



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
October 03, 2022
6:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

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

Meeting Open at 6:00 pm
Meeting is recorded

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a. Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2022

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of September 12, 2022, as written

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

b. Examination of the Select Board Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2022

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the Select Board Executive Session Meeting minutes of September 12, 2022, as written

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

2. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

*a. **Highway Department Report; Dave Waldron***

N. Blandford Road: Waldron reported the repaving of N. Blandford Road is almost complete.

North Street & Chester Road Tree Trimming: This work has been completed by Northern Tree

Playground paving work: This work will not be completed until the spring of 2023

*b. **Town Administrator's Report***

*(1) **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant:***

Kickoff on October 6: Dunne is working with Chester and Middlefield on this grant that was

awarded to look at dirt roads and culverts in town and prioritize improvements to each community's network of unpaved roads.

(2) ***FY20 Community Development Block Grant: Housing Rehabilitation and Leah Bacon's gym classes:***

Funding under the FY20 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was awarded for housing rehabilitation. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) initially had a number of interested homeowners but challenges with lead paint, the housing market and other issues have slowed the program's progress.

Dunne also spoke to PVPC about Leah Bacon's exercise classes and will reach out to her with any grant opportunities that are identified.

(3) ***Baystate Health Better Together Grant: Device availability***

Dunne reported the program to provide residents age 55+ with new computers and training is moving forward. The Town ordered 22 Chromebooks which have been recently delivered. Residents who applied will receive a Chromebook touch screen, mouse, and a case. Trainings for interested residents still need to be scheduled with a local consultant.

ii) *Other Department updates:*

(1) ***Board of Assessors: Hiring of Cathy Smelcer as Administrative Assistant***

Cathy Smelcer has been hired by the Board of Assessors and has started today. She will be trained by Regional Resource Group (RRG).

iii) *Ongoing projects:*

(1) ***Beaver issues on Blair Road: discussions with Springfield Water***

Dick Gates is working with Springfield Water & Sewer Commission (SWSC) on the beaver-related flooding on Blair Road are looking at a list of trappers to take care of the issue. The Board of Health agreed to work with Springfield Water who will defray some of the cost.

(2) ***Library renovation updates***

Dunne provided an update on discussions with Nicole Daviau, Library Director and Byam Stevens, Cultural Council. They are exploring the option of a feasibility study for the expansion of the library which will help clarify high-level design ideas and costs.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve PVPC Finance Warrant #14

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve Warrant #14 for PVPC for payment
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

b. Approve PVPC Finance Warrant #15

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve Warrant #15 for PVPC for payment
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

- c. **Review and act on response** to request for records of any costs imposed on the Town of Blandford that are reasonably related to the operation of the Pudding Hill Farm, LLC marijuana establishment

In light of the legislature's changes to the way Host Community Agreements (HCAs) work in the Commonwealth, Dunne visited Pudding Hill Farm to discuss waiving the impact fee. Given the lack of documentable impacts from the facility, he is recommending waiving the fee and updating the HCA accordingly when it next needs to be revisited in spring 2023.

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to act in response to the request for records of any costs imposed on the Town of Blandford that are reasonably related to the operation of the Pudding Hill Farm, LLC marijuana. Attached: letter responding to Pudding Hill's request of last week as part of their licensing process.

C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. ***All Department Expenditure Report***

The Board reviewed the Expenditure report and found no major concerns.

b. ***Town Clerk – Conflict of Interest***

Town Clerk, Doris Jemiolo, reported to the Board that she will be sending letters out to those hired, appointed, and elected who have not completed their conflict-of-interest test as required when they first onboarded.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

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

Cara Letendre, Chair

Jeffery Allen, Member

Theodore Cousineau, Member