



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**JOINT MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD and
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
5:30 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 (via Zoom); D. Hopson, Assessor Chair; P. Martin, Assessor Member; S. Jemiolo, Assessor Member; Harald Scheid, Regional Resource Group

In accordance with Mass General Law. c.40, s56, the Select Board conducted a public hearing on the question of adoption of percentages of the total tax levy to be borne by each class of real property (residential, open space, commercial, industrial, and personal property) for fiscal year 2024. The hearing was held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 5:30 in the Blandford Town Hall located at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford MA 01008. All interested parties were invited to attend and be heard. The hearing was also available to attend via zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2155918777>

Mr. Scheid reported that the estimated 2024 tax rate will be \$11.50, a reduction of 15.8% from the FY2023 rate of \$13.66. This is a result of an approximate 17% increase in assessed property values from the prior year, combined with the Town's decision at the Annual Town Meeting not to tax to the Levy Limit. Under Proposition 2 ½, the FY2023 Levy Limit was \$4,017,659 and the FY2024 Levy Limit is \$4,283,638. The approved levy to be raised at the ATM was \$3,462,68, leaving an Excess Levy Capacity of \$820,957.

The Board of Assessors and RRG recommended that the Select Board once again vote to approve a tax rate with a factor of 1, meaning that all classifications of taxable property in the Town of Blandford will be taxed at the same rate.

Motion was made by C. Letendre to adopt a factor of one for all classes of property in Blandford for FY2024. Seconded by Jeff Allen. Motion passed unanimously.

1) MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50 PM.

*NOTE: Audience participation/public comment is welcome only when acknowledged by the Chair and limited to two minutes. Participation/public comment is only limited to Blandford residents who may comment on agenda items only.

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

Submitted by Joann Martin

Administrative Assistant to the Select Board
and Ira Brezinsky, Interim Town Administrator

Cara Letendre, Chair

Jeff Allen, Member

Theodore Cousineau, Member

D. Hopson, Board of Assessors

P. Martin, Board of Assessors

S. Jemiolo, Board of Assessors