



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD**  
Select Board

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

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD**  
**Monday, March 18, 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; Mark Reich, Town Counsel; David Hopson, Moderator; D. Jemiolo, Town Clerk

Meeting Open at 6:00 pm

Meeting is recorded and zoom

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to move to New Business 5a) Water Department  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor

**1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT**

a) ***Aubrey Hultay – Civics Project:*** Aubrey is a Blandford resident, and she is working on her current project which is to generate interest in an exit off the Mass Pike in Blandford and bring it forward to vote on. Aubrey presented her project with confidence. Town Council, Mark Reich, recommended that she create a draft question. The question was asked if it is too late to get on the ballot. Town Council stated this can be on the ballot in June 2024 as a non-binding vote. He also recommended Aubrey do the research and develop the ballot question advising her as to where she can go to research and develop this ballot question.

**3) DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

a) ***Highway Department:*** None

b) ***Town Administrator:***

-**Shared Fire Services:** The meeting is tentatively set for March 26, 2024, at 5:00 pm at the Chester Fire Department.

-**Hilltown Community Ambulance Association:** Szlosek reported the Board will need to appoint somebody to the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association. Szlosek will put the word out to see if anybody is interested and Mary Kronholm will put an article in the Country Journal.

-**MIIA Risk Management Review:** Szlosek gave a general review of the new rates for FY25.

-**Water Department Meeting:** Szlosek is joining a Water meeting to work on resolving the problems with the joint grant with Chester for Shared Water Department operator.

-**Eversource 5-Year Vegetation Management Plan:** Szlosek presented this management plan to the Select Board. He spoke of the need to point out the areas in town that would be impacted by the

products used to de-foliate. Letendre recommended passing this by the Conservation Commission. However, Jennifer Girard stated she believes the product they use for removing vegetation is safe around all areas including water. Letendre inquired about what departments he has shared this with. Szlosek stated he will keep this management plan in his office for those who are interested in seeing this.

-Library Contract: Letendre inquired about the Library Contract. Szlosek has tried to reach out (not specific about where) to get a draft contract but have not heard back from this person. Town Counsel Mark Reich recommended Szlosek do the draft contract himself and recommended where to find these contract templates.

- c) **Board of Health**: Jennifer Girard, Director of the Board of Health, joined the Select Board to speak about the boarded-up house that Kevin Green reported at 6 Hayden Road. Girard worked with Interim Fire Chief, Adam Dolby to secure the home and a registered letter is being sent to the owner.

4) **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. ***Approve Warrant #18 Payroll for Payment***

**MOTION**: C. Letendre made a motion to table Warrant #18 Payroll until the March 25 Select Board meeting.

**T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor**

- b. ***Review of Special Town Meeting Warrant – Town Administrator, Select Board, Town Clerk, Moderator and Town Counsel.***

Town Moderator, Town Counsel, Blandford Select Board, Blandford Town Clerk and Blandford Town Administrator reviewed the articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant scheduled March 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

5) **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Tree Clean-Up on Water Department property**: Gordon Avery joined the board to discuss using the Ash Tree line item to clean up the trees on the access road to the Water Department. Avery offered a price quote for this work of \$4,500. Avery believes the overhanging branches are a hazard for larger vehicles. Letendre asked if Avery reached out to the Tree Warden. Avery stated he has been trying to contact him since October and he will not answer his phone or return calls. This is when Avery moved forward and met with the Select Board and the Town Administrator to help resolve this problem. The Select Board informed Avery they will look at the quote and speak to Mark Boomsma, Tree Warden about this situation.

6) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 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