



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**JOINT MEETING with ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS and
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD**

December 06, 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; C. Mitchell, incoming Interim Town Administrator

Cara Letendre opened the meeting welcoming Caleb Mitchell to the Town of Blandford. He will be taking over for Wendy Foxmyn as of December 6, 2021 as Interim Town Administrator.

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. **No meeting minutes available**

2. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. **Highway Update – D. Waldron**

-**Highway Garage:** Waldron reported that Friday will be the interview day to choose the designers for the new Highway Garage and Fire House

-**Russell Stage Road:** There was a correction in the contract price as they overbid it by \$22,000 and will return it to the town.

-**Solar Field North Blandford Road Culvert Mitigation:** Altas Power, who owns the property was fined by DEP for creating bad run-off on Gibbs Road. The company was fined by DEP \$30,000 and will replace the culverts on Gibbs Road.

-**Mass Works Grant:** Grant has been submitted

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

a. Zoning Board of Appeals – Property Huntington Rd/Chester Road

Don Brainerd met with the Board to discuss the issue of the buildings on Huntington Road and Chester Road. Brainerd reported that this situation was brought to the attention of ZBA complaining of the problem of dump trucks and large commercial vehicles running and causing gasoline odors and noise into the night. Sonja Hutchins, ZBA Chairman, also joined the board to discuss this problem. This resident is running a business out of his residence. He does have a business license however he has not filed for a license to run his business out of his residence with the Town of Blandford. Also, the commercial trailer bodies that are on his property are prohibited in the Town of Blandford as well as dump trucks and 40' open trailers all are not allowed by Town Bylaws. Zoning is concerned about what the parameters are of this business. Is he changing truck oil there, is he fueling his vehicles there; what time does he begin business in the morning? All these things are covered by Town Bylaws. All these things would be considered when legally applying for a permit with the Town. Brainerd also reported they have received complaints from surrounding residents about all the material that are stored along the tree line while working on the large building he is currently constructing. Zoning confirmed that he has never applied for a special permit for this operation at his residence. C. Letendre suggested that Zoning speak to the Building Inspector. Letendre pointed out that there have been resident complaints about this business, therefore, we need to contact him to address the fact that his is not holding to Town Bylaws. Hutchins also noted that there is a state bylaw that does not allow large vehicles to idle for more than 15 minutes. If it can be proven by the state that it is run for more than that, his business can be shut down.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Board of Health – Mask Mandate

Girard joined the Board to discuss COVID update. She is reporting 3 new cases in Blandford.

b. Approve Warrant #12

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #12 as presented by Town Accountants
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor**

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Town Administrator Search

Foxmyn said the TA Hiring team is off and running. She is receiving a lot of interest from various publications that the application was sent to. Two applications have been received to date.

b. Sperry Road Update

Letendre shared with the Board that Mr. Robinson called regarding problems with water on his property on Sperry Road. She spoke to Dick Gates, Conservation, Rene Senecal, previous Highway Superintendent and Josh Garcia, previous Town Administrator who were all involved in this process. This land was purchased with the culvert already in place. The culvert was subsequently crushed and was replaced with a sturdier culvert. Mr. Robinson brought his complaint to the Department of Environmental Protection. The DEP contacted Conservation Commission in Blandford and the end result was they did not find anything relevant that would require the Town of Blandford to replace or repair. Letendre stated 'there is nothing we as a town can do to fix the issue.' Letendre feels confident that this situation has been investigated thoroughly by Town experts and the DEP and it is now a closed issue.

c. Blandford Sun Pilot Agreement

Foxmyn was able to contact Mr. Bishop who is the person that we have hired in the past for Pilot Agreements. His recommendation was to contact Matthew Ulman, VP of Blandford Sun acknowledging the merger with DG Northeast stating ‘The Blandford Select Board is in receipt of your letter dated November 3, 2021 regarding the Merger and assignment of the PILOT. You have notified us of your plans to merge the Developer with and into DG Northeast 21, LLC, (the “Surviving Entity”) and assign the PILOT to the Surviving Entity. We acknowledge receipt of this information.’

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to sign and approve the letter to Matthew Ulman, VP of Blandford sun

T. Ackley Seconded

All in Favor

d. Springfield Water & Sewer – Inter-Governmental Agreement

Foxmyn spoke to Town Counsel and learned that there is nothing in the agreement that she feels needs changing. Springfield Water & Sewer intend to take care of the roads themselves and not hire contractors and recommends that the Board approve this agreement.

MOTION: T. Ackley made a motion to approve the Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Town of Blandford and Springfield Water & Sewer

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Town Administrator’s Report

-Employee Use of Town Vehicle: Foxmyn spoke of a recent situation where the Town pick-up truck was given to an employee to take while taking CDL classes. She is asking what the Town policy is here. It was confirmed that employees may use Town Vehicles for meetings, etc., however, the vehicle must be returned immediately following the meeting, etc.

7. TABLED ITEMS:

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

8. MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

9. *EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**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