



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
Monday, February 05, 2024
6:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

In attendance: C. Letendre, Chair; J. Allen, Member; T. Cousineau, Member; M. Szlosek, 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 January 08, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of January 08, 2024, as written
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b. Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024, as written
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

c. Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2024, as written
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) Highway Department – Dave Waldron

- New employee interview: Waldron presented a potential highway employee for Select Board review. The Select Board asked questions and a decision will be made by Monday, February 12, 2024.
- Salt Barn diesel clean up: Waldron reported the report from Tighe & Bond has been received confirming the completion of the clean-up. The shut off nozzle has been repaired.
- Water Lines: Water lines on Russell Stage Road just above Sperry Road need to be upgraded to 8" pipe. He will work with the Town Administrator on Mass Works grants which will include Beech Hill Road, Russell Stage Road, and Gore Road.
- Mini Excavator: Waldron presented five quotes to the Select Board for purchasing a new mini-excavator. The funds will be taken out of free cash. The old excavator will be sold on Municibid. The Town Administrator will include this as a warrant article at the Special Town Meeting.

b) Town Administrator – Mike Szlosek

- PVPC: The budget amendment has been signed and returned to PVPC.
- Draft Severe Weather Policy: Szlosek presented a draft weather policy for the Town of Blandford. The Select Board will review, mark changes, and forward it to the Town Administrator.
- VDAR Financial Software: Szlosek reported requesting three quotes which have not been received to date.
- Roof Leak: On January 31, Cabot Risk was here to look at the areas of the roof that are leaking in case we are covered.
- MIIA Medical Coverage: Szlosek reported a 9.95% increase in medical insurance coverage from MIIA. There will be no increase in dental. Szlosek recommends bundling as we may save some money. He will investigate this.

4) ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Warrant #15, AP & Payroll & Supplemental
Tabled

b. Draft Letter to: CDBG Senior Program Rep from PVPC

PVPC requested letter of endorsement for contract amendment to Technical Assistance Grant for Water Department.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the draft letter for the Community Development building grant senior program from Pioneer Valley Planning
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

c. Approve PVPC Invoice #30 Housing & Community Development

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the PVPC Invoice #30 for Senior Housing & Community Development Grant Payment
J. Allen Seconded
All in Motion

d. Contract Amendment #1: Technical Assistant Grant – Shared Water Operator Services

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Amendment #1 to the Technical Assistance Grant – Shared Water Operator Services to extend the deadline to January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024. This does not change the total compensation
T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

5) NEW BUSINESS

a) All Departmental Expenditure Report

The Board reviewed the current report and found a few problems. The Town Administrator will follow up.

b) Draft Emergency Closing (Severe Weather) Policy Review

See Town Administrator Report

c) Draft Blandford CDF Proposed Budget Amendment CDBG

See Town Administrator Report

d) Veteran Agent Complaint – Joseph Henning

Cousineau asked about the current complaint from Dead River Oil Company. Joseph Henning is our Veteran's Agent and was advocating that the person not to be charged a same-day delivery fee on a weekend. Allen reported that all oil companies charge a fee for last minute deliveries. Letendre is happy to know our Veteran's Agent is advocating for a resident however, he needs to show some decorum. Mike Szlosek, Town Administrator, will send a letter to Joseph Henning. Allen reiterated that fees of this kind are pretty much procedure with any oil company for same-day call-in delivery.

e) Permit Request Complaint: Letendre reported she received a complaint from a resident who requested a plumbing inspection through Permit Eyes on January 24, 2024, and heard nothing from the Town's plumbing inspector. He was contacted by the Select Board office and the inspection is now complete. The Town Administrator will send a letter to Aaron Poteat requesting that these inspections be done in a timely manner.

6) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board
and Mike Szlosek, Town Administrator

Cara Letendre, Chair

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member