for a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder. No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog owned by a person aged 70 years or over. No license fee or portion thereof shall be refunded because of the subsequent death, loss, spaying or removal from the commonwealth or other disposal of the dog, nor shall a license fee or portion thereof paid by mistake be paid or received after it has been paid over to the Town.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive ministerial corrections and revisions only to the grammar, formatting, and numbering of the Town's General Bylaws, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLES 17, 18, 19 and 20 motion made and seconded; Articles passed unanimously

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of G.L. c. 39, sec. 23(D) which provide that a member of any Town board, committee or commission when holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to that member's absence from no more than a single session of the hearing at which testimony or other evidence is received, provided that before any such vote the member shall certify in writing that they have examined all evidence received at the missed session, which evidence shall include an audio or video recording of the missed session or a transcript thereof, such written certification to be part of the record of the hearing; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21 motion made and seconded; passed unanimously

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation providing for a property tax exemption incentive for firefighters who reside in the Town; and to authorize the General Court to make clerical or editorial changes of form only to any bill so filed unless approved in advance by the Select Board, and to authorize the Select Board to approve such revisions as fall within the public purpose of this vote; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22 motion made and seconded; passed unanimously

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Certified by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary N. Kronholm", is written over a horizontal line.

**Mary Kronholm, Asst. Town Clerk in the absence of
Doris Jemiolo, Town Clerk**

TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL FUND BUDGET REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022

Account Number	Account Name	FY2019 Budget Approved	FY2019 Actual to 12/31/18	FY2020 Budget Requested	FY2020 Budget Recommended	FY2020 Budget Approved (ATM)	FY2020 COMMENTS	FY2020 Budget Approved (Tax Recep)	FY2021 Budget Requested	FY2021 Budget Recommended	FY2021 Budget Approved	FY2021 COMMENTS	FY2021 Budget Approved (Tax Recep)	FY2022 Budget Requested	FY2022 Budget Recommended	FY2022 Budget Approved	FY2022 COMMENTS
015192.900	STM 8/5/19 A6 Town Water FY Bills																
015193.900	STM 8/5/19 A5 Old Town Hall Wtr FY Bills																
015145.900	ATM 5/19 A20 OPEB Actuary Study	\$0.00		\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	Article 20	\$15,000.00									
	A6 Highway Class 500 Series Truck									\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00		\$85,000.00				
	A9 Fire Rescue Truck									\$47,499.00	\$47,499.00						
	A9 Highway Plow Truck									\$48,916.00	\$48,916.00						
	TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES	\$0.00		\$15,000.00	\$398,570.00	\$398,570.00		\$398,570.00	\$0.00	\$181,415.00	\$181,415.00		\$85,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	TOTAL PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	TOTAL ALL FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES	\$3,710,043.00	\$0.00	\$4,202,174.50	\$4,577,048.66	\$4,592,724.66		\$4,587,861.98	\$4,349,226.98	\$4,649,964.15	\$4,800,816.15		\$4,608,976.15	\$4,072,465.58	\$4,007,861.02	\$4,009,361.02	