



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
November 20, 2023
6:00 pm**

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

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

Meeting Open at 6:00 pm

Meeting is recorded

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to move to Action Item b) Review and act on Appointment of Ira Brezinsky to the position of Interim Town Administrator

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2023

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2023

C. Letendre Seconded

All in Favor

b) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 06, 2023

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 06, 2023, as written

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

c) Examination of the Select Board Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 06, 2023

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 06, 2023, as written

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

2) **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jennifer Girard, **Board of Health** – Conversation about whether the Town of Blandford has a **Betterment Program**. Sara Hunter, Town Treasurer/Collector confirmed that we do have a Betterment Program. Girard will work with Hunter and the DEP.

3) **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

a) Town Administrator

i) ***Grants: Community Compact Best Practices – Fire Regionalization and Transportation Asset Management***

Dunne has reported he spoke with Blandford's Interim Fire Chief Dolby and the Fire Chief from Chester about a shared Fire Chief position. The biggest hurdle will be that Chester does not fund the Fire Chief's salary fully and Blandford provides around \$25,000 for the position. The grant funding could help bridge this gap for a full-time Chief between the two towns at \$60-70,000 annually. Other elements of a grant application could include e-permitting and project management.

ii) ***Town Administrator search process update***

The preliminary screening committee met last week and narrowed down the number of candidates to a handful. Preliminary interviews will be held Thursday, November 30. Hopefully, there will be two or three candidates for the Select Board to interview by December 4.

iii) ***Transition documents and plan***

Dunne sent over a copy of the annotated budget to the Finance Committee this week.

4) **ACTION ITEMS**

a) ***Review and act on FY24 Warrant #10 for payment***

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #10 for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b) ***Review and act on appointment of Ira Brezinsky to position of Interim Town Administrator***

Welcome Ira. The Select Board reviewed the contract for the position of Interim Town administrator. Ira joined the Board via Zoom. He will spend the day with Christopher Dunne November 21, 2023, and has already spent some time with the Finance Committee.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Ira Brezinsky to the position of Interim Town Administrator until the full-time hire of a Town Administrator or until Monday January 15, 2023, whichever is earlier.
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

Brezinski reported to the Board that he has been working with Dunne and stated he is very impressed with what Dunne has done in terms of organizing transition documents.

c) ***Review and act on extension of FY2020 Blandford CDBG program***

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is looking for an extension to this program. The current end date is December 31, 2023, and they are looking to extend it to June 30, 2024, to increase the period of availability of funds and period of performance. The extension will extend the period of performance to the end of the term and allow for changes in personnel and allow for the completion of rehab projects in Blandford. Dunne noted that the justification letter provided by PVPC was a little unclear and that he would reach back out again to clarify and see if the aforementioned septic project could be funded through their Housing Rehabilitation program.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the extension of the FY2020 Blandford CDBG Program through June 20, 2024, contingent on the conversation between Christopher Dunne and the project contact.

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

5) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

6) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) ***Animal Inspection vehicle***

This vehicle was turned over to Animal Control several years ago. Dunne explained this vehicle was overlooked and is not currently on the Town's insurance. He will reach out to the Animal Inspector, Teresa Donovan, and request she return the vehicle to the Town Hall while the Select Board reviews the granting of vehicle use in this case.

b) ***Icy road conditions***

Dunne reported there was a recent accident due to icy roads. Highway will look into purchasing caution signs for in front of 9 Russell Stage Road while the Town continues to investigate where this water is leaking from.

7) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm

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

Cara Letendre, Chair

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member