



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD**  
Finance Committee

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

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**March 17, 2022**  
**1:00 pm**

**1. OPEN SESSION 1:00 pm**

**Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall**

**In Attendance:** J. Lombardo, Chair; C. Smelcer, Member; D. Brodie, Finance; C. Dunne, Town Administrator; Chief Weidhaas, Blandford/Chester Police Chief; C. Dunne, Town Administrator; K. Warden, Chester Town Administrator; Town of Chester Finance Committee; K. Smidy, Superintendent of Gateway Regional School District

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

None

**3. ACTION ITEMS**

***a. School Budget Review***

Kristen Smidy met with the Select Boards of Blandford and Chester to discuss the GRSD Budget for FY23. She spoke of the Alternative Assessment and Statutory Assessment differences and the finance hardship caused by decreases in enrollment at the Gateway Schools.

***b. Blandford/Chester Police Department Budget Review***

Chief Weidhaas met with both Boards to discuss a possible increase to her budget for FY23. She is asking for an administrative assistant for 10 hours per week or an additional full-time officer who can be utilized as an admin part time and officer part time. She spoke of the increase in State mandated training for officers as well as safety equipment. Weidhaas is requesting a \$10,000 increase in salary based on comparison to other small town Police Chief salaries in western Massachusetts. The Department also needs new tasers and pistols.

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

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Janet Lombardo, Chair

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Cathy Smelcer, Member

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Deborah Brodie, Member