



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
SELECT BOARD

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 25, 2024  
3:00 pm

Meeting held in Select Board Chambers

In attendance: J. Coury, Chair; J. Lombardo, Member; D. Brodie, Member; K. Green, Member

1) EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) *Examination of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2024*

**MOTION:** J. Coury made a motion to approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2024, as written

J. Lombardo Seconded

All in Favor

2) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3) NEW BUSINESS

a) *Discuss setting up a time to meet with Rene Senecal, Interim-Highway Superintendent as there may be a need for additional Highway Department funding as the Winter Highway account will be running in a deficit shortly. Further information will be available on Friday.*

The Committee discussed the pending deficit in Winter Highway Plow Blades/Nuts/Bolts Account #01-423-5480-000000-0000. It is understood by all that legally this is the only account that is allowed to run in a deficit. The Finance Committee recommends paying the outstanding bills with this account. Once this account is at zero, remaining funds would be taken from Account #01-422-5240-000000-0000 Highway Equipment Repairs-Outside Servies. The Finance Committee does not approve increasing the Highway budget at this time.

Coury will send an email to Rene Senecal to go forward with meeting with the Select Board, as he had already planned, and review what other “outside of FY25 budget” expenses he foresees for the remainder of FY25 and why it is needed. Coury will also share “actual dollars spent” over the past 3 years in the Highway accounts as a point of reference for Senecal to review.

4) ACTION ITEMS

a) *Finance Committee to approve and recommend funding for paying Gill Engineering for work already performed on Beech Hill Road project \$30,759.00.*

The Beech Hill Bridge Improvement Project (Assessment & Pre-development Phase); it is recognized that

the Grant is for \$100,000 yet the invoice will be for \$130,759 per the contract with Gill Engineering. The Finance Committee recommends the following:

1. A warrant be added at the next town meeting to move \$30,759 from Free Cash, acknowledging the finance invoices must be paid once received.
2. In addition, Cristina Ferrera, Town Administrator, will investigate applying for \$30,000 from Fair Share Funding with the intent of repaying Free Cash, if possible.
3. There may be an opportunity to obtain the \$30,000 via Springfield Water & Sewer applying for a grant, however, that will not occur until FY26 and has a lower likelihood of being approved.
4. The Construction Phase of this project was discussed whereas the grant submitted by the previous Highway supervisor was declined for approval. It may be possible to re-apply but it will not occur until January 2026. Before doing so, the Select Board would need to determine if going forward with the recommendations from Gill Engineering is worthy of the investment at this time and the lengthy process of applying for another grant.

Finance Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

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Janet Lombardo, Finance

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Jackie Coury, Finance Chair

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Deborah Brodie, Finance Member

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Kevin Green, Finance Member