



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2024
6:00 pm**

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

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

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of July 29, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to table the Select Board Meeting Minutes of July 29, 2024, as written

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

b) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2024, as amended

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

c) Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024, as written

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

d) Examination of the Select Board Executive Session Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Executive Session Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024, as written

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

e) Examination of the Select Board Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 03, 2024

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 03, 2024, as written
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT*

G. Reichert – Update on Post Office painting

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) Town Administrator – C. Ferrera

-Draft Warrant Special Town Meeting: Ferrera reported she is still waiting for information to complete the special town warrant. Letendre reported that the residents at 95 Main Street, which was the second location the Town was interested in for the new Fire Station, has stated they are not interested in selling. That eliminates that choice for the Fire Department, so we are back to the Salt Shed area.

-Accounting Services: Ferrera stated her joint frustration with other department regarding the lack of response from our outsourced Accounting services. She believes we should have a meeting with Kinsharf to discuss the scope of work outlined in the contract that is not being met. To make matters worse, there are 3 key people in this organization, and Kinsharf informed Ferrera that we are now down to having only two points of contact with his company, which will only make things worse. Ferrera requested a meeting with Kinsharf and the Select Board. This meeting will be scheduled for the November 04 Select Board meeting.

-Highway Superintendent Job Description: Ferrera reported she plans to sit down with Rene Senecal to take a closer look at the current job description for Highway Superintendent and is requesting the Select Board note what they would like to see changed and what they would like to offer. There has been talk about offering a part-time secretary for this position. Ferrera is requesting the SB give their recommendation before next week of what they would like to see in the job description.

-Depleted Inventory Highway: Ferrera pointed out that the Finance Committee will need to transfer funds from Reserve as the entire Highway winter supply inventory of cutting blades, bolts, lights, etc. has been depleted. Senecal said historically and best practices would be to have 3-5 items of each item in stock. The account it should be paid out of is also depleted. This is due to truck kits that were purchased last year and paid for this year. Senecal is able to deficit-spend on this account and Ferrera will work with Finance.

b) Highway Superintendent – R. Senecal

-Gutters Installed/Transfer Station: The gutters were installed at the shop and the deal was for them to repair at the Transfer Station because the Highway Department damaged them. They replaced the two entire lengths. Senecal reported a guarantee on installation for a minimum of one year. There is also an extended guarantee on the product.

-Road Patching: The Crew is working on Lloyds Hill and Cobble Mountain this week. That should complete the majority of the patchwork.

-Loggers Using Roads: Senecal is pointing out problems in the current procedure the Town uses to approve logging companies. A year ago, Beulah Land was logged, and the company destroyed the ditches. Senecal sees no application for logging on this particular job and a list of the roads this company will use. Senecal is concerned about the wear and tear on Blandford's dirt roads. Letendre inquired if this was the situation where we require a bond for these companies, and it was approved at Town meeting. This was retracted because there was no way to take measurements before and after to prove when the damage was done. Senecal believes these companies should be responsible for notifying

the Town when they are traveling on our private roads and what roads they will be using. These companies are required to do a logging plan for every job. Senecal is reminding the Board that the Town had to pay for the damages on Beulah Land Road. Letendre inquired if we have any recourse. Senecal stated because we did not set the criteria previously, we don't have a leg to stand on.

c) **Board of Health – J. Girard**

-103 Main St: Girard reported not making any progress here and she will begin attaching fines but before we can, Girard will need a hard copy of the complaints regarding 103 Main Street pool being a danger to the public.

-Nye Brook Road Previous Complaint: Girard believes this situation has been settled with the trash on the side of the road so she is closing the complaint.

-Albano Drive: Girard asked Town Administrator, Cristina Ferrera to report this situation to the Select Board. Ferrera explained there was an anonymous complaint regarding a very remote lot on Albano Drive with a trailer and temporary electricity. Surprisingly, somebody is living there and has been for the past two years. The Anonymous caller stated that the people that are staying there have mental health issues which is why they want to stay anonymous. There is no septic. Pictures were provided of the area. There were dozens of sealed buckets on the property as well. Jason Fogue, Building Inspector has been in touch with the owner of the property and drove by to assess the situation. Fogue explained to them that without a building permit they are not allowed to live on the property. They must go through the Zoning Board of Appeals for a permit if they intend to build. Jennifer Girard noted that the Board of Health is ready and waiting to hear from the Building Inspector to see what the response is from Albano Drive. She has heard nothing and will move forward on sending a letter to cease living there. Girard will have the Police Chief deliver the letter.

-Complaints from McDonalds Customers: Girard has been receiving complaints regarding McDonalds and the onion/e coli breakout. The Board of Health is taking care of this.

-Accounting Fixed Account Problems: Girard report that he had fixed the errors on the BOH account however, the revolving account will not be fixed immediately.

-Meeting with MIIA: Subjects covered will be 1) Harassment in the Workplace 2) Toolbox Talk and 3) Working Alone Policy

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

a) *Approve Warrant #07 Payroll for payment*

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #07 Payroll for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

b) *Approve Warrant #08 Payroll for payment*

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #08 Payroll for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

c) *Approve Warrant #09 Payroll for payment*

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #09 Payroll for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

d) *Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Springfield Water & Sewer-North Lane Road Improvements*

The Board discussed this agreement presented by Springfield Water & Sewer. Jeff Allen does not believe North Lane Road is in Blandford. The Board discovered this road is in Granville. The agreement is tabled.

e) *Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Springfield Water & Sewer-Brush Truck*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Springfield Water & Sewer for the Brush Truck

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

f) *Approve FY24 Green Communities Report*

Ferrera reported this report has been completed for FY24. Once signed, it will be submitted to PVPC for filing with the State.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the FY24 Green Communities Report submitted by Town Administrator's office

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) *Discuss Highway Superintendent Position Details for Employment Ad*

Discussed under Town Administrator's report.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L.c.30A, , §21(a)(2) to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the public body

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) *Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the public body.*

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Cara Letendre, Chair

Absent

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member