



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2025
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

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L.c.30A, §21(a)(2) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares - professional services contract enforcement to reconvene following executive session

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in favor

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

Discussion: The Select Board negotiated with City Point Partners regarding the Town of Blandford Fire Station.

Executive Session adjourned to the regularly scheduled Select Board Meeting at 6:38 pm.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to adjourn Executive Session in accordance with G.L.c.30A, §21(a)(2) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares - professional services contract enforcement to reconvene following executive session

T. Cousineau Seconded

All in favor

Roll Call Out: C. Letendre – Yes T. Cousineau – Yes J. Allen – yes

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT*

None

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) *Interim-Highway Superintendent – Rene Senecal*

- FY25 Budget: Senecal mentioned he is light in his budget as it was not budgeted correctly. He will be looking for finance for more funding.
- Sander for the Highway Truck: Senecal is looking at getting a used sander.
- Salt Shed: Building maintenance needs attention, it's in rough shape. Senecal is working on correcting this.
- Cobble Mountain & Gore Roads: Senecal reported we received our allotment from Fair Share. Hopefully, the work can begin. Senecal has communicated with the Water Department to be prevent problems going forward.
- Hayden Road: Senecal is working on a project on Hayden Road to widen and correct the drainage. The cost would be around \$160,000 and hopefully Chapter 90 monies can be spent here. Senecal believe this is well spent money for residents and traffic and prepares us for paving in the future. He is working with Conservation on this project.
- Russell Stage Road-Retaining Wall Built 1956: Down by the wall there is no drainage there. The project will cost around \$75,000. Allen mentioned this is a major street in Town so this needs to be done.
- Construction Grant-Beech Hill: Senecal reported he and the Town Administrator have started working on this project.
- Julius Hall: Julius Hall will need about \$100,000 to bring it up to par.
- Loader just for sand and salting: Senecal is suggesting the Town utilize a loader just for sand and salting as this is what is destroying our loader. Sanding and salting are the most caustic atmosphere for this vehicle.
- Grader: Senecal is suggesting that we plan ahead and start putting money away every year to save for a new grader. Ferrera will look into getting this project moving again.
- Over the Rail Mower: As Budget season is starting next week, please seriously consider purchasing an over-the-guardrail mower which is a self-contained front unit which the state uses. The cost would be \$100,000 plus the bucket which would be an additional \$25,000. I am recommending we trade the old one as he believes it is dangerous and should not be used. Senecal will see if this can be paid with Chapter 90 monies. He is suggesting we trade or sell on GovDeals. Senecal strongly believes this is the wrong equipment for Blandford's use. Ferrera will collaborate with him on this. Senecal will be sure his team is licensed.

b) *Town Administrator – Cristina Ferrera*

- *Springfield Water & Sewer – Intergovernmental Agreement South St. Repair Operations*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with South Street for Repair Operations
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

- *Springfield Water & Sewer – Intergovernmental Agreement North Lane Repair Operations*

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to TABLE the Intergovernmental Agreement with North Lane for Repair Operations
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

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

None

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

a) *Review Warrant #15 Water Department Accounts Payable for Payment*

The Board reviewed the Warrant #15 Water Department payment and held the \$8,000 payment to Bay State as this is part of the SCADA project, and the funds should not be spent as yet.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #15 Water Department Accounts Payable
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b) Review Warrant #15 Select Board Accounts Payable for Payment

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #15 Select Board Accounts Payable
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

c) Review Warrant #15 Payroll for Payment

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to TABLE Warrant #15 Payroll until the next Select Board Meeting
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Blandford Church Sign

Anne Savery spoke to the Select Board to say they were given a new sign for the First Congregational Church on Main Street. It's smaller than the original sign. The old sign is 58x58 and the new sign is 30x58. Also, they are just requesting that they move the sign forward, so it is more visible from the street. Since the Zoning Board of Appeals has only one member, the decision will land on the Select Board.

MOTION: T. Cousineau made a motion to approve the 30X58 lighted sign that is within the bylaws of the Town of Blandford to be installed at the First Congregational Church of Blandford
J. Allen Seconded
C. Letendre Abstained
Motion Passes

b) Building Inspector Annual Report – Presented – FYI

Ferrera presented the annual report presented by the Building Inspector, Jason Forgue.

c) Cristina Ferrera, Town Administrator – Six Month Review

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to TABLE the Six-Month review of Blandford's Town Administrator, Cristina Ferrera until the next Select Board Meeting
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

6.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session in accordance with G.L.c.30A, §21(a)(2) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares - professional services contract enforcement.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:22 pm

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Cara Letendre, Chair

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member