



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
September 11, 2023
3:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

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

Meeting Opens at 3:20 pm:

1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) *Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2023*

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2023, as written
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

b) *Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2023*
Tabled

2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. Reichert joined the Board to point out the condition of Bicentennial Park. The Board will look into his concerns.

3) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) *Highway Superintendent-Dave Waldron*

Culvert – Gibbs Road: Waldron spoke to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the culvert on Gibbs Road. The paperwork has been signed and Blandford is waiting for the funds to be transferred.

Salt & Sand Bids: Regular Sale - \$72.60/ton; Treated Salt - \$93.60/ton; Sant - \$18.75/ton.

Highway Laborer Resignation: Waldron reported one of his crew, Andrew Shannon, will be resigning and working for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. We wish him well.

b) Town Administrator

i) *Finance: Fire Service Group invoices; capital planning*

Dunne summarized the background of how the Town ended up with Fire Service Group noting that Chief Mottor switched to Fire Service Group while he was Fire Chief as he did not feel the then current company providing sprinkler and alarm inspectional services were keeping the Town in full

compliance. Dunne noted that since we started using Fire Service Group, the bills have been more frequent and high but whether this is a result of Fire Service Group's billing practices or simply deferred maintenance for work that should have been performed by the previous company is an open question. Dunne will work with Finance to transfer funds to this line item from the Reserve Fund.

ii) Grants: Community Compact Best Practices – Local Hazard Mitigation Planning and Asset Management (Tree risk assessment and canopy survey); Resilient Dirt Roads update

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning: Dunne will meet with a company this week that does risk assessment with public trees. The idea is that they do a 'windshield' survey of the trees along our roads to determine what trees are threatening roads or power lines in order to supply some data to work with in planning our yearly budgets for tree removal or canopy work. Cousineau asked about the line of trees on Chester Road near the Martin property that he believes were supposed to be removed a year ago. Dunne will get in touch with the Tree Warden regarding these.

Resilient Dirt Roads: Dunne is working with Pioneer Valley Planning to identify the dirt roads that are impacted by beavers' activities. Fuss & O'Neill, the project consultant, will be performing site visits prior to issuing recommendations.

iii) Ongoing projects: Draft Snow & Ice Management Plan

Dunne has been working with the Highway Superintendent on a draft management plan for snow and ice prompted by the large snowstorm in March. Dunne has asked the Board to review and plan and make suggestions to refine it.

iv) Personnel: resignation of Lynn Kane as Treasurer-Collector effective September 28; Animal Control stipend

Treasurer-Collector Resignation: Dunne presented Lynn Kane's resignation as Treasurer-Collector. Dunne will put out an RFP for a consultant that offers these services though in the past, Mass MuniFin has been the only bidder so we could expect them to be back in place in early October.

Animal Control Stipend: Chief Dubiel is filling in as Interim Animal Control Officer. Dunne asked the Board if their intention is to give the Chief the stipend for Animal Control Officer until another is hired on a quarterly basis. The Select Board agreed that she should receive the quarterly stipend beginning with payroll for October 1, 2023.

v) Miscellaneous: 2023 Blandford Fair debrief; Town corner marker scavenger hunt

Blandford Fair Debrief: Dunne reported that he had heard mostly positive feedback with respect to the Blandford Fair this year and we are looking forward to working with them in the future. Dunne would like to get the Blandford Fair Board together with the Blandford Select Board to see if there is anything we can do to promote and help with the growth of the Blandford Fair in the coming months. Letendre noted she was happy to see local police officers joining in and mingling with fair goers.

Town Corner Markers: M. Kronholm brought to Dunne's attention that every five years, each town is supposed to find markers at the town's corners with other municipalities. Two residents can be chosen to undertake this search by the Select Board. This has not been done in years and Kronholm and him agreed that turning this into a "scavenger hunt" might be fun for residents who enjoy hiking, etc. Dunne will promote this in his next monthly newsletter.

4) ACTION ITEMS

a) Review and act on FY2024 Warrant #4

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to review and approve Warrant #4 for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

b) Review and act on FY2024 Warrant #5

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to review and approve Warrant #5 for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

c) Review and act on FY2024 Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) Advisory Board Appointments of Select Board Chair and Town Administrator

J. Martin will get the appointment paperwork together for signature at the October 2, 2023, Select Board Meeting.

d) Review and act on Commission on Disability appointment - Christopher Dunne from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, for signature

The Select Board signed the appointment for Christopher Dunne to the Commission on Disability from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

e) Review and act on Commission on Disability appointment - M. Mikuski – one year: July 1, 2023 - June 30 – July 1, 2024 for signature

The Select Board signed the appointment for Margit Mikuski to the Commission on Disability from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

f) Review and act on Commission on Disability appointment - M. Kronholm – two years: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025, for signature

The Select Board signed the appointment for Mary Kronholm to the Commission on Disability from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

g) Review and act on Commission on Disability appointment - J. MacKinnon – three years: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026, for signature

The Select board signed the appointment for Judith MacKinnon to the Commission on Disability from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026.

h) Review and act on Finance Committee appointment - Jackie Coury – three years: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026, for signature

The Select Board signed the appointment for Jackie Coury to the Commission on Disability from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026.

i) Review and act on Interim Animal Control Officer appointment - J. Dubiel – three years: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, for signature

The Select Board signed the appointment for Jennifer Dubiel as Animal Control Officer for the term July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

j) Review and act on Conservation Agent appointment - Nicolas Pietroniro - Conservation Agent – three years: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026, for signature

The Select Board signed the appointment for Nicolas Pietroniro as Conservation Agent for the term July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026

5) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6) **NEW BUSINESS**

7) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: C. Letendre adjourned the Select Board meeting to move the Eversource Pole Hearing for 43 Beech Hill Road

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

In Attendance: Town Clerk, Doris Jemiolo
Select Board, Cara Letendre, TJ Cousineau
Town Administrator, Christopher Dunne
Eversource, Nicole Scarbro

Nicole Scarbro explained a customer is building a house on 43 Beech Hill Road. They need a mid-span pole to get power to their house. Scarbro provided clarification on several minor questions from the Select Board.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Pole Petition located on 43 Beech Hill Road, Blandford and to install one (1) solely owned mid-span pole to be located one thousand seven hundred eight-eight (1,788) feet southwest of the intersection with Hall Road.

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 pm.

TABLED ITEMS

*NOTE: Audience participation/public comment is welcome only when acknowledged by the Chair and limited to two minutes. Participation/public comment is limited to Blandford residents who may comment on agenda items only. The Town of Blandford is committed to the full participation of people with disabilities and Town Hall is handicapped accessible. Persons who require special accommodations including an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in the Town's programs, services, or activities, should contact the Town Administrator at (413) 848-4279 ex. 502 at least 15 calendar days in advance of a meeting.

**NOTE: Agenda may include items not reasonably expected 48 hours before the meeting.

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

Cara Letendre, Chair

Absent

Jeff Allen, Member

Theodore Cousineau, Member