



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD**  
Select Board

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

**JOINT MEETING MINUTES with  
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD and  
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**July 12, 2021**

**6:00 pm**

Members of the public who wish to dial-in or participate virtually, 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

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

**1. OPEN SESSION 6:00 pm**

**Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall**

**2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

*a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021*

J. Martin explained that a motion was made June 28, 2021 by the Select Board to approve the minutes with recommended amendments that have been made. The Board signed the June 14, 2021 meeting minutes as amended.

*b. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2021*

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 28, 2021 as written.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

**3. \*AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

*a. Line-Item Transfers if any*

The Finance Committee joined the Board to review line-item transfers as follows:

**SELECT BOARD MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to transfer \$319.46 from Account #015151.000 Town counsel to #015192.002 Town Hall Misc Expense.

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

**FINANCE MOTION:** C. Smelcer made a motion to transfer \$319.46 from Account #015151.000 Town counsel to #015192.002 Town Hall Misc Expense.

**D. Brodie Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

**SELECT BOARD MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to transfer \$245.80 from Account #015151.000 Town counsel to #015192.004 External IT Support

**T. Ackley Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

**FINANCE MOTION:** C. Smelcer made a motion to transfer \$245.80 from Account #015151.000 Town counsel to #015192.004 External IT Support

**D. Brodie Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

**SELECT BOARD MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to transfer \$5,915.80 from Account #015422.010 Highway Fuel/Oil Winter Exp to #015422.009 Highway Plow Blades/Nuts/Bolt

**T. Ackley Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

**FINANCE MOTION:** C. Smelcer made a motion to transfer \$5,915.80 from Account #015422.010 Highway Fuel/Oil Winter Exp to #015422.009 Highway Plow Blades/Nuts/Bolt

**D. Brodie Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

**SELECT BOARD MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to transfer \$8,250.35 from Account #015422.011 Snow & Ice Labor to #015422.005 Salt & Sand

**T. Ackley Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

**FINANCE MOTION:** C. Smelcer made a motion to transfer \$8,250.35 from Account #015422.011 Snow & Ice Labor to #015422.005 Salt & Sand

**D. Brodie Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to move to Action Item c. Review and Take Action on Contract between the Town and Kim Gilhuly

**T. Ackley Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

***b. Review and take action on payment strategy for new mower***

The Board discussed the acquisition of a new mower with the Finance Committee. T. Cousineau reported he had been in contact with 4 dealers and recommends MB Tractor & Equipment \$7,700 with a \$500 trade in on the old mower which included a maintenance program. The mower is to replace the old mower currently used to maintain Watson Park. Garcia is recommending using Capital funds to purchase the mower. Finance Committee briefly discussed and agreed.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to take the \$7,200 for the new mower from MB Tractor out of the Capital Account**

**T. Ackley Seconded**

**All in Favor**

***c. Review and take action on the contract between the Town and Kim Gilhuly for technical assistance with coordinating efforts to help the Town achieve Dementia-Friendly designation***

Kim Gilhuly joined the Board to explain the process of coordinating this Dementia-Friendly program in the Town of Blandford explaining that the training would be for the Council on Aging, the Fire Department and the Police Department as well as any department that directly works with the public. Garcia explained that funding for this program is covered by the Baystate Health 'Better Together' grant as part of the cultural humility component of the grant. Garcia presented the draft contract between the Town and Gilhuly which Town Council reviewed and approved to form.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the contract with Kim Gilhuly for technical assistance with coordinating efforts to help the Town achieve Dementia-Friendly designation for the Town of Blandford**

**T. Ackley Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to Action Item d. Andrew Shannon for the position of Laborer/Operator/Truck Driver at the Highway Department**

**T. Ackley Seconded**

**All in Favor**

***d. Review and Take Action on recommendation of the Highway Superintendent to hire Andrew Shannon for the position of Laborer/Operator/Truck Driver at the Highway Department***

Andrew Shannon joined the board along with David Waldron, Highway Superintendent to discuss a position with the Highway Department. The Highway Superintendent recommends hiring Andrew. The Board asked Andrew a number of questions about his qualifications.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the recommendation to hire Andrew Shannon for the position of Laborer/Operator/Truck Driver at the Highway Department.**

**T. Cousineau Seconded**

**All in Favor**

***e. Review and Endorse the updated 2021-2028 draft Open space and Recreation Plan***

K. Comia from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission joined the board to present the final Open Space and Recreation Plan that the Town Committees have been working on with PVPC preparing this Resilient Master Plan for the town while focusing on the needs of Blandford. Letendre mentioned that it has come through loud and clear the frustration of Town residents due to their lack of access to our water sources. She also noted that the report mentioned that Blandford has an abundant supply of water in the town and another paragraph mentions the frustration of having no access to any of these resources for recreation purposes creating a need to enjoy these activities in other towns. Garcia mentioned that during the master planning process, it was noted that Blandford residents moved to Blandford because of its natural assets but also residents want to see coordination of recreational opportunities. Garcia is recommending the town consider planning for hiring a resource manager to help the town honor the desires of residents. This person can also work with Conservation

Commission and Planning Board through their department obligations and help with managing growth development pressures. The Board agreed.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to endorse the updated 2021-2028 Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan  
T. Ackley Seconded  
All in Favor**

*f. Review and Receive Communication from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regarding an application submitted to them by Springfield Water and Sewer Commission for the approval of the MassDEP for the commission to acquire certain lands or rights of land in Blandford for public water supply protection purposes, said land in question being identified as Lot 2 and Lot 3 of Map 403 Parcel 6.2, having been recorded in the Hampden County Register of Deeds in Book 23128, Page 420, located at Gibbs Road with the Watershed of Little River*

The Board discussed the request from Springfield Water and Sewer Commission regarding this land purchase. Letendre noted that this is the same property we voted no on first right of refusal when John Venn was interested in purchasing this property which is currently owned by Hull Forestry. T. Ackley stated that the agreement with John Venn fell through. The Board mentioned that Springfield Water now owns about one-third of Blandford. Ackley feels like this is just a land grab on the part of Springfield Water. Letendre believes we should discuss this with Town Counsel as she believes these land acquisitions are affecting the Town's tax opportunities negatively which puts a larger burden on current residents. Garcia will contact Town Counsel.

*g. Review and Accept quarterly animal control activity report submitted by the Animal Control Officer*  
The Board reviewed the quarterly report from Teresa Donovan, Animal Control Officer for the town.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to accept the ACO Quarterly Report  
T. Ackley Seconded  
All in Favor**

*h. Review and Take Action on the Contract between the Town and Pioneer Valley Planning commission for the Planning Board assistance for FY22*

Letendre reminded the Board this is the help PVPC will give the Planning Commission to help with implementing the Open Space and Recreation Plan. This contract in the amount of \$7,500 for support services has been reviewed by Town Counsel.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the contract between the Town of Blandford and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for Planning Board assistance for FY22  
T. Ackley Seconded  
All in Favor**

*i. Discussion about Select Board Reorganization*

With a new member on the Board, Ted Cousineau, the Board discussed reorganizing the Board. T. Cousineau and T. Ackley both agree that C. Letendre is doing a good job as Chairman, and it should be kept as it is.

**MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to appoint Cara Letendre as Chairman of the Blandford Select Board  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor**

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:**

***a. Attorney General extension of 90-day review period of Article 13 Blandford Special Town Meeting of March 22, 2021 regarding amending road bond bylaw***

Garcia explained Town Council was contacted by the Attorney General's office requesting more time to review the approved article regarding the amendment of our road bond bylaw. He said this is communication formally notifying the Board of this action.

***b. George Millard Road***

T. Cousineau brought up the fact that the Town is spending a great deal of tax payer money on this road, and he believes the Board should take action in this situation. Ackley is explaining the homeowner on that road caused the problem because of changes made to their driveway which changed the flow of water directing it into the road. Ackley believes we should work with the homeowner to alleviate this problem.

***c. Sperry Road Repair***

A landowner on Sperry Road approached the Board requesting that the Town grade and repair the road so the landowner may access their property. The Board is researching Town bylaws regarding this situation where the landowner purchased this property to log it in order to make a profit on Chapter 61 property.

***d. Highway Laborer for Highway Department***

Garcia told the Board that this want ad will be reposted as the Town did not receive a qualified applicant this time around.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

***a. Discussion about extending Library Hours – M. Kronholm***

M. Kronholm, Library Trustee, joined the Board to discuss increasing the Porter Memorial Library hours. Kronholm explained the Library's strategy to extend available hours to the residents and will ask to be considered in the FY23 budget discussion.

***b. Review All Department Expense Report***

The Board reviewed the updated expense report with no issues.

**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 7:19 pm

**10.\*EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

\*\*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...

\*NOTE: Audience participation/public comment is welcome only when acknowledged by the Chairman and limited to two minutes. Participation/public comment is only limited to Blandford residents who may comment on agenda items only.

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

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Cara Letendre, Chairman

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Thomas Ackley, Member

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Theodore Cousineau, Member

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Janet Lombardo, Chairman Finance

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Cathy Smelcer, Finance

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Deborah Brody, Finance