



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD**  
Select Board

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

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD**  
**June 15, 2023**  
**6:00 pm**

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

**In attendance:** C. Letendre, Chair-Absent; 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 May 08, 2023***

**MOTION:** J. Allen made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of May 08, 2023, as written.

**T. Cousineau Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**MOTION:** T. Cousineau made a motion to move to 3bi1: SCADA Bids

**J. Allen Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**a. Highway – D. Waldron**

-**Beech Hill Road:** Eversource will be on Beech Hill Road to take care of tree trimming from the Town line down to Julius Hall Road.

-**Beech Hill Road:** All State will be putting down rubber seal next week

-**Northern Tree:** Trimming being done on Shepard Road

-**Grading Completed:** Hayden Road from Birch Hill to the triangle; Gibbs Road; Blair Road; Huntington Road is mostly done.

**b. Town Administrator**

**i. Other Departments**

**1. *Water Department: SCADA bid updates***

Wright & Pierce joined the Select Board along with Gordon Avery, Water Superintendent and Brad Curry, Water Commission Chair, to discuss the SCADA

construction bids which came in higher than anticipated. Dunne explained the cost of this Water Department project has increased substantially over the past three years as have most construction projects. Once the contract is in place, the Town will negotiate with the low bidder on a reduced scope with the hope of bringing the cost of the project down to the original amount. Wright & Pierce pointed out the areas of the scope of the project that can be reduced. Dunne will search for grants that are available for this project. This will be presented at a special Town Meeting. Gordon Avery, Water Department Superintendent, stated that if there is any increase in the water rates resulting from construction costs, it will be minor.

**MOTION:** J. Allen made a motion to approve the Warrant for Special Town Meeting to be held at 7 PM on Thursday, June 29 at the Town Hall.

**T. Cousineau Seconded**

**All in Favor**

The Board discussed the second article on the Warrant which addressed a slight increase in the Hampden County Retirement Board assessment for FY24.

**MOTION:** T. Cousineau made a motion to move to Departmental Reports 3a.

**J. Allen Seconded**

**All in Favor**

2. ***Springfield Water and Sewer Updates***

-Brush Truck: Dunne is reporting that contacts at Springfield Water & Sewer have indicated a willingness to help the Town purchase a Brush Truck. Chief Dolby is looking into pricing. Hopefully, this will be done mid to late summer.

-Julius Hall – Stone: Springfield Water is also willing to purchase the stone needed for Julius Hall Road which they use to access the Reservoir.

-Forest Stewardship Plans: Springfield Water is open to funding and working with Blandford's Conservation Commission on the development of stewardship plans for the Town's forests so long as water quality is among the priorities for these plans. If these plans are used as a jumping off point for targeted forestry, this could ultimately become a revenue source for the Town for capital expenditures.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. ***Review and act on proposed Year-End Transfers***

Tabled

b. ***Review and act on Memorandum of Agreement with Massachusetts Department of Transportation for bike passage signage***

Tabled

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

c. ***Community Compact IT grant: quote received from VADAR in the amount of \$60,000 for installation of cloud-based municipal finance software***

Tabled

d. ***ARPA: quote received for Town Hall backup power transfer switch architectural design work in the amount of \$22,900***

Tabled

*e. Building Inspector: Permit Fee updates*

Tabled

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

*f.* Gazebo Repair – Watson Park

Linda Barnard, Historical Commission, joined the Board to talk about doing some repairs/maintenance to the Gazebo in Watson Park. Barnard will review with the Historical Commission.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm

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

Absent

Cara Letendre, Chair

Theodore Cousineau, Member

Jeffery Allen, Member