



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Finance Committee

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

MEETING MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 10, 2022
1:00 pm

1. OPEN SESSION 1:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

In Attendance: J. Lombardo, Absent; C. Smelcer, Member; D. Brodie, Finance; D. Mottor, Fire Chief; M. Mikuski, COA Director; T. Cousineau, Select Board; T. Donovan, ACO; C. Dunne, Town Administrator

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

None

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Start Budget Process for FY23

1. Animal Control Officer 1:00 pm

Teresa Donovan met with the Board to discuss her current budget for Animal Control and a prospective budget for a new role she will possibly accept as Inspector of Animals.

- Requested to increase Animal Control expenses of \$2,500
- FY22 Animal Control stipend budget was underfunded: it was approved as \$4,000 but posted as \$3,000.
- The position of Inspector of Animals has increased responsibility including animal inspections for rabies, quarantines resulting from dog bites, etc.
- The job will also require taking a census of all livestock (chickens, cows, goats, etc.). None of this has been completed under the previous Animal Inspector.

2. Council on Aging 1:30 pm

Margit Mikuski, Director of Council on Aging met with finance:

- Request to level fund COA
- Vehicle Line reduced to \$500
- Family of deceased resident who donated current COA vehicle requesting donations be given to COA revolving fund
- Recreation & Social events: Includes Veterans' dinner. Other communities do this; it is well received, and COA would like to see Blandford contribute
- Purchasing new storage equipment for the exercise staff
- Purchasing a shed for COA garden & outdoor cooking items
- Would like to see a handicap accessible ramp with ARPA funds
- Vehicle is 2008 and COA just spent \$555 on tires. Now that COVID is receding, COA would like to use this vehicle more often for senior needs but it needs to be replaced in the near future; Town Administrator will look for grants

3. Fire Department 1:40 pm

Chief Dave Mottor met with Finance.

- Requested decrease in FY23 budget
- Expense items and changes in funding levels between FY22 and FY23 were discussed
- Mottor reported that he spent 25% of his budget on one fire truck in FY22
- Recent transfer from reserves was discussed as well as the continued wait on approval of the contract to inspect to the Turnpike Plazas which provides the revenue for the department's revolving fund

4. Cemetery Commission 2:00 pm

Cemetery Commissioner, TJ Cousineau, met with Finance.

- Requested increase of \$400 to Commissioner stipend
- Requested decrease in expenses and increase in salary to \$10,000
- The Susan Tiffany Cemetery Trust's gradual decline in funds was discussed. Interest on the account had been sufficient until last year. Two-thirds of earnings on the trust go to the Town and a third goes to the Cemetery Commission. It was requested that this issue be brought before the Treasurer as spring cleaning and Memorial Day activities will consume the remainder of the funds for the year.
- Cemeteries under the purview of the Commission were discussed

3. NEW BUSINESS

None

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

Absent

Janet Lombardo, Chairman Finance

Cathy Smelcer, Finance

Deborah Brodie, Finance