



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD SELECT BOARD
May 06, 2024
6:00 pm

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

In attendance: C. Letendre, Chair; J. Allen, Member; T. Cousineau, Member

1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

George Reichert – Weekly suggestions

3) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) *Highway Department – Dave Waldron, Superintendent*

- i) *Chapter 90:*** Waldron reported the chapter 90 rules have changed. Waldron is attending zoom classes.
- ii) *Gibbs Road:*** The road has been graded by White Wolf and it is wider.
- iii) *Tighe & Bond:*** Overpass and playground quotes will be here next week for repair cost.
- iv) *Union Negotiations:*** Underway with Dave Hopson

4) ACTION ITEMS

a. *Appoint Jennifer Girard to Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Jennifer Girard to Emergency management for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

b. *Appoint Adam Dolby to Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Adam Dolby to Emergency Management for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

c. *Appoint Aaron Poteat as Plumbing & Gas Inspector for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: C. Letendre made motion to appoint Aaron Poteat as Plumbing & Gas Inspector for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- d. *Appoint Theodore Cousineau as PVPC (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) Alternate for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Theodore Cousineau as PVPC Alternate for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- e. *Appoint David Waldron as Highway Superintendent for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint David Waldron as Highway Superintendent for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- f. *Appoint David Waldron to Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint David Waldron to Emergency management for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- g. *Appoint Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel to Emergency Management for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Jennifer Dubiel to Emergency management for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- h. *Appoint Janet Strausberg to the Cultural Council for the term April 01, 2024, through June 30, 2026*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Janet Strausberg to the Cultural Council for the term April 01, 2024, through June 30, 2026
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- i. *Appoint Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel as Chester/Blandford Police Chief for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Jennifer Dubiel as Chester/Blandford Police Chief for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

j. Appoint Joann Martin to the Recreation Committee July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Joann Martin to the Recreation Committee for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2027
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

k. Approve Warrant #21 Payroll

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #21 Payroll for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

l. Appoint Christopher Dunne Consultant for the Town of Blandford. Letendre hired our previous Town Administrator, Christopher Dunne, as a consultant to assist the Town through the budget/year-end activities. He is proposing 10-12 hours off site, virtual attendance of the mini-town meeting, in-person attendance at the Annual Town meeting based on availability and remaining hours and the rate would be \$50/hour. The deliverables would be the FY25 budget, Water Enterprise, Broadband Enterprise, Town Meeting Warrant, and FY25 narrative letter.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Christopher Dunne Consultant for the Town of Blandford
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

m. Approve Warrant #22 Accounts Payable

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #22 Accounts Payable for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

n. MIIA FY 2025 Renewal Proposal for approval

Jennifer Girard, Director of the Board of Health joined to Board to discuss her recent negotiations with the MIIA renewal proposal for FY25 specifically to discuss work training credits that are offered by MIIA explaining that MIIA offers work training for employees and depending on how many of the work credit classes you implement, will determine your refund for the fiscal year. Letendre asked if these training sessions have been done and we have not done the paperwork? Girard believes none of this training has been done in the past. Girard recommended hiring a person that is trained in risk management and having their team (which would consist of a representative from each department) who would meet quarterly and coordinate these trainings. Once trained, MIIA will approve the training and issue credit. This program would require planning and implementing; however, the Town has the potential to save a lot of money.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the MIA FY25 Renewal Proposal
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

5) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) All Departmental Expenditure Report

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the All-Departmental Expenditure Report
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b) FRTA (Franklin Regional Transit Authority) Update – Margit Mikuski, Director COA

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the FRTA Update until further notice
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

d) Dirt Road Study – Paula Bilodeau

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the Road Study until further notice
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

e) One Room School House, Nye Brook Road – Linda & Rick Barnard – C. Letendre apologized as she forgot to send the information to town counsel. She will take care of this asap. This discussion is tabled by the Select Board.

f) Highway Superintendent Contract Discussion

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the Highway Superintendent Contract Discussion until the next Select Board Meeting
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

g) Eversource Study – Peter Langmore: Langmore upon investigating saving money in the fiber hut by moving our energy source to Constellation Energy found that Constellation could take care of the rest of the Town's buildings. He requested that Constellation Energy quote the Town on their energy rates. We are currently paying Eversource 16.17 cents per kilowatt hour. Constellation came back with 12.63 per kilowatt hour. Constellation's contract could be for up to 60 months but as little as 12 months. Langmore is recommending the 60 months as it is the most practical. Our average yearly cost to Eversource is \$44,871. Constellation Energy would be \$35,000 which is a savings of \$9,871 per year. This would be a locked-in rate for 5 years.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to switch our electric company from Eversource to Constellation Energy for the contract term of 2024-2029
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

6) **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Cara Letendre, Chair

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member