



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
April 10, 2023
6:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

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

Meeting Open at 6:00 pm
Meeting is recorded

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2023

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2023, as written
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2023

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2023, as written
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

c. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2023

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2023, as amended
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

2. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

George Reichert joined the Board to inquire about landscaping in the Town. The Board explained it was still a bit early to start spring clean-up, but plans are underway to begin soon.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. **Highway Department**

-Culvert Pipes: Waldron wants to remind residents that they need to clean out their culvert pipe if there is one in their driveway. Dunne will add this to his monthly newsletter to the residents.

-Overlay vs. Rubber Chip Seal: Waldron is looking into putting a 2" overlay on a ½ mile of Beech and Crooks Roads which will be approximately \$172,000 for both roads. Waldron is considering putting down rubber chip seal as an alternative on Julius Hall Road, Beech Hill, Herrick Road, Wyman Road, Glasgow, Sunset Rock and Crooks Road at an estimated cost of \$225,000. This rubber chip seal should last 5-7 years, however, because of the location of these roads and the lack of traffic, this means the roads will last longer than 5-7 years. Waldron believes the rubber chip seal is the way to go. He also looked into having all of these roads done with overlay and the estimated cost was \$450,000.

-Pot Holes: The crew is beginning to fill potholes.

b. **Town Administrator**

i. Finance/Budget:

1. **Reserve Fund Transfers** for IT, Hilltown and Water: As expected at this time of year, we are looking at Reserve Fund transfers for those accounts that have been depleted and faced the need for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures. Dunne is looking into how much needs to be transferred from the Reserve Fund. Unfortunately, the IT line item is depleted because Windows started requiring security updates midway through the fiscal year. More to come after meeting with the Finance Committee on April 13.

ii. Grants

1. Baystate **Better Together** closeout: Training for the Chromebooks has given to seniors is complete. Dunne will close out this grant and sends a thank you to Margit Mikuski, Council on Aging as she did much of the legwork.
2. Baystate **Health Community Benefits Investment** and New England Mountain Biking Association (**NEMBA**) **Trails grants**: Dunne reported submitting a grant request to the Baystate Health Community benefits program. This grant is specifically for the work we would like to do at Shepard Farm for recreation use for now. Dunne is hoping to hear about this by mid-May.

iii. Ongoing Projects

1. **Resilient Dirt Roads** update: The first of the community meetings for this program will be Friday, April 14 at the Council on Aging luncheon. Paula Bilodeau is the Town's liaison for this project and handed out flyers at the Transfer Station on Saturday. The second of these meetings will be April 24 at 5:30 pm. Dunne is hoping we get some direction from residents traveling and living on these roads every day to give us a better idea of what is needed for improvements.
2. **Fire-Highway Facility** Project update: Dunne is looking at having several public outreach meetings in May.

iv. Other Departments

1. Water Department: **SCADA** construction bid update: This project is ready to go out to bid this week. Wright & Pierce has distributed all the documents. The Water

Department is working on obtaining a no-interest loan through the state's revolving fund for clean water projects.

2. Fire Department: **Fire Chief** Position Update: The Town of Chester reached out to say they would be interested in looking into collaborating on the Fire Chief position. There are differences we need to discuss, and Dunne believes we can work together on this process as both Towns did with the shared Police program.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. ***REDO funds were awarded to Blandford Fair for fence repair in the amount of \$6,000:***
Cousineau questioned where the REDO funds are for the Fairgrounds as spring is around the corner and the Blandford Fair Board is ready to move forward. Dunne will work on getting this out on the next warrant.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **All Departmental Expenditure Report:** The Board reviewed the report. Christopher will follow up on the few minor problems found.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

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

Cara Letendre, Chair

Theodore Cousineau, Member

Jeffery Allen, Member