



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
December 02, 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

None

2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT*

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) *Interim-Highway Superintendent – Rene Senecal*

-Salt Shed Issues: Senecal is absent so Ferrera will cover the issues at the salt Shed. The equipment is stored in this shed and the electrical outlets that are there do not work. Senecal received a quote from Zanetti Electric which in his opinion would be covered under the Winter/Snow budget. Allen suggested that since Highway wants a motion-activated light we should at least put a switch on it as well as the motion lights always break.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the quote from Zenetti Electric for \$5,089 for electric repair in the Salt Shed to be paid out of the Highway Winter/Snow account

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in Favor

-Plowing: Ferrera reported there were issues on Sunday on Chester Road as there was an accident. Senecal took care of sanding and salting again on Sunday.

b) *Town Administrator – Cristina Ferrera*

-Laborer Position: Ferrera reported receiving 4 applications for laborer position which were turned over to Rene Senecal for review. Ferrera inquired about setting up a selection committee. Letendre suggested the Highway Superintendent review them initially and send any forward that are qualified at which time they will be interviewed.

-Highway Superintendent Position: The response to this position has been slow. It will be posted in the Hilltown circulation as well as the suburban residential area in Turley Publications through January 27.

-Zoning Board of Appeals: Ferrera reported posting an ad recruiting members of the Zoning Board of Appeals as well and has received two letters of interest.

-Accountant Contract Review: Town Counsel has provided a draft contract for our new accounting services. The Contract has been forwarded to CPA, Kelli Pontbriand. Ferrera reported Pontbriand has collaborated with our Treasurer in the past and is familiar with Vadar. Pontbriand will start January 01, 2025, to work with Kinsherf for this transition for the month of January. Letendre reported there is a difference in compensation, so she is suggesting we put this on the next Town Meeting for budgeting going forward.

-Elm Electric: Ferrera reached out to Elm Electric about the installation of the generator switch which is supposed to be delivered today. They have not returned her calls. Letendre suggested she speak to Matt Ripley at Elm Electric.

Lead & Copper Compliance Sampling Report from Water Department: The report confirms we are in compliance in all areas.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a) *Appoint Robert Holmes as Interim-Highway Laborer for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, or when this position is no longer required.*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to appoint Robert Holmes as Interim-Highway Laborer for the term July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025, or when this position is no longer required.
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- b) *Approve Warrant #12 Select Board Accounts Payable for Payment*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #12 Select Board Accounts Payable for payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- c) *Approve Warrant #12 Water Department Accounts Payable for Payment*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #12 Water Department Accounts Payable for Payment
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- d) *Approve Warrant #12 Payroll for Payment*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to TABLE Warrant #12 Payroll
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) *Part-time Interim Winter Highway Position – see action items.*

b) *Library Trustees – Appoint a Consultant as per Grant from MBLC*

Porter Memorial Library Trustee, Byam Stevens and Nicole Daviau, joined the Board to discuss hiring an Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) for the construction of the expansion of the library. The Trustees have interviewed three prospective OPM’s. The choice of OPM was unanimous. Byam spoke of their process for hiring this person and reported references have also been check. All of this funding for an OPM is covered by a grant. The Trustees will send this contract to Town Council for review.

c) *All Departmental Expenditure Report*

The Board reviewed the current expenditure report and found no issued.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Cara Letendre, Chair

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member