



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
SELECT BOARD

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 06, 2023
4:00 pm

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a. *Examination of the Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023*

MOTION: J. Lombardo made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023, as written
D. Brodie Seconded
All in Favor

b. *Examination of the Meeting Minutes of January 31, 2023*

MOTION: J. Lombardo made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 31, 2023, as written
D. Brodie Seconded
All in Favor

c. *Examination of the Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023*

MOTION: J. Lombardo made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023, as written
D. Brodie Seconded
All in Favor

d. *Examination of the Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2023*

MOTION: J. Lombardo made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2023, as written
D. Brodie Seconded
All in Favor

2. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. *Town Administrator*

i. *Overview of Warrant for Special Town Meeting March 13, 2023*

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Draft recommendations for Special Town meeting Warrant articles per Bylaw III, Section 8

- a. Article 1 - Final Payments, North Blandford Road:** In the fall of 2022, this road was identified as a priority. The Town was awarded a grant of just shy of \$1,000,000 from the Mass-Works program. FRCOG put it out for bid and Palmer Paving was awarded the project which they completed for \$1,800,000. The balance of the project after Chapter 90 and other grants was \$180,000 which will be on the Warrant for this meeting. Waldron was successful finding other Winter Assist Grants for over \$200,000. The proposal is to take \$180,000 from Capital Projects.
- b. Articles 2 & 3: Transfers for Departmental Budgets:** Internal transfer of \$2,000 from one part of Highway’s budget to another for tree canopy work. Also, the Fire Department expenses have been running ‘hot’ this year, so the proposal is to transfer \$10,000 from the Hampden County Retirement Board line item to shore up the Fire Department Expense account since the Town overbudgeted for the Retirement Board assessment.
- c. Articles 4 & 5: Resilient Dirt Roads grant:** This is a grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program which focuses on resiliency in the face of climate change. This project will specifically look at our network of dirt roads. This grant requires a local cash match of \$7,500 which this article would take out of Free Cash. The Community Liaison position for this project will be reimbursed by a grant, so the proposal is to take \$5,000 from Free Cash. Free Cash is currently \$780,000.
- d. Article 6:** This proposal will allow the Town to sell town-owned property on Kaolin Road that is land locked.
- e. Article 7:** The Water Department has received a proposal from Wright & Pierce for over \$800,000 for construction of the SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) upgrades at the treatment plant. These funds will be borrowed and the debt paid back by water users.
- f. Article 8:** Community Aggregation: This will enable the Town to investigate lowering our electricity bills through bulk purchasing. Residents can participate or opt out.
- g. Article 9:** Addresses a past year bill from Hilltown Community Ambulance of about \$3,000 for transportation of a volunteer firefighter suffering from breathing issues after working to extinguish a vehicle fire.

b. Review compiled Fiscal Year 2024 Departmental Budget requests and updated estimates from the Town Administrator

The Finance Committee reviewed the draft budget for FY24 and approved or made recommendations for changes for each department and line item. The Committee will meet again on March 29, 2023, at 9:30 am to finalize the budget.

Janet Lombardo, Finance Chair

Absent

Kathie Hudson, Finance Member

Deborah Brodie, Finance Member

Kevin Green, Finance Member