



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD**  
Select Board

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

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 25, 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 Meeting Minutes of September 09, 2024*

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of September 09, 2024, as written

**T. Cousineau Seconded**

**All in Favor**

*b) Examination of the Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2024*

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2024, with amendments

**T. Cousineau Seconded**

**All in Favor**

*c) Examination of the Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2024*

**MOTION:** J. Allen made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2024, as written

**T. Cousineau Seconded**

**C. Letendre Abstained**

**All in Favor**

*d) Examination of the Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2024*

**MOTION:** C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2024, as written

**J. Allen Seconded**

**All in Favor**

*e) Examination of the Meeting Minutes of October 07, 2024*

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of October 07, 2024, as written  
J. Allen Seconded  
All in Favor**

1. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT\***

None

2. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

a) ***Interim-Highway Superintendent – Rene Senecal***

-None

b) ***Town Administrator – Cristina Ferrera***

▪ ***White Church Solar Project:***

-Ferrera reported that Chips Norcross approached the Board to ask to have this statement read by the Town Administrator:

“After a positive engineering report on the condition of the 1 North Street Building, last night the Board voted to go forward with the solar panel installation by PV Squared voted #1 in the Advocate Best of Awards for the last decade. The Historical Society will cover all costs for this project as was done for the window replacement and ADA restroom compliance projects.”

• ***Search for Accountant***

-Ferrera will meet with Town Counsel to discuss hiring a new accounting firm to replace Kinsherf

• ***Assessors – Tax Rate***

-The Board of Assessors will meet the first week of December to set the Tax Rate.

• ***Fire Hydrant Replacement***

-Two fire hydrants were damaged by the Highway Department. The Water Department believed the prior Highway Superintendent placed an insurance claim. That did not happen. Ferrera offered bids for a new fire hydrant.

• ***Water Break – Large Leak on the Mass Turnpike***

-Ferrera reported the leak on the Mass Pike caused the pressure to drop dramatically for the entire Town therefore, residents were not getting water. Everything is back to normal now. She spoke to MEMA and is recommending we revisit the Emergency Management protocol to be sure all members are on board with the urgent need for immediate communication from all parties.

• ***Berkshire Springs Water Bill – Outstanding Water Bill***

-Berkshire Springs has called the Town Hall several times looking for the water bill from the last water emergency that is still not been paid. The Select Board had directed the Water Department to pay previously.

• ***Water Department Loan Money Spending***

-Letendre expressed her concern with the fact that the Water Department has spent money on a project before the loan money has been received. Ferrera spoke to the Water Department and was told they were given permission by a former Town Administrator to proceed with the project

prior to the loan. Progress has been made straightening this mess . The loan questionnaire has been filled out by Ferrera with the help of the Town clerk.

- **Highway Superintendent Want Ad**

-Cousineau asked what the status was of the search for a Highway Superintendent. Ferrera reminded them once they approve of what she sent to them, she will get it posted.

**c. Board of Health – Jennifer Girard, Director**

- **Brookman Drive:**

-Girard explained that her department was in touch with the Department of Environmental Protection, so they are aware of the situation and made recommendations. A letter was sent to the homeowner.

- **Property two houses down from the Library that caught fire.**

-Girard reported she took pictures of the vacant house down from the Library and sent them to the Town Administrator. Girard said looking through the windows there were electrical wires hanging down so she will notify Eversource. Ferrara inquired about the garage. Girard reported that was the building she took the pictures of noting that there are 3 refrigerators and trash at the side of the building. Ferrara inquired if children can gain access to the building. Allen reported the barn doors are padlocked. Allen is recommending the doors be taken off the refrigerators. Letendre inquired about the other property these same people own on Main Street with the open pool in the back yard. Girard said the owner was supposed to take care of this a couple of months ago and she did not show up. Girard believes this house is currently on the market. The Board of Health will follow up.

- **Turnpike Water Problem**

-Board of Health did a walk-through of the buildings on the MA Pike that were shut down because of the water break. Everything is back up and working.

- **Title V Requests**

Girard reported her Department is receiving a lot of Title 5 requests for folks selling and new residents moving in.

- **MIA**

-Girard is working with the Highway Department to focus on safety training programs that will ultimately save money on our yearly insurance contract.

**3. ACTION ITEMS**

**a) *Appoint Deborah Lundgren to Council on Aging for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027***

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Deborah Lundgren to the Council on Aging for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027**

**T. Cousineau Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**b) *Approve Liquor License for The Blandford Country Store for the term January 01, 2025, through December 31, 2025.***

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Liquor License The Blandford Country Store for the term January 01, 2025, through December 31, 2025**

**T. Cousineau Seconded**

**All in Favor**

- c) *Approve Liquor License for Blandford Country Club for the term January 01, 2025, through December 31, 2025*

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Liquor License the Blandford Country Club for the term January 01, 2025, through December 31, 2025  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor**

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) *Part-time Interim Winter Highway Position*

**MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Part-Time Interim Winter Highway Position to Robert Holmes  
T. Cousineau Seconded  
All in Favor**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm

Submitted by Joann Martin  
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Cara Letendre, Chair

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T. Cousineau, Member

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J. Allen, Member