



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
December 11, 2023
6:00 pm**

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

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

Meeting Open at 6:00 pm

Meeting is recorded

1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2023

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of December 04, 2023, as written
C. Letendre Seconded
All in Favor

2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

- a)** George Reichert – Presented a letter regarding thanking a SB member for helping with Bicentennial Park
- b)** Lloyd Martin – Reporting about illegal hunting in his area

3) TOWN ADMINISTRATOR FINALIST INTERVIEWS

a) 6:00 Jesse Permar Kelly

This interview is tabled until the December 18, 2023, Select Board meeting.

b) 6:45 Mark Siegars

Mark Siegars joined the Select Board to be interviewed for the position of Town Administrator. The Board asked a series of questions of the candidate as well as giving the candidate a chance to ask any questions.

c) 7:30 Michael Szlosek

Michael Szlosek joined the Select Board to be interviewed for the position of Town Administrator. The Board asked a series of questions of the candidate as well as giving the candidate a chance to ask any questions.

4) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) Highway Department – Dave Waldron

-December 10 Ice Warning: Waldron reported he was out at 3:00 am monitoring the roads for icy conditions. The weather changed from 51degrees at 7:00 pm and by 3:00 am it was down to 45 degrees, so the temperatures did not go down as much as previously reported.

-James Start Resignation: Waldron reported that James Start, Highway Laborer has resigned and is taking a position in Huntington. We wish him well and thank him for his time in Blandford.

-Highway Laborer Position: Waldron reported he had no luck to date getting a qualified applicant for the Highway position available. There was talk about possibly paying for the CDL training license and raising the hourly rate of pay. Waldron pointed out that pay rates in the area are higher in other towns as well as the pay rate for working for the DOT, which is where previous employee, Andrew Shannon went when he resigned at a higher pay rate.

-Salt Barn Road-Widen the site: Waldron is requesting the Board approve widening the road to the Salt Barn as the large trucks obscure the sight of the driver when pulling out of the Salt Barn area. The Select Board is recommending the Ash Tree line item to pay for this work.

-Eversource regarding protecting power lines: Waldron reported he met with Eversource. They will be starting this project in 2024 removing ash trees in Blandford.

-Russell Stage Water Leak: Water Department hired a contractor to investigate the illusive water leak on Russell Stage Road.

b) Town Administrator – Ira Brezinsky

i) TA search update: Screening Committee: Brezinsky reported the Screening Committee completed their work and have forwarded three potential candidates to interview. Jesse Permar Kelly will not join the Select Board this evening however, Mark Siegars and Michael Szlosek will be here for a formal interview by the Select Board. Jesse Permar Kelly will be interviewed December 18.

ii) Electrical Renovation and Modification to Standby Generator update

Brezinsky reported that the Town is required to reach out for three quotes for the stand-by generator work to be done. John VanHeynigen, Blandford's Electrical Inspector will reach out for quotes. Letendre noted the \$30,000 from ARPA funds that is still in place for this project.

iii) Signed copies of Springfield Water and Sewer Commission IGA's have been sent

The Inter-Governmental Agreement from Springfield Water was signed and sent out last week.

5) **ACTION ITEMS**

a) ***MIIA Valuation Update Invoice***

Brezinsky asked that this updated invoice be tabled to be presented at the December 18 meeting as he believes there may be potential credits.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table Action Item 5a) MIIA Valuation Update invoice
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b) Approve Warrant #11 Payroll for Payment

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #11 Payroll for payment
J. Allen Seconded
All in Favor

6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Animal Control / Inspection vehicle

Brezinsky reported he spoke to Don Humason, Town Administrator in Chester, who believes this vehicle is currently owned by Chester, however, it is not. Chester would like to keep this vehicle in their fleet if the Select Board approves. It is not insured currently. Letendre explained that this was originally an Animal Control Vehicle. Now that this position has been given to the Chester/Blandford Police Department, this needs to be paid through the Chester/Blandford Police agreement. Letendre is questioning the need for another vehicle in this fleet. Martin pointed out that Terri Donovan, who is the state Animal Inspector, needs the vehicle for this. Ira will reach out to Don Humason to let him know that Blandford would like to talk about whether this vehicle is worth keeping.

7) NEW BUSINESS

a) Acceptance of Community Compact IT Grant

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Community IT Grant in the amount of \$80,000
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b) All Departmental Expenditure Report Review

The current All Departmental Expenditure Report is not yet available.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the All-Departmental Expenditure Report until the December 18, 2023, meeting.
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

8) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board
and Ira Brezinski, Interim Town Administrator

Cara Letendre, Chair

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member