



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
October 23, 2023
6:00 pm**

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

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

Meeting Opens at 6:00 pm

1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023, as written

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

Geroge Reichert expressed his concerns over the quality of the sound in the Select Board meeting recordings and offered to pay for any needed improvements.

3) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway Superintendent – Waldron

Absent

Town Administrator

1. Finance: Finance Committee meeting rescheduled

The Finance Committee meeting has been rescheduled as there was not a quorum for the last scheduled meeting. The meeting is Monday, October 30 to take care of some reserve fund transfers that have been discussed.

2. Personnel Updates

a. Rene Senecal, previous Highway Superintendent is working in Dave Waldron's absence. Dunne presented an agreement Senecal would like in writing from the Town.

b. Dunne told the Select Board that he has taken a position with the Town of Deerfield and will be tendering his resignation, serving through December 1, 2023. He spoke about working with the Select Board to set up a screening committee to interview

prospective interviewees, develop a job description and circulate as widely as possible, and assist in the hiring of the new Town Administrator and hiring of an Interim-Town Administrator if necessary.

3. *Other Departments: SCADA Project loan forgiveness*

Dunne reported that the state will be forgiving nearly 40% of the loan taken out by the Town to cover water treatment plant upgrades. This project remains over \$700,000 but that is far better than the nearly \$1,200,000 the amount was before the forgiveness.

4) ACTION ITEMS

1. *Review and act on Fiscal Year 2024 Warrant #8*

**MOTION: J. Allen made a motion to approve Warrant #8 for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

2. *Review and act on contract amendment with City Point Partners for owner's project manager (OPM) services through schematic design of the proposed Fire-Highway Facility Project*

Tabled

3. *Review and act on 2024 liquor license fees*

The Board reviewed the fee for liquor licenses. The Board had previously decided through COVID to pause that fee. J. Allen believes the Town should still give them a break on these fees as it's been a tough three years for all. He believes we should charge \$150 for 2024.

**MOTION: J. Allen made a motion to charge \$150 for FY24 Liquor License Fee for the Blandford Country Club and The Blandford Country Store.
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

4. *Appoint Sara Hunter as Treasurer-Collector for the term July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024*

**MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to appoint Sara Hunter as Treasurer-Collector for the term July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024
J. Allen Seconded
All in Favor**

5) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. *Bicentennial Park maintenance*

Dunne presented a quote from Liberty Tree Care for the Norway Maple in Bicentennial Park. These folks are qualified arborists, and they do this in the fall for around \$900. J. Allen pointed out that there is also a charge for trimming the bushes which should not be included in the quote. Dunne will follow up.

2. *Maple Lane*

After speaking with Town Counsel and the Treasurer-Collector, the property is going to remain in Tax Title. We are not obligated to accept that road or foreclose on it. Dunne will reach out to the Town's tax-title attorney about identifying the heirs to the property. Our Treasurer is adamant that it is not a good idea to waive the taking and our assessors are adamant that they cannot exempt the property without it being owned by the Town of Blandford. This 'road' is owned by one private individual who is deceased. The other homes on the street have only been granted a common use of it.

3. *Town Hall Leach Field*

Cousineau explained this leach field is not a health risk, but it needs occasional maintenance which has not been happening. Dunne spoke with a resident, Ryan Bengle, who took care of cutting back overgrowth in this area and Dunne will investigate yearly maintenance going forward.

6) NEW BUSINESS

1. *All Departmental Expenditure Report*

Tabled

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

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

Absent

Cara Letendre, Chair

Jeff Allen, Member

Theodore Cousineau, Member