



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD**  
Select Board

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

**JOINT SELECT BOARD and TOWN OF CHESTER and WATER  
DEPARTMENT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**  
**6:30 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; G. Avery, Water Superintendent; M. Keier, Water Commissioner; **Town of Chester Finance & Chester Water Department.**

**1) NEW BUSINESS**

**a) *Annual Review of the Shared Blandford Chester Police Department & Chief Dubiel's Performance***  
In Attendance: **Craig Gauthier**, Chester; **Jane Sutton**, Chester; **Bob Twyman**, Blandford; **Ira Brezinsky**, PVPC; **Fire Chief Henry Fristik**, Chester; **Terry Donovan**, Chester; **Richard Holzman**, Chester; **Bob Daley**, Chester; **Andy Myers**, Chester; **Don Humason**, Town Administrator Chester; **Mary Kronholm**, Blandford & Country Journal, **Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel**, Chester/Blandford **Police Chief**; **Dave Mottor**, Retired Blandford Fire Chief; **Eric Weiss**, PVPC; **Andy Sutton**, Select Board Chester; **John Baldasaro**, Select Board Chester

**b) *Proposed Exploration into a Shared Blandford Chester Fire Department Fire Chief***

The Town of Chester and the Town of Blandford met to discuss the annual review of the Blandford/Chester Police Chief, Jennifer Dubiel, as well as the proposed idea to share a Fire Chief between the towns. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Ira Brezinsky and Eric Weiss joined to guide both towns through this process. The Town of Blandford mentioned there are no issues with Chief Dubiel. Jeff Allen mentioned he gets many positive comments about the Chief and that she is very understanding and helpful. Chief Dubiel gave her annual report on her department's activities. Letendre spoke about the situation with the Animal Control vehicle. The vehicle was sent out for evaluation by Chester, and it was found to need a new transmission. Chief Dubiel does not believe it is worth putting any money into this vehicle. Chester says they want the vehicle as they have already put a good deal of money into it. Both Towns agree this agreement is working out extremely well. The Boards agreed to meet semi-annually. Letendre reported Blandford received the grant to start exploring the option of sharing a fire chief with the Town of Chester. Chester believes this is another great opportunity for both towns as we have shown we work well together. Suggestions were examined and a general idea began to form based on the individual needs of the Towns. The group will continue to organize, realizing this could take one to two years to fully implement.

**c) *Shared Blandford/Chester Water Treatment Operator and Grant***

The Towns discussed the ongoing grant opportunity to share a Water Treatment Operator between Blandford and Chester. Chester is reporting they believe things are moving along and look forward to our continuing collaboration. Blandford Water Department was invited but did not join the meeting.

**d) *Review/Update of the MVP Resilient Dirt Roads Grant (Chester/Blandford/Middlefield) with PVPC***  
Humason reported this grant has been going for about 2 years now and we are all happy to see it end at the end of June 2024. Humason reported that each of the three towns had to pay \$7,500 to be considered for this grant. In return, we will receive a study of our community's roads including culvert recommendations. Baldasaro believes this is a wonderful opportunity to lay a foundation for future grants.

**e) *Disposition of Animal Control Vehicle now held in Chester***  
From 1b.) above: Letendre spoke about the situation with the Animal Control vehicle. The vehicle was sent out for evaluation by Chester, and it was found to need a new transmission. Chief Dubiel does not believe it is worth putting any money into this vehicle. Chester says they want the vehicle as they have already put a good deal of money into it. Chester would like to take the vehicle as they had already invested money in the vehicle. The keys were turned over to one of the Blandford/Chester Police Officer and the registration was turned over to Don Humason, Town Administrator, Town of Chester.

**f) *Treasurer Clerk Position***  
Joann Martin approached the Board to talk about taking some hours working for the Treasurer/Tax Collector, Sara Hunter. Martin will continue her position as Select Board Administrative Assistant. She will start on March 04, 2024. The Select Board approved this position which could possibly be an extra 15 hours.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Joann Martin as Treasurer/Tax Collector Clerk**  
**J. Allen Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

**g) *Approve Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 18, 2024***  
The Board reviewed the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 18, 2024, as written**  
**T. Cousineau Seconded**  
**All in Favor**

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

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

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Cara Letendre, Chair

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T. Cousineau, Member

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J. Allen, Member