



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
Monday, April 08, 2024
6:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

In attendance: C. Letendre, Chair; J. Allen, Member; T. Cousineau, Member-absent; M. Szlosek, Town Administrator

1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) *Examination of the Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the Select Board Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) *Highway Department*

-Rural Road Beaver Problem: Waldron is still waiting for this study to be done.

-Nye Brook Road Landslide: Nye Brook road landslide is cleaned up and will be seeded. The cost to clean this is \$13,800 which will come out of Highway budget. Szlosek will see if there is any funding available.

-125 Chester Road: Allen spoke to Waldron about the flooding problem at 125 Chester Road. Allen believes Highway should be responsible for this problem. Allen is suggesting the ditch be cleared out about 15-25 feet. A resident across the street mentioned the town promised to maintain this ditch many years ago, however, no paperwork is in place stating this. Waldron will have his crew work on this.

-Flag Discussion: The Highway Department has taken on the responsibility to raise and lower, take down and put up of flags however, their bucket truck is out being repaired. The flags will be put up as soon as the bucket truck is repaired.

b) *Town Administrator*

-Sprinkler Update: The quote for repair of the sprinkler pump of \$5,460. The Select Board requested a second quote, however, do this quickly.

-Union Negotiations Update: Szlosek reported filling out all the paperwork for the upcoming negotiations and has not heard from them yet.

-Landslide Update: The landslide on 75 Russell Stage Road has been cleared and Szlosek arranged a “right of entry” from the residents of 1 Nye Brook Road to allow the town to access the full landslide.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Right of Entry for 75 Russell Stage Road

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

-Bid for Bicentennial Work: Szlosek reported the Trust for Bicentennial Park is nearly depleted. Szlosek and the Treasurer will research possible unintentional mis-posting of funds to pay for maintenance to Bicentennial Park Trust instead of the Watson Park Trust. If this is the case, it will be transferred back to the Bicentennial Park Trust.

-Plumbing Post Office Update: Szlosek reported the plumbing problem at the Post Office has not been completely repaired. However, John Hoppe did some repairs which has corrected the problem for short-term. Szlosek will reach out for quotes.

-Building Meeting Recap: Szlosek reported most of the meeting was a re-cap of what was discussed previously. It was decided that the Salt Shed is the only logical place for the fire building. The committee would like to go forward with the fire building only and hope to get a rough design from the OPM by the next meeting.

-ADA Update: The State is asking for an audit based on the grant presented to Blandford for upgrades, handles, grab bars, etc. They are now requesting a follow-up audit. Szlosek will collaborate with them.

-Town Hall Roof: Now that the snow is beginning to melt, Szlosek will get a better look at the roof to see what can be done. He is suggesting patching for now and will get quotes for that and ultimately requesting quotes to replace the roof.

4) **ACTION ITEMS**

a) *Approve Warrant #20 Accounts Payable for payment*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #20 Accounts Payable for payment

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

b) *ImageCast Precinct 2 Tabulator – Town Clerk*

The Town Clerk’s office would like to purchase this ImageCast DVS 110-1 Precinct Cast Tabulator which will ensure accurate ballot counting and eliminates human error and reduce costs at elections. Kronholm explained the Town Clerk’s office needs to send a letter of approval from the Select Board to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the purchase of the ImageCast Precinct 2 Tabulator at a cost of \$6,700.

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

5) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) *All Departmental Expenditure Report*: The Board reviewed and Szlosek will follow up. The Board reviewed and found few errors.

b) Hilltown Ambulance 3rd Quarter Report: The Board reviewed the 3rd Quarter Report. The Select Board reviewed the Hilltown Ambulance 3rd quarter activity. Total calls 26; Responded 24; Transported 17; Responded as Paramedic level 14.

c) Beacon Hill – Kimberly Driscoll: C. Letendre joined a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Kimberly Driscoll and Senator Paul Mark. The talk centered around the housing crisis in Massachusetts which would be centered around affordable housing. Letendre spoke about the Town working on affordable housing for the elderly in Blandford for those who do not wish to leave Blandford as they age, however there is not much funding from the state. She reported the East/West rail is very much in the works and there is a push to get young people interested in municipal jobs. This training is already happening at Gateway with Superintendent Kristen Smidy.

6) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

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

Cara Letendre, Chair

Absent

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member