



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
August 23, 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 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, absent; **T. Cousineau**, Member; **J. Garcia**, Town Administrator

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the meeting minutes until the September 7, 2021 meeting which cannot be approved because of a lack of quorum with T. Ackley's absence
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. Richard Hamel of Gore Road

Hamel joined the Board to discuss the problems he has been having with the shoulder and culvert problems on Gore Road. This information has been passed on to the Highway Superintendent for resolution.

b. Bruce Wyman, Blandford Fair President

Wyman joined the Board to announce the cancellation of the Blandford Fair due to the uptick in COVID and the Delta variant. The Board of Directors reached this difficult decision to insure the health and safety of residents and staff. Wyman assured the Board the Fair will return 'bigger and better' in 2022.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Review and Take Action on the Contract with FRCOG for procurement assistance

Garcia explained this contract is for the repair of Russell Stage Road. This has not been reviewed by Town Counsel. Garcia will follow up.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the contract with FRCOG for Procurement Assistance contingent on approval by Town Counsel
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b. Review and Take Action on Amendment date on DGMA Solar Pilot

Joe Hamel from DGMA Solar joined the Board to discuss the amendment to the Solar Pilot with the Town. Garcia explained DGMA wants to change two things: 1. Change the name of the company and 2. Remove from the original agreement 'pilot payments to begin November 2020 or after mechanical completion, whichever comes first' and just leave it as 'after mechanical completion date'. Hamel was there to explain why he is asking for this amendment. Hamel explained that the project was approved a couple years ago by the Planning Board. The original agreement stated that construction should begin within two years. They have reached out to the Planning Board for an extension. The anticipated time line was to have this built in 2020 and state incentives have dragged this on longer than anticipated so hopefully construction will start in 2022. Hamel further explained that a good deal of the hold-up has been COVID related and dealing with the state of MA where paperwork was held-up for months. The name change is in name only; nothing else has changed with the original from DG MA Solar to DG MA CS. P. Martin of the Planning Board spoke of the delays and is hoping this company will move along with these plans more quickly than they have in the past.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the DGMA solar Pilot Amendment request until the PILOT has been reviewed by Town Counsel
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

c. Discuss ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) roll-out plan

c. Discuss ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) roll-out plan

Garcia explained this ARPA roll-out plan which he distributed to the Board. He explained that this is a draft rollout plan to get the conversation started with the Select Board and gauge the Board's project direction. The Town is scheduled to receive \$366,334 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Garcia's focus in making sure the decisions are equitable, transparent, inclusive, and strategically focused on the priorities identified in the master plan, open space and recreation plan, and rapid recovery plan as eligible. Garcia mentioned that ideally this would be available on the Town Website along with a form that will be easy to use for residents, businesses, and departments to submit project suggestions. The Board at that point will review and determine what requests are priorities and go forward. Garcia noted the Town has four years to spend these funds.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Sperry Road Update

Letendre spoke to Dave Waldron, Highway Superintendent about the progress on Sperry Road regarding the mirror install that was requested of the Highway Department. Waldron stated that the mirror has been purchased and the Highway Department is waiting for permission from a neighbor to put this mirror on the corner of Russell Stage Road and Sperry Road. Letendre reported that the Runyons have given the Town a copy of their deed in an effort to help the Town determine who owns this road. Garcia reported that the GIS mapping company along with RRG, the Town's Assessors, show that all surveys and deeds provided reference the existence of the road. The Runyon's deed specifically references the road going all the way to the north line of the Mass Turnpike. Garcia further stated that unless there is a document that reflects that this road was discontinued for any reason, that at the moment, it is a Town-owned Road. Letendre requested that Waldron

speak to the Town Clerk's office to research the meeting minutes from the archives to determine if this road was in fact turned over to the Runyon family at some point.

b. George Millard Road Culvert Update

Waldron reported that Mr. Stetz has had done some work on his property placing a barrier across his upper driveway which has slowed down the water flow. Waldron reported that there is still water coming off his property next to his driveway across the road. Cousineau suggested removing the culvert that crosses the road and install one under the end of his driveway. Waldron agreed that would solve the problem. The Board requested Waldron move forward with doing the necessary repairs.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review All Department Expense Report

The Board reviewed and found no problems.

b. Highway Department Update – D. Waldron

Waldron presented a Chapter 90 request for Russell Stage Road repairs. The Board approved the Chapter 90 request. Waldron reported the Highway Department's update on previous storm repairs. Waldron mentioned we were lucky this time as there was little to no damage from the recent storm.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Chapter 90 request for Russell Stage Road repairs

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

c. Board of Health Update – J. Girard

Jennifer Girard met with the Board to report that the Town is part of a regional effort that leveraged \$91,286 (Southwick as the lead community) to establish a Public Health Clinic to be shared with surrounding towns. This process will be a multi-community project. She mentioned that the clinic would require hiring a nurse and she will include the Council on Aging in this conversation. The Board asked about a COVID update. Girard reported she is not prepared but will have a report together for the September 7, 2021 Select Board meeting.

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

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Thomas Ackley, Member

Theodore Cousineau, Member

Janet Lombardo, Chairman Finance

Cathy Smelcer, Finance

Deborah Brody, Finance