



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
July 11, 2022
6:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

In attendance: C. Letendre, Chair; J. Allen, Member; T. Cousineau, Member-Zoom; C. Dunne, Town Administrator.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to go to Unfinished Business 5s. Animal Control Bylaw
J. Allen Seconded
All in Favor

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

2 *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Highway/Fire Building Committee Update – Dave Waldron, Tom Ackley, Chief Mottor:

Dave Mottor, Blandford Fire Chief, Dave Waldron, Highway Superintendent and Tom Ackley, Deputy Fire Chief, joined the Board to provide an update on the new Highway/Fire building project. Chief Mottor explained that the group is leaning toward constructing one building instead of two which will likely lower the cost tremendously. He reported that they do not know what this cost is yet, however, the design fees are much lower. It will also take the current highway building out of the equation, clearing the way for the Town Common Master Plan project to proceed to use this area for parking or reconfiguring the North Blandford Road. Allen raised questions about the use of the salt shed site, the possibility of using prefabricated steel buildings, the overall cost and transparency of the project, the proposed building and door size, heating, the requirement of using an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and water usage. Members of the Committee responded with project background and spoke to the unique challenges municipalities face in construction projects of these size due to state requirements. Letendre voiced her opinion that the Town has been transparent throughout the process and needs to trust that the OPM team and the Committee have the community's interests at heart. Letendre mentioned the need to address the diameter of the water main connecting to the site and to designate a new Select Board member to attend the Committee meetings. The estimate of the project's impact on the tax rate provided by the Treasurer-Collector was discussed as was timing with respect to paying off debt related to Hurricane Irene and road bonds. The availability of funds from solar payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreements was also discussed. Mottor concluded the discussion by saying that all information related to this

new proposed approach would be forwarded to the OPM and that the Committee would work with the Town Administrator to ensure funds are available to fulfill the contract with the OPM.

b. Highway Update

State Aid Reimbursement – Chapter 90: Waldron presented the paperwork for signature by the Select Board to collect this Chapter 90 money from the State for North Blandford Road.

Northern Tree Service: Waldron reported that Northern Tree Service is currently trimming from 23 North Street to Old Chester Road to reduce tree canopy which prolongs the life of Town roads considerably.

Sidewinder: Waldron priced this at \$82,000 installed. This vehicle which attaches to the back of the Town dump truck will enable the Highway Department to fill ditches.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Warrant #27

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #27 for payment.

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Plumbing Inspector Fee Schedule – Aaron Poteat

Aaron Poteat met with the Board to submit a proposed fee update for plumbing & gas permit work.

MOTION: J. Allen made a motion to approve the new Plumbing & Gas Inspection fees.

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

J. Martin will get the fee schedule posted on the Town of Blandford website as well as putting in a change request to Permit Eyes.

b. Animal Control Bylaws – Teresa Donovan

Teresa Donovan joined the Select Board to talk about the Animal Control Bylaws for the Town of Blandford.

Donovan advised the Select Board that there are Blandford bylaws that she believes should be amended.

Donovan listed her recommended changes. Donovan will work with Christopher Dunne to present these bylaw changes at the Annual Town Meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. OTHER BUSINESS, IF ANY:

a. Cobble Mountain Road

C. Letendre reported that she spoke to Jon Gould, Senator Hind’s aide, about an amendment the Senator is proposing to the transportation bond bill requesting that the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM) give Blandford residents access to Cobble Mountain Road for recreation purposes. She looks forward to hearing about the outcome of the legislative process on this amendment.

8.*EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 pm

TABLED ITEMS:

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

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

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board
And Christopher Dunne, Town Administrator

Cara Letendre, Chair

Jeff Allen, Member

Theodore Cousineau, Member