



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 04, 2024
6:00 pm**

Meeting held in the Select Board Chamber, Town Hall

In attendance: C. Letendre, Chair-Absent; T. Cousineau, Member; J. Allen, Member; C. Ferrera, Town Administrator Meeting Opens at 6:01 pm

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) *Examination of the Select Board Meeting Minutes of July 29, 2024 – MOTIONED BUT NOT SIGNED*

The Select Board amended these Meeting Minutes at the last Select Board meeting. The amended motion was made at that time and the Meeting Minutes are signed this evening.

1. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT*

None

2. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator – C. Ferrera

- a) Draft Warrant for Special Town Meeting – Table
- b) Gill Engineering: Ferrera and Senecal will meet with Gill Engineering to discuss the contract work on Beech Hill at an additional cost of \$30,000. Because we did not get the grant funding for that construction phase we are short. Ferrera stated that since we are not doing the permitting part of this project, can we use some of that funding to pay what is due?
- c) Job Posting for Highway Superintendent: Ferrera will work with Senecal to develop an updated job description.
- d) Pudding Hill: Ferrera will meet with attorneys to discuss a new Host Community Agreement they want to sign for Pudding Hill. Town counsel believes this is a very detailed area so the Board should talk about it before signing. Ferrera states that this looks fine to her and will send to legal for a final go ahead.
- e) Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant: The receipt of this grant has been acknowledged.
- f) Informational Packet/Special Town Meeting: We are still waiting for information from Weston & Sampson before we can move forward with this.
- g) Heavy Trucks/North Blandford Road November 12: Ferrera reported there will be heavy trucks traveling on N. Blandford Road November 12, 2024, and she has discussed this with the Highway Superintendent. Senecal reported this road is rated for that kind of traffic and should not be a problem. This request came from the Town of Otis.
- h) Mr. Kanna, Chester Road: Ferrera stated that she has not received the quotes from Mr. Kanna for the upgrade of their problem with the tree belt in front of this property. In the meantime, the Town received

a letter from our insurance company stating that they have settled the claim for \$4,822 for the damage due to the leaking fire hydrant. This file is now closed.

- i) Albano Drive: Jason Forgue, Building Inspector has spoken with the owner of Albano Drive and let him know that people cannot live there without an occupancy permit. The owner stated they will not stay there and Forgue will follow up in a couple week. In the meantime, Fire Chief Dolby stated that there was an incident there this past weekend. The police and EMT's were called and arrived to find an injured person on the ground. It appears they are still living there so Forgue will have to revisit the owner.

Highway Superintendent – R. Senecal

-Cobble Mountain: Continuing to work on Patching Cobble Mountain Road

-Inventory Update: Getting winter equipment restocked

-Line Painting Done: Cousineau commented on how good the lines look

-Maple Lane: Letendre inquired about Maple Lane which seems to have been cleared and graded. Senecal reported that we are good to plow Maple Lane, stating that is 10-times better than he's ever seen it. The lines are painted, they put down a lot of material, the turn-around is accessible – great job!

j) ACTION ITEMS

- a) *Approve Warrant #10 Select Board Accounts Payable for payment.*

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve Warrant #10 Select Board Accounts Payable for Payment

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

- b) *Approve Warrant #10 Water Accounts Payable for payment*

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve Warrant #10 Water Department Accounts Payable for Payment

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

- c) *Approve Warrant #10 Payroll for payment.*

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to Table Warrant #10 Payroll

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

k) NEW BUSINESS

- a) *Discuss Highway Superintendent Position Detail for Employment Ad*

See Town Administrator Report

- b) *Appoint Barbara Davenport to the Position of Election-Poll Workers for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to appoint Barbara Davenport to the Position of Election-Poll Worker for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

J. Allen Seconded

All in Favor

c) *Water Department Administrative Assistant Leave*

Letendre brought up the subject of the Water Department Administrative Assisting noting that she received a call from Mike Keier, Commissioner for the Water Department wondering if they can get temporary help to cover this department as Shaw is requesting a month off. The responsibility will go to the Water Department.

l) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) *Update on 71 Chester Road*

b) *Post Office Window*

Ferrara had Westfield Glass look at the window and will get back to us with a quote to repair.

m) EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) *Executive Session in accordance with L.c.30A, §21(a)(2) in preparation for negotiations to conduct collective bargaining session or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with L.c.30A, §21(a)(2) in preparation for negotiations to conduct collective bargaining session or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel not to reconvene

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

Roll Call In: C. Letendre – Yes T. Cousineau – Yes J. Allen - Yes

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Cara Letendre, Chair

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member