



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
November 22, 2021
6:00 pm

Members of the public who wish to dial-in or take part virtually, may do so by visiting either of the following options:

Zpom 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; T. Cousineau, Member; W. Foxmyn, Interim Town Administrator

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of November 08, 2021

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 08, 2021 as written
T. Ackley Seconded
T. Cousineau Abstained
All in Favor

b. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021 as written
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chips Norcross joined the Board to review his progress updating the Historical Society building and the events at the White Church.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve PVPC Inv #4 Community Development

The Board signed the Community Development invoice #4 has been paid. This signed paperwork will be sent to PVPC November 23, 2021.

b. Approve Warrant #11

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #11
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor**

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Pudding Hill Farm – Host Community Agreement Request for Change

The Board signed the changes to the Host Community Agreement request for Pudding Hill Farm. These changes have been vetted by Town Counsel.

b. Town Administrator Search

The Board reviewed the details of the Town Administrator search. The first review committee will meet November 26 at 10:00 am. The Board agreed on the salary range and hours.

c. Blandford Sun

Blandford Sun is requesting an amendment to the Community Host Agreement. Foxmyn is working with Harold at RRG to review this request. We will talk about this at the November 29, 2021 Select Board meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade

The Board received an official invitation from the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade committee. The Board agreed that they are interested in joining in 2022. Ackley will speak to the Fire Chief and the Police Chief.

b. 2022 Liquor Licenses

The Board tabled this discussion until the November 29, 2021 Select Board meeting.

c. All Department Expense Report

No new report available

d. Town Administrator's Report

-Town Administrator Search: Foxmyn explained that she may be leaving Blandford before a new town administrator has been hired. She introduced the Board to Caleb Mitchell who has a master's degree in Administration with a concentration in Conservation. Caleb was hired as TA for the Town of Peru since 2017. The Board agreed his credentials sound like a good match for Interim Town Administrator. Mitchell would like to offer 19 hours per week or more if necessary.

-ARPA funds: Foxmyn has recommended that the Select Board consider the request from the Water Department to spend the ARPA funds to install the carbon filtration system for the Water Department in the amount of \$57,609.38.

-Shephard Farm feasibility study was not granted.

-Hampshire Educational Collaborative: The Town was invited to participate by the Hampshire Educational Collaborative, specifically the Mass in Motion regional project. The Board of Health believes this duplicates some of the things the Town is already working on. Girard said she spoke to this organization and asked many questions. She cannot see a good reason to take part. Letendre asked if we could meet with the Mass in Motion

representative at the next Select Board meeting on November 29, 2021 so it will be clearer what is expected of the Town if we should decide to sign up.

-Intermunicipal Agreement Springfield Water: Foxmyn spoke to Town Counsel about the amendment to the Intermunicipal Agreement with Springfield Water & Sewer. She spoke to Town Counsel and has a clearer idea of what is going on. Once the response from Town Counsel is received, it will be presented at a Select Board meeting.

-CARES Act: There are still fund left in the CARES Act fund the Town received \$111,000 of which \$8,000 was distributed to date. The close-out date is December 3, 2021. Foxmyn is waiting for guidance from our accountants on how to spend this money.

-Better together grant: This grant supplied \$25,000 to distribute tablets to low-income elderly residents in Blandford as well as training. Langmore and the Council on Aging are coordinating this effort.

-Shared Human Resources Study: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has put out a bid to request quotes for an assessment of needs and options for human resources services on behalf of the Town of Blandford, Chester, Westhampton and Southampton.

-Green Communities Annual Report: Foxmyn is working with PVPC to prepare and send the required annual report. This has involved the gathering of information across several departments. Foxmyn reported that we are behind on assigned tasks and she will request an extension.

-Belle Fleur Cannabis Operation: Belle Fleur is asking for a change to their Host Community Agreement including a delivery choice. Town Counsel has been contacted and will review and advise. This may involve the Planning Board as well as the Select Board.

e. ARPA Funds Request – Carbon Filtration Systems

Foxmyn reported that she is gathering the ARPA funds requests that have been sent in by town residents.

f. Belle Fleur – Thanksgiving Turkeys

Letendre thanked Belle Fleur for offering town residents a free range, fresh, organic turkey for Thanksgiving. Two-hundred Sixty turkeys were distributed on Monday November 22, 2021.

g. Board of Health Update - Girard

The Town has been rising in the COVID numbers. Girard is asking for masks to be worn in buildings. The Board asked how many recent cases of COVID are in Town. Girard reported 10 in the past week. Letendre asked that we revisit this mandate at the next Select Board meeting on November 29, 2021.

7. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

a. Highway Update

The Highway Superintendent joined the Select Board to update the progress of the Highway Department.

-Russell Stage Road: Waldron reported it is done.

-CDL License: Waldron reported that the Highway employee is currently studying for his CDL License and things are going well.

-Triangle Reconfiguration: The ‘triangle’ at the Town Commons has been surveyed.

-Sperry Road: Still waiting on the status on this road from Springfield Water.

-North Blandford Road: Doing shoulder work in preparation for re-surfacing in the spring.

8. TABLED ITEMS:

a. Request from the Building Commissioner to consider seeking proper authorization to amend existing unregistered vehicle bylaw

9. MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

10.*EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

**NOTE: Agenda may include items not expected 48 hours before the meeting. At any point, this meeting may go into executive section if Selectboard finds it called for...

*NOTE: Audience participation/public comment is welcome only when acknowledged by the Chairperson 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