



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
November 27, 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

Cara Letendre opened the meeting by introducing Ira Brezinsky, Interim Town Administrator to our meeting via Zoom. Ira will replace Christopher Dunne as of December 4, 2023, until the time a permanent Town Administrator is appointed.

1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2023

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2023, as written

J. Allen Seconded

C. Letendre Abstained

All in Favor

b) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2023

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2023, as written

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

c) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023, as written

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) *Highway Department – Dave Waldron*

-The plow-request letters have not been received from Maple Lane or Beagle Club. The Highway Department will plow the road doing the best they can under the deteriorated circumstances.

-Highway has been working on Gore Road. There is water running into the road that will be filled with asphalt to hopefully eliminate the problem.

-Highway will put cones out on Russell Stage Road as a warning when ice builds up. Letendre requested Waldron to order a slow-ice sign.

-Waldron mentioned that it was reported to him through the Facebook grapevine that somebody was reporting icy conditions. He is requesting residents call 911 to report this to the State Police after hours as the Highway Department does not look for information on Facebook.

b) *Town Administrator – Christopher Dunne*

i) *Town Administrator search process update*

Dunne reported there were two candidates that dropped out of the interview process so the Screening Committee will be interviewing 2 prospective candidates scheduled for Thursday.

Hopefully, this will go well so we will have 2 candidates for the Select Board to interview.

Dunne reported that applications are still coming in. The meeting on November 30 will not be a public meeting. The final candidates will be interviewed by the Select Board in an open meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023.

4) ACTION ITEMS

a) *Review and act on FY24 Payroll Warrant #10*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the FY24 Payroll for Warrant #10

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

b) *Review and act on 2024 Liquor License application for Blandford Country Club*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the FY24 Liquor License application for the Blandford Country Club Liquor License for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

c) *Review and act on 2024 Liquor License application for Blandford Country Store*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the FY24 Liquor License application for The Blandford Country Store Liquor License for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

5) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Animal Inspection vehicle

Letendre reported that recent information came to the attention of the Town Administrator. The State Animal Inspector has been using this vehicle in this position. Dunne investigated our Vehicle Use Policy which clearly states that the vehicle is for on-call or for those who may need the vehicle for emergency purposes. Dunne stated that the Animal Inspector position requires that the Inspector drive around Blandford and check the condition of animals in town. She is not involved in emergency animal services. Dunne is requesting the vehicle be returned to Blandford so this situation can be cleared up as there seems to be a lot of confusion around this retired cruiser.

b) Septic repair funds

Dunne reached out to the Town's auditors requesting they investigate this fund to see if there are remaining funds. They stated they did not have any insight as they were not involved with this Trust fund Account. Dunne will work with the Blandford's Town Treasurer to see if this can be worked out. Dunne also reached out to Pioneer Valley Planning about the Community Development Block Grant that we currently have for housing rehabilitation. They said they could potentially take on a couple more projects.

6) NEW BUSINESS

a) All Department Expenditure Report

The Board reviewed the current Expenditure Report and found few problems.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 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