



**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  
CHESTER SELECT BOARD**

**August 09, 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**

**In Attendance:** ~~C. Letendre~~, Chairman; T. Ackley, Member; T. Cousineau, Member; J. Garcia, Town Administrator; K. Warden, TA Chester SB; J. Baldasaro, Chester SB; R. Holzman, Chester SB; J. Forgue, Chester SB; Police Chief T. Weidhass

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

*a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2021*

**MOTION:** T. Ackley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 19, 2021 as written.  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor

*b. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of August 2, 2021*

**MOTION:** T. Ackley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 2, 2021 as written.  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor

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

None

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

*a. Joint discussion with Chester Select Board regarding the Blandford/Chester Police Department*

The Town of Chester Select Board joined the Blandford Select Board for their quarterly review of the Blandford/Chester Police Department. Chief Weidhaas gave an update of her first 6 months in this position and her requests for needs for her department. The Chief talked about the increase in state requirements for training for officers that will have to be addressed as this training is mandatory. She is looking for more funds to hire

more officers. John Baldasaro acknowledged Chief Weidhaas's request and praised her for stepping into the role as chief in unprecedented times. It was discussed for the two Select Boards to have discussions with their respective Finance Committees and see how we can best support the Chief's request.

**b. HEARING: A public hearing will be held by the Blandford Select Board on the petition for joint or identical pole locations from NSTAR Electric company DBA Eversource Energy and Verizon New England upon the plans marked #5022721; 5023210; 5023745**

Mr. McCarthy, NSTAR Engineer, joined the Board to discuss the recent pole locations scheduled on North Blandford Road and Gore Road. G. Avery, Superintendent of the Water Department, joined the Board to voice his concerns about this petition as water lines have been broken in the past by Eversource and they have left the Town to absorb the cost of repair. His concern is one of these pole locations is next to an underground 12" water pipe and would also require Eversource to dig into a new road. The office of the Town Clerk also shared concerns regarding the paperwork sent from Eversource is not complete and in some areas has the wrong information and are asking for another plan for the pole location on Gore Road that could possibly damage our roads and water pipes. Garcia requested that the engineers be in touch with the Water Department and Highway Department going forward. The Select Board advised the representatives from Eversource to revisit concerns brought up and reschedule for another hearing date.

**MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to approve the request for petition for joint or identical pole locations from NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy and Verizon New England upon the plans marked #5022721; #5023210; 5023745.**

**T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor**

**MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to rescind the previous motion by T. Ackley for petition for joint or identical pole locations from NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy and Verizon New England upon the plans marked #5022721; #5023210; 5023745.**

**T. Ackley Seconded  
All in Favor**

**MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to table the request for petition for joint or identical pole locations from NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy and Verizon New England upon the plans marked #5022721; #5023210; 5023745.**

**T. Ackley Seconded  
All in Favor**

***c. Review and Receive Communication from the Department of Public Utilities regarding notice of petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of Deferral of Major Storm Threshold amounts for 2020 storms***

**MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to receive communication from the Department of Public Utilities regarding notice of petition of NSTAR Electric company dba Eversource Energy for approval of Deferral of Major Storm Threshold amounts for 2020 storms.**

**T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor**

***d. Review and Take Action on the Contract between the Town and Wright & Pierce for SCADA Design***

Wright & Pierce joined the Board to discuss the SCADA upgrade work for the Water Department. The Board reviewed the contract that has been vetted by Town Council and approved to form. G. Avery and Wright &

Pierce explained the process to the Board stating that this upgrade is essential to automate our antiquated water plant as many of the parts for repair are irreplaceable.

**MOTION:** T. Ackley made a motion to approve the contract between the Town and Wright & Pierce for SCADA Design at the Water Department  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor

*e. Review and Take Action between the Town and Eric Kinsherf, CPA for FY22 Municipal Accounting Services*

**MOTION:** T. Ackley made a motion to approve the Contract with Eric Kinsherf, CPA for FY22 Municipal Accounting Services  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor

*f. Review and Take Action on proposed amendments to RRG Contract*

**MOTION:** T. Ackley made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the RRG Contract  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor

*g. Review and Take Action on Host Community Agreement between the Town and Pudding Hill Farm*

**MOTION:** T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the amendments to the Host Community Agreement with Pudding Hill Farm  
T. Ackley Seconded  
All in Favor

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

### **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

#### *a. All Department Expense Report*

The Board reviewed and found 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 8:10 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

Absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cara Letendre, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Ackley, Member

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Theodore Cousineau, Member