



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Select Board

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

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
December 30, 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 October 21, 2024*

MOTION: C Letendre made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024, as written

**T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor**

2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC COMMENT*

None

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) *Interim-Highway Superintendent – Rene Senecal*

None

b) *Town Administrator – Cristina Ferrera*

-Blandford's New Accountant

Ferrera met with Kelli Pontbriand and Eric Kinsherb to discuss the transition as Kelli begins taking on the Accounting functions for Blandford. Kinsherb will stay until the end of January 2025.

-Animal Inspector

Jessica Carrington, Blandford's new State Animal Inspector has officially started her inspections.

-Inspector General Class – Procurement Training

Ferrera will start her procurement classes in February.

-Transfer to the Treasurer

Ferrera explained departments are not depositing checks from residents in a timely manner. Blandford's Treasurer expects any checks written to the Town of Blandford should be deposited with a week. Ferrera will send a letter to all Town of Blandford Departments.

-Contract Extension for the Materials Recycling Facility to take our recycling

This has been signed.

-Swap Shop Grant

Ferrera reported she signed the paperwork for the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station.

-Resident Checks not being cashed in a timely manner

There have been a number of complaints lately (and in the past) about checks not being cashed for weeks and

sometimes months, some dating back to August. There were 60 checks turned over to the Treasurer recently. All checks should be transferred to the treasurer weekly or at least twice monthly.

Putding Hill Host Community Agreement

Town Counsel wrote a new Host Community Agreement that would fall in line with the CCC's regulation but also protect the Town. This has been submitted to the CCC. Ferrera sent this back to Town Counsel.

c) ***Board of Health – Jennifer Girard, Director***
None

d) ***Water Department – Gordon Avery***

Avery joined the board to talk about the SCADA project explaining that Ferrera has been very helpful. Avery reported the Treasurer tabled talking about internal borrowing which would be a temporary way to get these bills paid and clear the debt. Avery announced they have spent approximately \$120,000 of water budget. The board questioned why the Water Department moved forward without the money being in place. The board stated they will speak to the Treasurer however they believe an actual loan will have to be taken out.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

a) ***Warrant #14 Payroll for Approval***

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #14 Payroll for approval
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

b) ***Warrant #14 Select Board Accounts Payable for Approval***

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #14 Select Board Account Payable for approval
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

c) ***Warrant #14 Water Department Accounts Payable for Approval***

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve Warrant #14 Water Department Account Payable for approval
T. Cousineau Seconded
All in Favor

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) ***FRCOG Collective Highway Bids***

Ferrera offered the initial highway bids to the Select Board to review and make recommendations.

b) ***IRS Calendar Year 2025 Gas Reimbursement Rate at \$.70/mile***

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to approve the Reimbursable Gas Rate at \$.70/mile for the Calendar Year 2025.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Submitted by Joann Martin
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Cara Letendre, Chair

T. Cousineau, Member

J. Allen, Member