



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
April 04, 2022
6:00 pm

OPEN SESSION 6:02 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

In attendance: C. Letendre, Chairman; T. Ackley, Member; T. Cousineau, Member; C. Dunne, Town Administrator.

OPEN SESSION 6:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

1. 2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2022

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2022
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor

b. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2022

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2022
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

c. Examination of the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2022

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2022,
as written
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor

3. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Highway Department – Waldron

North Blandford Road Police Detail: Waldron reported that he is looking into whether the grant for North Blandford Road includes police detail, and the answer is, yes and he will monitor this carefully. The decision was made to take care of scheduling police detail and the funds for this will come out of the grant.

Flat Bed 550 Replacement: Waldron got a price of \$100,300 on a new flat bed for the Highway Department. If this vehicle were ordered now, we could be in position in 3-4 months for a 2022. 2023 would be a year or so out for delivery. The Board talked about funding= including use of funds from resale of a current vehicle, proceeds from an auction of Highway assets and excess funding related to storm damage. Letendre is recommending borrowing and paying immediately when free cash is available. Waldron will speak to the Town Treasurer.

Cobble Mountain: Waldron spoke to Town Counsel. DCAMM has decided to turn the road over to Springfield Water after the gate and toward Granville/Russell. Waldron is inquiring about what will be done with the road from Route 20 to the Springfield Water gate. Letendre is recommending scheduling a meeting with Town Counsel for clarification.

DEP Meeting Gibbs Road: Waldron met with DEP stating it went well. All in attendance got a briefing about what the problems are in the area and what type of culvert will be installed.

Salt & Sand Budget: Waldron is reporting excessive increased pricing in salt and sand in the past year. He is over-budget and will be looking for funds to cover the overage.

Diesel Fuel: Letendre asked Waldron to investigate having a fuel filter installed on the Town's diesel fuel tank.

5. ACTION ITEMS

The Water Department submitted an ARPA request for \$120,235 for the water main replacement, storage tank and booster pump station evaluation. The Board declined their request as the Water Department has already received \$58,000 previously from ARPA funds.

b. Sign PVPC Invoice #9 and DLTA Grant Paperwork

-The Board signed the invoice #9 from PVPC for \$2,094.95 for the Department of Housing and Community Development.

-This is the DLTA Grant for \$15,000 with a match of \$750 from PVPC the Town, respectively. The Board signed the invoice for the study of the viability of sharing personnel and or resources between the Blandford and Chester Water Departments.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Storage Shed – Council on Aging – M. Mikuski

Margit Mikuski joined the Board to speak about getting a shed for \$800 for the Council on Aging is looking for permission to place the shed outside the back of the building where the community gardens are located. This will be utilized as storage for COA's grill, picnic table, gardening items. The Board approved and Ackley offered to locate rock bedding for the base.

b. Comprehensive Emergency Plan – Fire Chief

Chief Mottor presented this Comprehensive Emergency Plan. The Board approved the updated plan.

d. Town Administrator Report

e. Budget: There are two more departments that need to meet with Finance: Water Department and Municipal Light Board. MLB has not had a budget in the past, so Dunne will work with Langmore on that. Dunne mentioned a problem with billing between Westfield City Fiber and the Town of Blandford. Our accountants recommend that the town cover the indirect cost of the MLB (legal costs, insurance, etc.) and in exchange the Town would not be billed for the five buildings that have broadband. The Town previously

had a comparable arrangement with the Water Department. Dunne will continue working with the MLB to accurately identify indirect costs before moving forward with this arrangement.

- f. Wage & Classification Report: Dunne reported all the materials are back from the Collins Center. This study shows how like positions are paid in surrounding towns to determine how well we pay people with proposed position grades and recommendations around stipends. This report will be used as a basis for decisions around salaries and wages and could be used as a full wage and salary schedule.
- g. Green Communities: Christopher met with Mark Rabinsky about applying for a grant for a hybrid patrol vehicle for the Chester/Blandford Police Department. This will be a joint grant with Chester, so Dunne is hoping for the possibility of doubling the amount of funding that could go toward the vehicle.
- h. Belle Fleur: Canna Dash Holdings draft Host Community Agreement was reviewed. The agreement is requiring charitable contributions and Belle Fleur would like their 'turkey drive' to fill this requirement. Letendre mentioned that this is appreciated as they give us organic turkeys at Thanksgiving. These fresh turkeys are 13-15 pounds and Belle Fleur passed out three hundred of them last Thanksgiving.
- i. Competitive Power Ventures Solar: This company wants to develop on property east of Long Pond which will require an easement across the Town property. They will not be connecting to the regular distribution lines, but instead the larger transmission lines thus by-passing the current problems with Eversource capacity issues. Dunne recommended they speak with the Planning Board and would like to speak to the Select Board about what is required for this right-of-way. Conservation has been made aware of this.

j. All Department Expense Report

The Board reviewed the updated All Department Expense Report and found no problems.

e. Dog License Module Approval – D. Jemiolo

Doris Jemiolo, Town Clerk joined the group to discuss installing a dog license data base which is a project that was started two years ago after receiving a \$15,000 grant. Martin explained to the Board that there is \$940 left in the initial grant. The module will cost \$3,580 plus an annual maintenance fee. The Board approved using Reserve Funds for the balance and Joann Martin will investigate the balance of the initial grant, if any.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to pay \$2,864 for Full Circle Technologies out of Revenue Account
T. Ackley Seconded
All in Favor

8. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

9.*EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 pm

TABLED ITEMS:

- a. *Request from the Building Commissioner to consider seeking appropriate authorization to amend existing unregistered vehicle bylaw*
- b. *Shepard Farm Update*
- c. *Police Office Safe*
- d. *PC Replacement Plan*

*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.

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

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

Cara Letendre, Chairman

Thomas Ackley, Member

Theodore Cousineau, Member