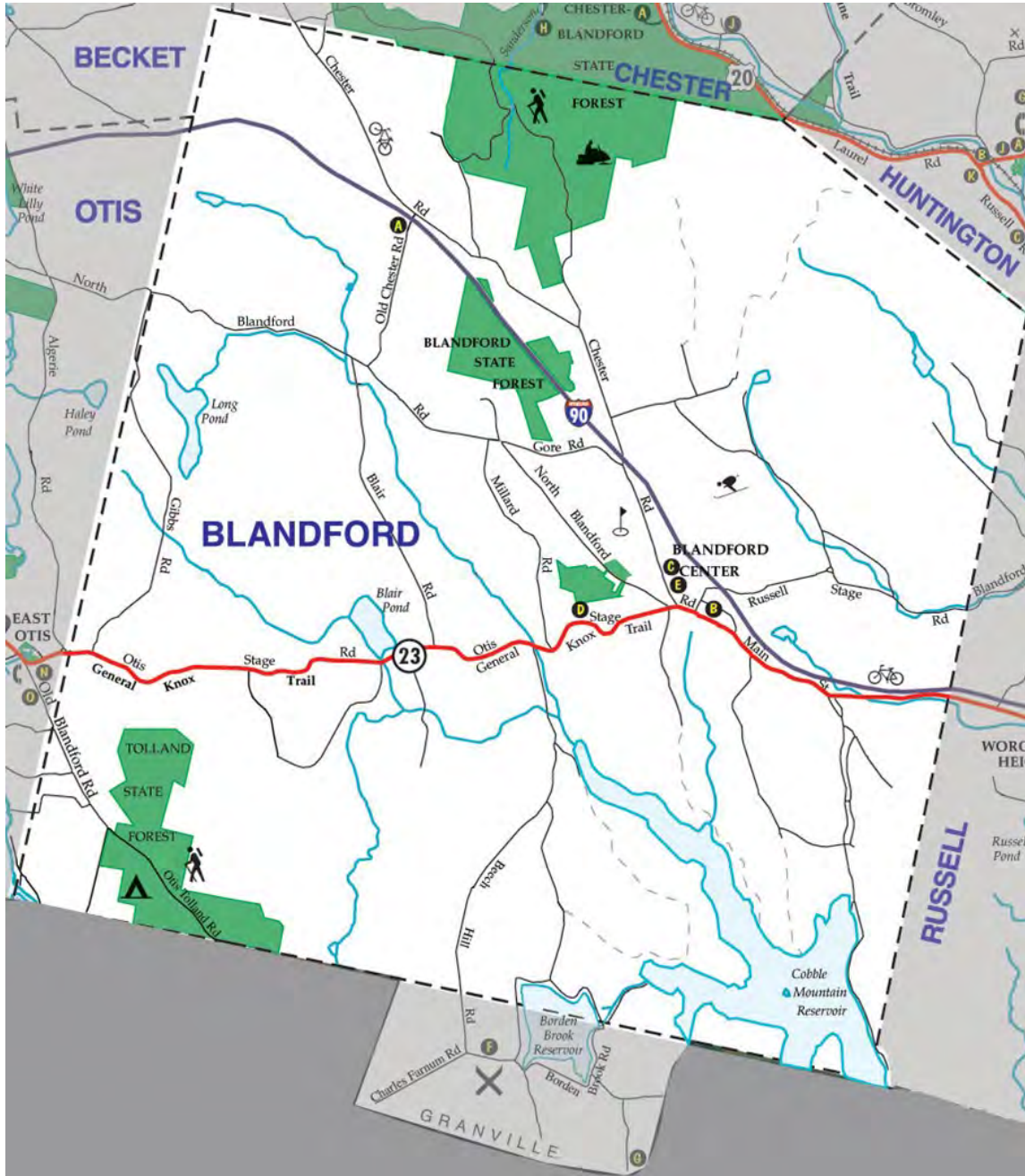


TOWN of BLANDFORD Massachusetts ANNUAL REPORT



2015



2016

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GLOSSARY

APPROPRIATION: An authorization granted by a Town Meeting to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount as to the time when it may be expended. Only a Town meeting or the School Committee can authorize money appropriated for one purpose to be used for another. Any amount which is appropriated may be encumbered (see definition).

AVAILABLE FUNDS: Free cash, reserves and unexpended balances available for appropriation.

COLLECTOR: Is responsible for the overall administration of local taxes. The Collector enforces the tax laws to insure a high level of voluntary payment and is responsible for properly maintaining tax records, accounting for taxes received, and paying over all receipts to the Treasurer.

ENCUMBRANCES: Obligations in the form of purchase orders, contracts or salary commitments which are chargeable to the appropriation and for which a part of the appropriation is reserves.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS: Estimate of money to be received by the Town from various sources, such as licenses, state reimbursements, etc. The estimate is deducted by the Assessors from the gross amount to be raised by taxes when the tax rate is set.

EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY: Also called the "surplus revenue" account, this is the amount by which cash, accounts receivable and other assets exceed the liabilities and reserves. It is akin to the "stockholders equity" account on a corporation balance sheet. It is not, however, available for appropriation in full because a portion of the assets listed as "accounts receivable" may be taxes receivable and uncollected. (See "Free Cash")

FISCAL YEAR: A twelve-month period commencing July 1 to which the annual budget applies and at the end of which a Town determines its financial position and the results of its operations.

FREE CASH: Certified each July 1 by the Director of Accounts, this is the surplus revenue account (Also called "excess and deficiency") less any uncollected taxes of prior years. It is available for appropriation upon certification. By action of a Special Town Meeting after certification and before setting the tax rate, part or all of any unexpected "free cash" may be applied to reduce the tax rate of the current year. (See also "Excess and Deficiency"). "Free Cash" is also referred to as "Available Funds."

OVERLAY: Amount of money raised by Assessors for purpose of creating a fund to cover abatements and uncollectible taxes.

RESERVE FUND: Amount transferred from Overlay and/or appropriated for unforeseen or emergency purposes. Controlled by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen.

ROAD MACHINERY FUND: A fund which is the accumulated town charge for certain uses for town equipment and which may be appropriated for maintenance and repair of that equipment.

SURPLUS REVENUE: The amount by which the cash, accounts receivable and other floating assets exceed the liabilities and reserves.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: A meeting of the registered voters of a Town called by the Board of Selectmen at their discretion or by written request of 20% of all registered voters in the Town.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT: A written order calling the annual or a special town meeting and containing a list of the subjects to be acted upon. The Selectmen shall insert in the warrant for the annual Town Meeting all subjects which are requested in writing by ten or more registered voters and in the warrant for a Special Town Meeting all subjects requested by 10% of all the Town's voters.

GOVERNMENTAL DISTRICTS

Updated March 2016

Governor's Office

Charlie Baker, Governor
Boston Office
Executive Office, Room 360
State House
Boston 02133
Tel: 617-725-4000

Karyn Polito, Lt. Governor
Springfield Office
436 Dwight Street, 3rd floor
Springfield 01103
Tel: 413-784-1200
Fax: 413-784-1203

Secretary of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
Boston Office
State House, Room 337
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: (617) 727-7030
Fax: 617-742-4528
Toll free: 1-800-392-6090
cathy.molta@sec.state.ma.us
Email: cis@sec.state.ma.us

Springfield Office
436 Dwight Street, Room 102
Springfield 01103
Tel: 413-784-1376
Fax: 413-784-1379

Representatives in Massachusetts General Court

State House Address
Representative: William Smitty Pignatelli (D)
Room 448
State House
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: 617-722-2582
Fax: 617-722-2879
Email: Rep. Smitty@Hou.State.MA.US

District Office
4th Berkshire District
P.O. Box 2228
Lenox, MA 01240
Tel: 413-637-0631

Senator:

Benjamin Downing (D)
State House
Room 413F
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: 617-722-1625
Email: Benjamin.Downing@masenate.gov

7 North Street
Suite 307
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Tel: 413-442-4008

Please see the state's website for more information: www.mass.gov

Representatives in United States Congress

U.S. Senators	Ed Markey One Bowdoin Square, 10th Floor Boston, MA 02114 617-565-8519	One Financial Plaza, 12th Floor Springfield, MA 01103 413-185-4610
	Elizabeth Warren JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203 617-565-3170	1550 Main Street, Suite 406 Suite 2400 Springfield, MA 01103 413-788-2690
	Washington Office Russell Senate Office Building 2 Russell Courtyard Washington, DC 20510 Tel: 202-224-4543	
U.S. Congressman	Richard E. Neal U.S. Congressman Washington Office 2208 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-5601	300 State Street Springfield, MA 01105 413-185-0325 Pittsfield Office 78 Center St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-442-0946
District Attorney	Anthony Gulluni Hall of Justice 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Tel: 413-747-1000	

Elected Town Officials

Title, Term	Expires
Assessor (3 years)	
Don Carpenter	2018
Cosette Cousineau	2016
Edna Wilander	2017
Cemetery Commission (3 years)	
TJ Cousineau	2018
Stephen Jemiolo	2017
Tim Blood	2016
Fence Viewer (3 years)	
Vacant	2018
Vacant	2016
Field Driver (3 years)	
Vacant	2018
Health, Board of (3 years)	
H. Richard McCann	2016
Christopher Smith	2017
Peter Thayer	2018
Library Trustee (3 years)	
Charles Benson	2016
Mary Marin	2017
Mary Kronholm	2018
Moderator (3 years)	
David Hopson	2018
Municipal Light Plant Board (3 years)	
Rylan Shepard	2016
Peter Langmore	2017
June Masse	2018

Title, Term	Expires
Planning Board (5 years)	
John Bianco	2016
Lynn McCann	2016
TJ Cousineau	2017
Sharon Barnard	2018
Mary Mangini	2019
Jeffrey Allen	2019
Don Carpenter	2020
School Committee (3 years)	
Michele Crane	2015
Terri Garfield	2017
Selectmen (3 years)	
William Levakis	2016
Andrew Montanaro	2017
Adam Dolby	2018
Town Clerk (3 years)	
Mary Kronholm	2017
Tree Warden (3 years)	
Peter Thayer	2018
Water Commissioner (3 years)	
William Levakis	2016
Brad Curry	2017
Gordon Avery	2018

If you have any interest in being appointed to fill one of the vacancies on any of the boards, you are encouraged to attend their meeting(s), speak with their board members, and submit a letter of interest to both the board of your interest and the Board of Selectmen.

Appointed Town Officials

May 2015—May 2016

Agricultural Commission (3 years) Eileen Gates 2016 Dick Gates 2016 David Hopson 2016	Hazardous Waste Coordinator (1 year) Brad Curry	Registrars of Voters (1 year) Pamela Darrow Mary Mangini Cynthia Montanaro
Arts Council (6 years) Lori Bocon 2021 Jeri Hamel 2020 Janet Strausberg 2018 Lucia Sullivan 2020 Sue Racine 2020	Historical Commission Pamela Darrow 2016 Katy Milford 2016 Jo-Anne Auclair 2017 Don Carpenter 2017 Mick Brennan 2017 Janet Strausberg 2018 Peter Milford 2018	Tax Collector (finish term) June Masee 2017
Building Inspector Jonathan Flagg	Information Security Officer Adam Dolby	Town Accountant (1 year) Janet Lombardo
Building Inspector Asst. (1 year) Vacant	Information Technology Specialist Akuity Technologies	Town Counsel Kopelman and Paige, P.C.
Burial Agent (by B o Health) TJ Cousineau	Inspector of Animals and Slaughter (1 year Board of Health) Brenda Blood	Treasurer (3 years) Brenda Marra 2018
Chief procurement Officer (1 year) Bill Levakis	Inspector of Servicemen's Graves Douglas Emo	Veteran's Agent (1 year) Joseph Henning
Conservation Commission (3 years) Bryan Young, Chair 2018 Nikki Barsalou 2017 Orpheus Barrows 2016 Kate Simmons 2016 Chips Norcross 2016 Florentino Vasquez 2016	Measurer of Bark and Wood (1 year) Mark Boomsma	Watson Park Superintendent (1 year) Douglas Emo
Council on Aging (3 years) Margit Mikuski 2017 Linda Barnard 2018 Mary Brainerd 2016 Barbara Langmore 2018 Judy MacKinnon 2018	Pest Control (1 year) Mark Boomsma	Wired West Delegate Peter Langmore Kim Bergland
Dog Officer (1 year) Brenda Blood	Pioneer Valley Planning Comm. (1 year) TJ Cousineau John Bianco, Alt.	Zoning Board of Appeals (3 years) Don Brainerd, Chair 2017 Jim Kronholm 2017 Sumner Robbins 2017 Richard Barnard, Alt. 2018
Election Warden (1 year) Lynn McCann	Plumbing and Gas Inspector (1 year) Peter Anderson	
Electrical Wiring Inspector (1 year) Larry Gretskey	Plumbing and Gas Inspector Asst. (1 year) Vacant	Unless otherwise noted, appointments are made by the Board of Selectmen.
Emergency Management Directors (1 year) Thomas Acklye Brad Curry	Police Chief (3 years) Kevin Hennessey 2016	
Finance Committee (3 years) Linda Smith, Chair 2017 Jeffrey Bacon 2018 Eric McVey 2019 Anthony van Werkhoven 2017	Police Officers (1 year) Dennis Flores, Sgt. Bruce Cooley	If you have any interest in serving on any of the boards, you are encouraged to attend their meeting(s), speak with their board members, and submit a let- ter of interest to both the board of your interest and the Board of Selectmen.
	Recreation Committee (3 years) Charles Benson 2018 Vicky Bisgrove 2018 Keri Morawiec 2018 Patricia Hebert 2017 Cara Letendre 2017	

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ARE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

For the fiscal year of 2015 the Agricultural Commission had no meetings, no complaints nor any issues to address and had no expenses.

Respectively submitted,
Dave Hopson, Chairman; Eileen Gates, Richard Gates

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board has completed its triennial revaluation program for fiscal year 2015 with the Department of Revenue and has received certification from the Bureau of Local Assessment that our property values represent full and fair cash values.

Once again our software company, Patriot Properties, our assessment firm Mayflower, LTD, along with our Assessors Clerk, Brenda Marra, MAO, has proven to be a great combination to ensure that each property is evaluated fairly and accurately at their full and fair market value and that the recertification process was done efficiently using all resources available to a small community.

The Board has been working over the past year with The Pioneer Valley Collaborative and CIA Technologies to bring GIS data and mapping to the town. All work on this project is completed. Our new maps have been printed and uploaded to our townofblandford.com website. Many thanks to Brenda Marra and the Pioneer Valley Collaborative for all of their work on this project.

As a final note we wish to congratulate Brenda Marra for attaining her full assessor MAO certification. This achievement makes her already invaluable status to the Office of the Assessors and the entire community even greater. Thank you for another great year!

Respectfully submitted,
Edna Wilander, Chair; Cosette Cousineau, Donald Carpenter, Members, Brenda Marra, MAO, Clerk

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

For the calendar year of 2015, the permits are as follows:

Electrical.....22 permits issued (monetary value unknown)
Plumbing/Gas.....15 permits issued (monetary value unknown)

*Building.....7 permits issued:
 Windows...1...Contract value=\$20,000.00
 Solar...5...Total Contract Value=\$164,311.00
 Renovation...1...Contract value=\$1,000.00

Total value\$185,311.00

*Building permits are from 12/15/2015 to end of year only. Permits prior to that date are in the possession of a previous building inspector and have not yet been made available.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan S. Flagg

CEMETERY COMMISSION

We had ten burials for the year 2015. There were no complaints from our residents at this point. Our new residents are as follows:

- Robert Shepard
- Nancy Shepard
- Pearl Cook
- Dorothea M. Wyman
- Dorothy L. Robertson
- Sandra L. Twyman
- Thomas Allen
- Nancy Allen
- Margaret E. Tent
- Richard Hart

Respectfully submitted,
TJ Cousineau, Chair

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Over the past year, the Blandford Conservation Commission as been very busy.

- 1) The Shepard Hill Farm has been in touch with the state forester and received a grant to have the 121 acre parcel accessed for logging. Notice for bids will be posted in the Country Journal.
- 2) Several site visits were conducted for new and replacement leach fields, houses, etc.
- 3) The Knittel property trails were inspected and appear in good condition. A few trail markers have been or need to be replaced.
- 4) Inspection of Long Pond Watershed/Conservation Areas have shown very little invasive plant species that were removed and destroyed. The lake and streams appear very healthy and wildlife thrives in there.
- 5) The Knittel and Shepard properties appear healthy and teaming with wildlife.
- 6) Moose and bobcats are growing in number as well as turkeys and coyotes. Bears are about the same as last year.
- 7) Snakes seem to have been on the decline and I found several black racers dead with what appears to be a fungus on them.
- 8) I have been looking for and identifying town lands that have been usurped by Springfield Water and Sewer Commission and private parties.
- 9) We are considering using some conservation land on North Blandford Road to be used as a Monarch Butterfly re-habitat program.
- 10) Illegal hunting was found on both the Knittel and Shepard properties and the police were involved.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Young, Chairman

COUNCIL ON AGING

2015 was another busy year for the Center of Active Adults. Our trips to both Maple Corner Farms in Granville to enjoy a wonderful breakfast put on by the Ripley family, and the trip to the Smith College spring bulb show with lunch at Outlook Farms continue to be a huge success. This year, we also took a trip to Shelburne Falls to enjoy the beautiful flowers on the Bridge of Flowers. After a leisurely lunch, we strolled down to the see the glacial potholes and enjoyed some breathtaking scenery on the way home, with a couple of stops at fruit stands.

Our chairperson, Margit Mikuski, along with Cara Letendre from Park & Rec. attended an all-day certified workshop in Pittsfield for the "Bridges Together" program. This is an intergenerational program to create settings where different generations share ideas, stories and work together. The Center for Active Adults started an intergenerational garden. We planted apple trees, blackberry and raspberry bushes. We hope to plant a vegetable garden in the spring of 2016 with fresh fruits and vegetables going to those residence of Blandford in need.

As part of our intergenerational programs, we added a new exercise class on Wednesday evenings with Heidi Taberman from the Westfield YMCA as instructor. The 45 minute class, "Total Body Conditioning", includes a warm up, stretch, cardio conditioning, strength training and a cool down period. This class is open to healthy adults of all ages.

Instead of having our regular Veteran's Appreciation luncheon, we chose to hold a spaghetti supper to honor our veterans. This was very well attended. Our Friday breakfasts continue to be a huge success, as well as our special events lunches.

Our Giving Tree project for the Women's Shelter and our collection of non-perishable food items for the Huntington Food Pantry received a large outpouring of donations. Thank you to everyone who gave to these worthy causes.

We thank all who continue to support us and volunteer their time at our events. We are happy to welcome new members at any time for any event.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margit Mikuski, Chair; Linda Barnard, Treasurer; Judy MacKinnon, Secretary; Mary Brainerd, Activities Coordinator; Barbara Langmore, Board Member

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Our State allocated funds for FY2015 were \$4300, not including funds encumbered from the previous year.

This past year saw many events happening in the hill towns sponsored by the many Cultural Councils. Our town was able to enjoy a pastel and a watercolor workshop right in our own COA room. There was a great performance in a rustic barn right over the town line in East Otis. Blandford continued to experience an Opera at the White Church, Plays in Chester, a Wizard at the Halloween Party, a summer reading program at Porter Memorial Library and lots of programs at the Gateway Schools. All of these events were funded partially or completely by the Blandford Cultural Council funds.

Next year will see many more of these events including Flamenco Ballet, a gardening and landscape program at the Library, the Blandford Arts Trail and Civil War Ballroom Dancing in the gym at the town offices. It looks like it will

be another good year of diverse culture in our hill towns.

Recipients of grant funding for Fiscal Year 2016 were:

GRHS Music Dept.	Visiting Artists/Clinicians	\$350.00
Chester Theater	Education Programs	\$200.00
GRHS Music Festival	Phantom of the Opera NY	\$250.00
Hilltown Families	Learn Local, Play Local	\$100.00
Gregory Maichak	Pastel Workshop	\$475.00
Blandford Arts Trail	Arts Trail	\$200.00
GRHS Spanish Class	Flamenco Ballet Performance	\$250.00
GRHS Music	Trinitones Performance	\$75.00
Porter Memorial Library	Reading Program	\$115.00
Triple Shadow	Memories of oldest generations	\$500.00
Windjammers Circus Band	Concert at Gazebo	\$388.00
John Root	Edible Gardening and Landscape	\$250.00
Blandford Art Show	Art Show	\$450.00
Small Planet Dancers	Civil War Ballroom Dancing	\$450.00
GRHS Art Dept.	Mass Moca Museum	\$100.00
Sevenars Music Festival	49 th Season in Worthington	<u>\$200.00</u>
TOTAL		\$4015.00

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Racine, Chair; Janet Strausberg, Secretary; Jerelyn Hamel, Lucia Sullivan, Lori Bocon, Members

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee, acting as an advisory body to the town on fiscal matters, has been very busy with frequent meetings with the three financial departments, Treasurer, Tax Collector and Accountant. We continue to support the correction of historical data and integration of the software between the three departments. With the assistance from Softright staff and our accounting consultant we continue to improve workflow, accuracy and timely financial information.

The Finance Committee has continued to partner with the Select Board in addressing town issues. We have also joined with our neighboring Gateway Towns in discussing and researching mutual solutions to common problems such as decreasing population, lack of economic growth, increasing school costs and limited ability to meet maintenance of infrastructure. These efforts have been rewarded by improved communication between the towns with a focus on cost sharing and sustainability.

Town loans and bills are being paid on a timely basis. Many of the complex financial issues have been resolved this year with continued progress. The Finance Committee anticipates that with our fiscal house in order the Town will be in a position after the close of FY2016 for a long overdue audit in the coming year.

Developing a budget that meets our levy limit, maintains required town services, keeps pace with ever increasing unfunded state mandates and provides for a quality education for our children continues to be a challenge. Total education represents over 50% of our town current year budget. Even with the state provided mitigation funding as a result of Worthington's withdrawal from the regional school district, Blandford's share of the FY 2016 Gateway school budget increased 4%. No mitigation funding from the state is anticipated for FY 2017.

We ask that you review the upcoming FY 2017 budget prior to the information meeting and the Annual Town Meeting. The committee remains committed to supporting appropriate levels of Free Cash and a Stabilization Fund that provides the flexibility needed to sustain adequate service levels despite any adverse financial impact of unforeseen or extraordinary expenses.

As always we encourage and welcome your participation in the budget process and any time you may have available to volunteer to continue to make Blandford the town we are proud to call home.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Smith, Chair; Jeff Bacon, Secretary, Tony van Werkooven, Eric McVey

FIRE DEPARTMENT

93 Main St. P.O. Box 843

Blandford, Massachusetts 01008

Phone (413) 848-4279 x600 fire@townofblandford.com

The Blandford Fire Department responded to 106 calls for service in 2015 these ranged from structure & brush

fires, medical assistance, to wires down.

Of note was the house fire on October 27th, 2016 Firefighter Jordan Kornacki and Deputy Chief Tom Ackley did an excellent job of keeping the flames at bay until additional members and mutual aid crews from Russell and Otis arrived to assist. Thankfully no one was hurt or worse at this incident.

Training continues to be a key component of the department. We strive to provide the members with opportunities to professionalize their skills and knowledge by attending local, regional and state sponsored training sessions and tapping our experienced members to mentor those who are just arriving to the position of firefighter/EMS responder. We hosted several Massachusetts Firefighting Academy programs including sessions on hazardous materials and car fires. A community CPR program was also held.



Recruiting new volunteers is major priority, statistics show that even a small house fire requires at least 20 firefighters to aggressively battle. This is 5 more than are currently on our roster with some of those who often work out of town or are seasonal like our small team of Westfield State University students who assist when they are available. We are asking that anyone who might be interested stop by the fire station on any Wednesday evening and consider filling out an application.

A program that has truly blossomed is our student internship program where the student firefighters gain a variety of experiences and training. Students, the majority of which come from Westfield State University, these students have been offered college credit for their participation, but the majority simply volunteer their time, there is hope for the future.

Fire prevention, particularly the area of inspections is putting demands on the fire department's schedule. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has enacted a fire code that is modeled after the National Fire Protection Association Code 1 with amendments made by the State Fire Marshal's office. This change has required a great deal of training and often considerable research on the part of the fire chief to ensure that the community remains as compliant and safe as possible.

The department has been funded reasonably with respect to our operations. However like many other the town departments we are in dire need of replacing and/or upgrading major capital purchases. These include the deplorable conditions of the fire station, there was a small repair done to the roof of the station and this stop gap has curbed the significant leaking, repairs made last year and the mild winter have thankfully kept the oil burner techs away from the heating system so far.

The fleet of fire apparatus averages 22 years old with no new apparatus having been purchased in the last 18 years! Engine 2, our water supply engine is a 1988. It should be replaced with a tanker-pumper as soon as possible to ensure the community's safety and to meet regulations that pertain to the age of in service fire apparatus. It is also understood by the department that the minimum \$350,000 cost of a new vehicle is going to be difficult. It must be planned for and all sources of funding must be explored. There needs to be a plan for the orderly replacement of the fleet is something the leadership of the town and fire department have been working on a great deal.

Five sets of turnout gear was replaced and issued to our most active members this was done via a combination a capital purchase, budgeted funds and a donation of a set of gear by the Blandford Fire Association.

An amazing amount of money was raised at the Fire Association's Pancake Breakfast which has funded additional Automatic External Defibrillators into the hands of responders on the east and west ends of town. This bolsters the two that can roll with the fire apparatus out of the station. Please take time to learn CPR, it could save a loved one's life! www.cpr.heart.org

The fire department is regularly updating our website and there is at least weekly news and informational posting our Facebook page. We often post seasonal safety tips and achievements of our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the department for accepting an "outsider" into their ranks, particularly as chief. Managing and leading a small but amazingly dedicated band of aggressive, experienced, knowledgeable, and skilled people is no easy task. For those to climb on the "big red trucks" to travel to the aid of those who have called at any time of day or night in any weather and for any need no matter how big or small the rewards are very difficult to measure. However there are rewards. Personally one of the greatest rewards I've ever received myself has been to be thanked and to know that our work is appreciated.

Please as you pass any Blandford VOLUNTEER Firefighter, thank them.

Respectfully,

Chief Edward Harvey

p.s. Please make sure your 911 house number is visible from the main road.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board welcomed new member Pete Thayer last May to replace Mike Wojcik who had served on the Board for many years and we thank him for his service. Pete has stepped right in and assumed the duties of witnessing perk tests

and inspecting repaired and new septic systems.

It was recommended and the Board followed thru on utilizing a Health Agent that is not from Blandford to do housing related inspections and food service inspections so as to provide impartial interpretations of the State Health Laws.

Transfer Station stickers will be available the month of June in the Board of Health office on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7:30. There will be a slight increase in fees this year do to increased cartage and tipping fees. New signage will be posted with the specific fees for items accepted at the Transfer Station. What will NOT be accepted anymore are needles and syringes. In the past they would arrive in plastic bags or milk containers, which are illegal to ship to a treatment facility. Users will have to personally place their needles into approved sharp containers and mail them to a facility or return them to where they were purchased.

Tim and Brett continue to do an outstanding job at the Transfer Station and the Board on behalf of the Town thanks them for their continued efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Smith, Chair; Dick McCann and Pete Thayer, members

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department had quite a few challenges this year with equipment breakdowns and a highway garage that has been undergoing major structural repairs. We continue to struggle working with a fleet of aging equipment that is in need of replacement.

This past year, we used Chapter 90 funds to mill and fill a portion of Russell Stage Road and to do a required second chip seal application on Sperry and Shepard Roads. Currently, Chapter 90 state funding is the only money that the town has to put towards major road repairs or resurfacing. Without additional funding from the town, we are very limited on the number of projects we can realistically plan and execute.

We received WRAP funding again in 2015 from the state, which paid for 149 tons of patch material used for pothole repair and has been a great asset. Potholes continue to be a big problem, as many of our roads are in need of more than patching. As we plan for our spring and summer road projects, we will be working with the Selectboard to prioritize those roads based on many factors.

Our current Highway Department consists of 3 full time employees. We also have an experienced part time crew that can be used on an as needed basis, within our budget restraints.

The Highway Department welcomes suggestions and input from all of the town's residents as we continue our work to improve Blandford's infrastructure.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley W. Curry, Highway Superintendent

HILLTOWN COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.

In 2015 Hilltown Community Ambulance was requested for 617 calls and responded to 538 requests for service in the six towns that we serve, 63 of them being in Blandford. Patients were transported to Noble Hospital, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, Baystate Medical Center and Berkshire Medical Center. These numbers represent an 18% increase over calls in 2014.

We again increased our hours of staffing to include Sunday overnights, and have continued to prioritize paramedic level services on the 4p-midnight shift. We currently only have sixteen hours during the week that are scheduled at the BLS level.

HCAA employees visit the Blandford Council on Aging coffee hour monthly to provide a blood pressure clinic to the participants. We have been grateful for the opportunity to interact with residents and patients outside of the emergency setting.

Hilltown Community Ambulance Association would like to thank the residents of Blandford for their support of our service. We look forward to achieving our goal of around the clock staffing in 2016 to better serve the needs of Blandford and all our communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Mulkerin, Service Director

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Progress continues, albeit slowly, on the Shepard Farm property owned by the town. The Board of Selectmen and the Historical Commission have begun to consider various scenarios for use of the property which will meet the conditions of the Conservation Easement held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and contribute positively to the town.

Thanks to the efforts of Selectmen, the new gates at Watson Park have been installed and greatly enhance the en-

trance to our beautiful park. Now that the monies left by Dr. Dean (in his will for the preservation of the park) have been fully identified and organized, the Historical Commission looks forward to using these funds to enhance the beauty and functionality of the park. Some monies will be used to clarify the park's boundaries, further enhance and maintain the gardens and the gazebo area, and protect the historical barns and the landscape as is the duty of the Commission. We thank the Board of Selectmen for meeting with us on several occasions as we assist them in making significant decisions about this wonderful park.

Again this year, the commission has donated a book to the Porter Memorial Library that relates to some aspect of history. This year's book is The Old House Doctor by Christopher Evers. This book provides a basic introduction to the ups and downs of old house renovation and maintenance. Written in an unpretentious style, it covers everything from framework to finish work.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Darrow, Katy Milford, Jo-Anne Auclair, Don Crpenter, Mick Brennan, Janet Strausberg, Peter Milford

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

It is a very exciting year for Porter Memorial Library and its patrons. Blandford residents have fond memories of their library experiences growing up in this beautiful town. They remember the bookmobile, and having their books hand stamped by the librarian behind the desk with a friendly greeting and a smile. Decades have passed, and our children and grandchildren have grown along with the library. They still get books and smiles, but also, so much more. Fast paced technological changes redefine the library's role as a place to get just books. Porter Memorial Library's collection has expanded over the years with audio books, music cds, and movies. Since entering the 21st century, Porter Memorial library serves all town residents with more learning and educational resources. The librarians behind the desk have developed their tech expertise to help patrons access information in dozens of ways; with smartphones, iPads or laptops, via websites, databases, e-books and from the cloud. Technology is interwoven into the library for information sharing, downloading e-books, and keeping up with family and friends. Porter Memorial Library keeps pace with the town's life-long learners as well as toddlers who are starting to read before they enter kindergarten.

Porter Memorial Library is proud to be a new member in the CW/MARS library network to provide everyone even greater availability of books and media beyond our library's walls. Cardholders order online from the comforts of their home around the clock and their items are ready for easy pickup at our library during open hours. In the library's first month with CW/MARS, the library circulation jumped 60% within the network and continues to grow as member libraries discover Porter Memorial Library's unique collection. We are reaching for an additional book delivery days and online resources to meet increasing demands for both.

Our library is vital as a center for open access to online content for town residents who have no internet access at home. Townspeople can connect to the library's hot spot 24/7 expanding Porter Memorial Library's physical space to a large virtual presence in Blandford. Your library sees its greater role in the Blandford community as a unique opportunity to still provide the town with a safe place for gathering, but also as the connecting point for all community services. . Looking to the future, increased library services will engage Blandford with surrounding communities and the entire state.

Total Circulation FY15

BOOKS	7955
VIDEO	1544
AUDIO	196
PERIODICALS	159
ELECTRONIC MATERIALS	63

Total: 9917

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Lombardo, Director

PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES

A year ago January the Porter memorial Library began the process of joining CW/MARS, Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing. This organization is a library consortium dedicated to efficient resource sharing and rapid access to information. C/W MARS was formed in 1982 to promote resource sharing among 28 public and academic libraries through a shared library automation system. In 1984 the Network was incorporated as a 501(3)(c) not-for-profit corporation and the first member libraries began circulating on the shared system.

There are now more than 144 members in this network that include public, academic, school and special libraries, such as medical and law libraries. The shared online computer system has combined collections of more than nine million items.

Combine this with access to the other networks in the Commonwealth; Blandford's library users can access over 54 million items from library collections across the state.

This includes books, maps, CDs, DVDs, E-books and myriad journals, reference data bases and anything that can be checked out is delivered to the Porter Memorial Library at no additional cost to the library or our patrons.

The library staff has been dedicated to morphing our collection from the smaller network, MassCat, to the larger CW/MARS network. This has finally been accomplished after hours of training and cataloguing.

CW/MARS membership will make not only finding that special book but also having it available for our patrons' use so much easier.

In 2014 we borrowed 722 items from the smaller network collection. We are already seeing an increase with the new network membership. I just 22 days in March, since we went live with the network, we handled 1,222 items for circulation.

Last year the Massachusetts Library System (MLS), of which we are also a member library, delivered MLS Delivery is provided to support resource sharing amongst Massachusetts libraries. Currently, delivery is provided to approximately 600 libraries of all types across Massachusetts. MLS services are used to ship more than 14 million items annually among MLS member libraries and the library resource sharing networks.

In the past many residents chose to get their interlibrary loan books through other CW/MARS libraries such as Springfield, West Springfield, or Westfield. Now Porter Memorial Library offers the same service and trustees and staff believes this will benefit our town more than ever.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kronholm, Chairman; Chuck Benson, Treasurer; Mary Martin, Member

MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

The board members of the MLP serve on the Board of Directors of WiredWest. At last year's Town Meeting, the town passed by the required 2/3 vote approval to borrow funds required to fund Blandford's share of network construction costs. The second component for inclusion in the WiredWest coop was to have at least 40% of the town's households sign a conditional commitment and make a \$49 deposit. With the assistance of many of you, that goal was reached in October – thank you!!

The third component, to be voted on at this year's town election, is as follows:

“Shall the Town of Blandford be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to fund the Town's share of the costs of construction, installation and start-up of a regional broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant acting as a member of a cooperative of such Plants formed under Chapter 164, Section 47C of the General Laws?”

With these three components in place, Blandford will have complied with the State's guidelines for sharing in the \$40M commitment to a regional fiber network.

Due to several changes at the state level and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), beyond the control of WiredWest, there is currently a hold on all funding for any fiber networks. There are a number of differences between what MBI is proposing and the WiredWest model. Most significantly, MBI does not believe that the WiredWest regional cooperative model is the best solution, and that each town should own and maintain their own fiber network.

The Executive Board of WiredWest, with the assistance of several subcommittees, continue to meet with MBI on a regular basis. Many of the towns have sent letters to the Baker Administration and MBI expressing their concern about the delay with the Broadband Project. This is all very frustrating to those of us who want/need a high fiber network as soon as possible. All WiredWest board meetings are open to the public, and you are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Langmore, Chair and WW Delegate; Kim Bergland, Alt. WW Delegate, June Masee, Rylan Shepard, Members

PLANNING BOARD

At the request of the Selectboard in July 2015, the Planning Board began the process of reapplying to become a Green Community. We have been reviewing the five criteria that would qualify the town to become a Green Community. We have determined that we need to update our energy use baseline from 2011, adopt a Five-Year Plan to reduce our baseline energy use by 20%, and adopt for the general bylaws the 780 CMR, 1155 AA of Building Regulations and Standards Stretch Energy Code. This code has recently been updated and now only applies to those people who are building a new home.

The adoption of Stretch Code will be on the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting in May 2016. Prior to the Annual Town Meeting there will be a Public Hearing scheduled in April regarding the Stretch Code.

Respectfully submitted by,

TJ Cousineau, Chair; Lynn McCann, Secretary; Jeff Allen, Sharon Barnard, John Bianco, Don Carpenter, Mary Mangini

POLICE DEPARTMENT

No report submitted ~ see website: blandfordpolice.com

RECREATION COMMITTEE

It has been a busy year for the Recreation Committee! We sponsored the annual Memorial Day picnic that was well attended. Special thanks to Peter Langmore and Dick Gates who manned the grills.

The Halloween party was packed with kids playing the games of skill manned by our volunteers. This was our third year having a trick-or-treating trail in Watson Park. Several Departments as well as residents set-up and manned booths this year.

With the additional support of the Porter Memorial Library staff, we have continued to publish the Blandford Bugle, a quarterly newsletter about goings on in Town.

The Welcome Committee has been hard at work putting together baskets and making newcomers feel welcome.

We are currently working with the Council on Aging and the Library staff to put together a community garden at Town Hall this season. We hope to incorporate classes, and projects appropriate for all ages. The kick-off event will be on Earth Day where we will assemble the gardens and decorate bird houses for the Park.

If you have not already, we encourage you to explore the network of well groomed trails with foot bridges at the Knittel Conservation Area. The trails begin at the parking pull out area on Herrick Road. Great places to walk your dog or explore nature with you children. Thanks to Tony van Werkhoven, Dick Gates, Don Carpenter, Chips Norcross, and Rosa Benson for maintaining the trails.

As always, thanks to the many volunteers who have stepped forward to help make our events fun. We welcome a new member to our committee this year, Keri Morawiec. Thank you for joining us! If you would like to participate please email us at recreation@townofblandford.com or call Cara at (413) 552-9600.

Respectfully Submitted

Chuck Benson, Chair; Cara Letendre, Secretary; Patricia Hebert, Vicky Bisgrove, Keri Morawiec, Members

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

There have been a number of issues cooking during this past year. We will try to highlight some important ones as we continue to consider the best approach on others.

As most are aware, we disapproved the school budget as presented three separate times last year, at which point the State Department of Education stepped in and required the town make payment of the last submission. As of this writing, we still have not outlined how to pay for the difference between our approved amount and the assessed amount. Both the Gateway School and the Gateway Task Force are in the process of evaluating what the practical options may be to move forward with our educational program in a shrinking resource and student environment.

The Highway garage was in desperate need of repairs, and during this repair process we found contaminants in the soil being excavated. This finding mandated a substantial detour in our completion plans which, of course, added both expenses and time to the project. The final correction has been made, and the department personnel have moved back into their quarters, after spending all winter housed in the salt shed. Due to the Finance Committee's foresight and the voters' approval of a Building Stabilization Fund, we were able to pay for this project without borrowing money.

A similar situation is now at our doorstep with the Fire Department building. It is in need of a replacement with a sound structure, and sized to hold people, equipment and our fire trucks in a reasonable fashion. This appears to be one of the most urgent projects to attempt. Our feasibility study with DOT funding resulted in the rendering of a beautiful structure that was well beyond our means to construct. A modest, practical alternative is now needed.

In the Highway Department there was a vote of the employees to join a union. The negotiations for a contract are still ongoing.

We have made a change in building inspectors, and a selection of a permanent person is pending.

Plans for occupancy of the Shepard Farm property, owned by the town, are underway. There are legal hurdles being jumped in order to put the house, barn and some acreage into an unrestricted category for permanent use by tenants. We look forward to seeing this property productive again.

Much progress has been made in cleaning up our accounting books and putting new procedures in place to avoid past mistakes. This effort can best be described as painstaking and expensive. We have, and continue to need outside expertise to shepherd this process to its conclusion.

The ice skating rink in Watson Park seemed to be well received, when the weather was cold enough to make ice. We will be seeing little league ball played in the park this year, some gardening taking shape, and welcome other events to bring the community together.

As you may have read in the papers, we have hit some bumps in the road with our WiredWest broadband implementation. They are still active and trying to make progress working with the state (MBI) for their financial support.

We are getting close to closing out the ugly chapter on the ice storm with FEMA . Of the \$725,000 submitted, FEMA has approved payment for \$544,980.03, leaving us with an outstanding dollar amount from this incident \$181,660.01

We are looking into selling the old town hall if we can clear up some legal title issues prior to.

{Please add spices to taste and simmer until done.....}

Your Selectmen,

Adam Dolby, Chairman, William Levakis, Member; Andrew Montanaro, Clerk

TAX COLLECTOR

In 2015, collections are stable once again for real estate. For those taxpayers who were delinquent, the town now has a payment plan in place for 90% of them. Those remaining are going through the tax title and tax-taking process.

Personal property collections were again at 99%. The Commonwealth presently has legislation pending to allow collections to become liens to aid in collecting all the personal property taxes as well. Currently the only way to collect these taxes is to take the delinquent accounts to small claims court or a collection agency. The legislature is still working on this bill.

Our deputy collector is aggressively pursuing delinquent excise taxes. With their ability to mark delinquent accounts at the registry this has helped to bring excise accounts up to date. The collection rate for the excise taxes is 92%. They continue to pursue years prior to 2015 to get our collection rate there up as well.

We still have a team in place checking those claims that taxes have been paid, where we show there have been no payments. I again want to thank the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to help our town accomplish this monumental task. Our tax payers have been extremely patient, as we try to bring our records and discrepancies in line.

As a team, the collector, treasurer and town accountant have been working to reconcile the books and hope to have the records updated and balanced so in 2016 we shall be able to have a good audit. This is a slow process, but will help the town have free cash.

Overall our collections are now in line with the other cities and towns,

Respectfully submitted,

June H. Masee, Tax Collector

TOWN CLERK

Special thanks to Pamela Rideout for her many hours of volunteer work in the office and to members of the Council on Aging for their assistance in getting the street list mailed out this year.

There were six deaths, eight births and three marriages in 2015.

This office will no longer report the birth and marriage information for individuals, following the practice of other town clerks across the state, because of the problem of identity theft.

There are now four political parties in Massachusetts: Democratic, Republican, Green-Rainbow and United Independent Party. The latter should not be confused with being an unenrolled voter, historically and traditionally referred to as *independent*, it is an actual party and any nominees from that party will appear on state and federal election ballots. If you have any question about your voting status, please contact the Town Clerk's office 848-4279, ext. 203 or email: town-clerk@townofblandford.com .

If you need to register your car or get a new driver's license at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, you will be asked if you want to register to vote. Please check your voter status before you visit the Registry because you do not want to create a duplicate record, which causes much confusion for the Town Clerk.

Laurie Boucher started in the office as Assistant Town Clerk in January. She is a great asset and is enthusiastic about being in the office.

The most recently adopted bylaws have been officially accepted by the Attorney General's office and have been included in the town's general bylaws which are available online at the town's website under Forms and Documents.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kronholm, Town Clerk

TREASURER

At this time we are in the process of closing the books for 2015. After the books are closed and approved by the department of Revenue a copy of our financial reports will be able in the clerks office.

Town Debt

Landfill Cap - \$249,600 Financed by state house note for 24 Years beginning FY2001 @5.9

Interest paid FY14 \$6,188.00 Principle paid FY14 \$10,400.00

Remaining Balance \$93,600.00

Permanent Bond for Phase 1 Granted by Rural Development \$1,183,803@4.375%
for 38 years issued 06/08/2004
Interest paid FY14 \$38,161.94 Principle paid FY14 \$31,153.00
Remaining Balance \$841,120.00

Permanent Bond for Phase 2 Granted by Rural Development \$1,288,697 @4.5%
for 39 years issued 12/16/2004
Interest paid FY14 \$51,814.73 Principle paid FY14 \$18,883.27
Remaining Balance \$ 1,132,555.22

Permanent Bond for Phase 3 Granted by Rural Development \$1,300,623@4.375%
for 38 years issued 08/28/2006
Interest paid FY14 \$53,034.92 Principle paid FY14 \$17,069.08
Remaining Balance \$1,178,088.48

Permanent Bond for Phase 4 Granted by Rural Development \$882,000.00@4.125%
for 39 years issued 06/12/2007
Interest paid FY14 29,852.13 Principle paid \$22,616.00
Remaining balance 701,072.00

Short term Bond anticipation note issued on10/3/2014 for \$725,000.00@.55
Short term Bond note issued on11/14/2014 for \$893,974.00@ .55

Securities, Trusts and other Funds

Cemetery 1 & 2 Fund	\$10,583.94	Watson Park Dividend Fund	\$86,838.01
Stabilization Fund	\$156,107.22	Library Building Fund	\$4,937.54
Septic Repair Grant Fund	\$18,417.69	Lot Sale perpetual Care Fund	\$10,030.93
Taggart School Fund	\$8,543.25	Sornburger Cemetery Fund	\$516.30
Electra Watson High School fund	\$87,324.67	Cemetery Care Fund	\$6,850.16
Nye School Fund	\$7,796.71	Susan Tiffany Cemetery Fund	\$225,034.47
Watson School fund	\$4,858.79	Sarah Robins Perpetual Care Fund	\$23,608.29
Robert A .Arms Bicentennial fund	\$32,838.55	Building Stabilization	\$5,253.70

Wallace Dean Watson -Trust Fund Book Value as of 6/30/2014 \$381,007.16

Utley Library Fund- In Custody of the Library Trustees

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Marra, Treasurer

VETERANS' AGENT

See budget

WATER COMMISSIONERS

Secretary Hours: Cara Letendre

Mondays 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Also available on Thursday evenings from 4 to 6 p.m. during the month water bills are due.

Email: watersecretary@townofblandford.com

telephone: (413) 848-4279 x 304

The Board of Water Commissioners is continuing to work diligently to keep water flowing to residents without any interruptions.

Overall the Water Department has kept the water running well with no major problems to report for the previous year. The Commissioners along with the Superintendent and staff have been working to repair the ozone generators at the water plant. At this time the generators are up and running well.

MassDOT has agreed to replace the permanent water line that runs under the bridge on North Street and remove the temporary line. They expect to be finished with the project in the next few weeks. Maintenance will begin mid-May to flush hydrants, exercise gate valves etc.

All our staff has continued to attend meetings and training programs. The Water Department is very proactive in training and educating our staff which makes the department run very smoothly and efficiently.

Lastly, the Commissioners wish to thank all the water users and residents for their cooperation and support.

Respectfully submitted,

William Levakis, Chair; Bradley Curry, Clerk; Gordon Avery, Member

ZONING BOARD of APPEALS

The past year proved uneventful, however there were changes within the ZBA which should be noted.

We did work to create an index for the town by-laws presented on the internet. The index should make it easier to look up specific areas without having to look through an entire by-law.

There was a change in Chairmanship as Sumner Robbins stepped down after thirty years on the board and Donald Brainerd took over as Chairman.

Financial Report

Selectmen are required to report annually to the town regarding its financial status and general condition of boards, departments, commissions and their activities; hence, the Annual Town Report.

At this time the compilation of 2015 fiscal year financial results is still a work in progress. The Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, is aware of our current status.

The full financial report for the town will be available as soon as it is final. Copies will be available and it will be posted on the town's website and included as an addendum to the Annual Town Report.

The Town's Finance Committee intends to schedule a review meeting for the purpose of responding to questions.
Adam Dolby, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

Blandford Town Hall
413-848-4279

Financial Departments extension 1

- 100 Accountant
- 101 Tax Collector
- 102 Treasurer
- 103 Finance Committee (mailbox only)

General Government extension 2

- 200 Assessors
- 202 Conservation Commission (Mailbox only)
- 203 Town Clerk
- 204 Zoning Board of Appeals
- 206 Board of Selectmen
- 207 Planning Board

Public Works extension 3

- 301 Highway Department
- 302 Police Department
- 304 Water Department
- 305 Building Inspector (Mailbox only)
- 306 Tree Warden (Mailbox only)
- 307 Cemetery Commission (Mailbox only)
- 308 Dog Officer (Mailbox only)
- 309 Municipal Light Board (Mailbox only)

Human Services extension 4

- 400 Council on Aging
- 401 Board of Health

Cultural and Recreation extension 5

- 500 Arts Council
- 501 Recreation Committee (Mailbox only)
- 502 Historical Commission

Fire Department **NON EMERGENCIES**

- 600 or 848-2874
- 601 or 848-2874

Porter Memorial Library

- 700 or 848-2853

Veterans' Agent

Joseph Henning 413-427-3054

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

MAY 9, 2015

TO VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE, MARK A CROSS (X) IN THE SQUARE AT THE RIGHT OF THE NAME.
(Use extra space below candidate's name if you wish to vote for a write-in.)

* Caucus Nominee

** Nomination Papers

Assessor for three years

Vote for one

*Donald Carpenter, 36 Russell Stage Rd.

Candidate for re-election

Municipal Light Board for one year

Vote for one

*June Masee, 21 Sperry Rd.

Board of Health for three years

Vote for one

*Peter Thayer, 40 North Blandford Rd.

Planning Board for four years

Vote for one

Cemetery Commissioner for three years

Vote for one

*Theodore J. Cousineau, 99 Chester Rd.

Candidate for re-election

Planning Board for three years

Vote for one

Cemetery Commissioner for one year

Vote for one

School Committee for three years

Vote for one

*Michele Crane, 14 North St.

Candidate for re-election

Fence Viewer for three years

Vote for one

Selectman for Three Years

Vote for one

*Adam Dolby, 11 South Street 131

Candidate for re-election

Fence Viewer for two years

Vote for one

*Stephen Jemiolo, 51 Beech Hill Rd. 50

Tree Warden for Three Years

Vote for one

*Mark Boomsma, 10 Nye Brook Rd 80

Candidate for re-election

Field Driver for three years

Vote for one

*Peter Thayer, 40 North Blandford Rd. 100

Library Trustee for three years

Vote for one

*Mary Kronholm, 89 Main St.

Candidate for re-election

Water Commissioner for Three Years

Vote for one

*Mark Boomsma, 10 Nye Brook Rd 77

Candidate for re-election

Moderator for three years

Vote for one

*David Hopson, 55 Woronoco Rd.

Candidate for re-election

*Gordon Avery, 18 Kaolin Rd. 104

NOTE: There were 187 ballots cast in the May 2015 Annual Town Election out of a possible 835 registered voters.



**Minutes of May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden, SS.
Town of Blandford**

At a legal meeting of the qualified voters of the **TOWN OF BLANDFORD**, held on May 4, 2015 at Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts, the following business was transacted:

- Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 39, Sec. 15 that the Town Moderator be authorized to declare a two-thirds vote without a count when passage of an article requires a two-thirds vote by statute, provided, however, that if the vote is immediately questioned by seven or more voters, a count shall be taken, or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously; a procedural motion.
- Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officials and act thereon; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously.
- Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,584,148 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article amended
- Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,611.292 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed as amended 86 yea to 28 nay.
- Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$114,462 for the Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article amended
- Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$114,462 for the Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$36,000 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article amended
- Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,000 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds \$1,760,000 for the Town's share of the costs of the construction, installation and start-up of a high-speed broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant; acting as a member of the co-op; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed 120 yea to 13 nay

- Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer and/or Tax Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2016 as permitted by M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 53F; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 17; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$25,000 for the Reserve Account; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 10:** [To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \\$55,000 for the Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.](#)
Article passed unanimously
- Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Fire Department for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with inspections and fees received from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, to be expended for the purpose of paying costs and expenses related to the purchase of gear, equipment, and building maintenance, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY16, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Fire Chief; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch.44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Council on Aging, for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with events that occur for the Council on Aging for the purpose of paying costs and expenses related to the purchase of items to benefit the Council, said sum not to exceed \$5,000 in FY16, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Chair of the Council on Aging; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Electrical Inspector and Plumbing Inspector, for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with inspections and permits issued by such inspectors, to be expended for the purpose of paying salaries for the Electrical Inspector, and Plumbing Inspector, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 for each in FY16, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½ to authorize a revolving fund for the Shepard Farm property, to be expended for the purpose of maintenance and improvements, into which will be credited fees and receipts generated through the programs undertaken at the Shepard Farm property, and to authorize the expenditure of such fund by the Shepard Farm Revolving Fund Committee, which shall consist of a representative from each of the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, and the Historical Commission; said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY16; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously

- Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Board of Health for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with Perk Tests from residents/new home owners for the purpose of paying salaries and costs relative to such program, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY16, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Board of Health for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with the sale of Transfer Station Trash Bags to residents, to be expended for the purpose of purchasing trash bags by the Board of Health, said sum not to exceed \$5,000 in FY16, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept all Federal and State grants available to the Town of Blandford; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept all Chapter 90 funds; or take any other action relative thereto.
Article passed unanimously
- Article 19:** [To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \\$1,489,402 and transfer](#) to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)
Article amended
- Article 19:** [To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \\$1,489,898 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto. \(See Proposed Departmental Budgets\)](#)
Amendment 1: keep line 9 \$40,000 for town administrator/administrative assistant but fund for \$1
Amendment failed
Amendment 2: strike administrative assistant from the description of line 9
Amendment passed
Amendment 3: Change line 110 from \$3,005 to \$3,500
Amendment passed
Article passed as amended unanimously
- Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$ [523,973](#) from Water Department Funds to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)
Article passed unanimously
- Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$100,000 for the Building [Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.](#)
[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]
Article passed unanimously
- Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40, Sec. 5B, to create a Municipal Light Stabilization Fund for the purpose of future funding of projects to be undertaken through the Municipal Light Plant, including construction of high-speed broadband network; and to raise and appropriate a sum of \$12,000 for the Municipal Light Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto. [Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]
Article passed unanimously

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40, Sec. 5B, to create a Water Stabilization fund for the purpose of funding future water system related projects; and to transfer a sum of \$132,000 from the approved retained earnings to the Water Stabilization Fund. Said amount represents the unspent balance of retained earnings after funds appropriated for repair of the water main freeze (approved by the vote taken under Article 1 of the March 16, 2015 Special Town Meeting), or take any other action relative thereto. [Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]

Article passed unanimously

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Blandford By-laws, Section IV, Town Counsel, by deleting text of said section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

A. Appointment of Town and Special Counsel: The Board of Selectmen is authorized on behalf of the Town to prosecute and defend matters in which the Town has an interest, or to appear in favor or opposed to matters involving the Town's interest, and employ a Town Counsel and such special counsel as may be needed for such purposes.

B. Duties of Town Counsel: Town Counsel shall be present at all Annual Town Meetings and may be available by telephone for all Special Town Meetings at the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

C. Authorization for Shared/Joint Legal Representation: The official duties of Town Counsel, or special counsel so appointed, shall include simultaneously representing the Town, other municipalities and/or public entities in matters in which the Town has a direct or substantial interest, including but not limited to administrative and judicial proceedings in which the Town is also a party or wishes to be a party. Such representation may be undertaken in each particular matter in which dual or common representation is contemplated only upon the express written permission of the Board of Selectmen and provided that Town Counsel or, as appropriate, special counsel, has complied with all applicable rules of professional responsibility. In granting such permission, the Board of Selectmen shall make a separate finding that such dual or common representation furthers the interests of the Town, including, for example, to facilitate the pooling of resources for a common purpose, development of regional and mutual interests, or preservation of scarce municipal funds.

Or to take action relative thereto

Article Tabled

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2015 Annual Town Meeting, hereby request the Board of Selectmen to file with the State Auditor a request for reimbursement for any and all unfunded mandates which are legally eligible for reimbursement, which mandates are imposed on the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including but not limited to costs for Vocational Education Transportation.

Or to take action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2015 Annual Town Meeting hereby request the Gateway Regional School District School Committee to file, with the State Auditor a request for reimbursement for any and all unfunded mandates which are legally eligible for reimbursement, which are imposed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, including but not limited to costs for Student Transportation)

Or to take action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2015 Annual Town Meeting hereby request the Gateway Regional School District School Committee to explore all possible options to protect the financial and educational sustainability of the Gateway Regional School District, including but not limited to exploring and recommending ways to: (1) Ensure

the financial and educational sustainability of the Gateway Regional School District with quantifiable and measurable five and ten year operational and capital plans; (2) Ensure the quality of education be sustained at the highest level possible: (3) Make practical recommendations to the Member Towns of the Gateway Regional School District to achieve these goals on a short term and long term basis; and (4) Provide annual reports to the Member Towns on progress made to reach these stated goals and requests. Or to take action relative thereto.

Article passed unanimously

A true copy
ATTEST:

Mary N. Kronholm, Town Clerk



MINUTES/CERTIFIED COPY OF VOTE
Special Town Meeting
June 25, 2015
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden, SS.
Town of Blandford

At a legal meeting of the qualified voters of the **TOWN OF BLANDFORD**, held on June 25, 2015 at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road Blandford, Massachusetts, at 7 P.M., the following business was transacted:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,770 from the Town Counsel Account into the Town Accountant Salary for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$560.00 from the Tax Title Advertising Account into the Treasurer's Salary for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,800 from the Assessors Clerk Salary Account into the Veteran Benefits Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,715.00 from the Assessors Contract Services Account into the Veteran Benefits Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,000.00 from the Group Health Insurance Account into the Veteran Benefits Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$16,500.00 from the Gateway School Budget Account into the Town Hall Utilities Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

AMENDMENT PROPOSED:

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$16,500.00 from the Gateway School Budget Account into the Reserve Account to use towards next year's school budget.. (majority vote required for passage)

Amendment failed.

Article passed as written, majority vote.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$4,300.00 from the Gateway School Budget Account into the Old Town Hall Expenses Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed with majority vote.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$18,200.00 from the Vocational Education Account into the External IT Support Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,800.00 from the Vocational Education Budget Account into the New Town Hall Maintenance and Repair Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,100.00 from the Vocational Education Account into the Town Hall Labor Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$17,200.00 from the Free Cash Account into the Sand and Salt Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$57,974.00 from the Free Cash Account into the Load Debt Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum \$108,505 from the Free Cash Account into the Stabilization Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (two-thirds majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$773.00 from the Transfer Station Expense Account into the Part Time Highway Salaries Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,967.00 from the Capital Projects Account into the Part Time Highway Salaries Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,100.00 from the Library Salaries Account into the Snow and Ice Labor Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article amended:

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$6,100.00** from the Library Salaries **and \$600.00 from the Vocational Education** Account into the Snow and Ice Labor Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously as amended.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,530.00 from the Town Hall Fuel Account into the Town Insurance Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,300.00 from the Town Hall Fuel Account into the Loan and Interest Debt Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,600.00 from the Capital Projects Account into the Hamden County Retirement Account for the purpose of supplementing the Accounting of that account for FY'15, or take any other action relative thereto. (majority vote required for passage)

Article passed unanimously.

A True Copy

ATTEST:

Mary N. Kronholm, Town Clerk

Date



**Minutes of Special Town Meeting
September 10, 2015
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden, SS.
Town of Blandford**

At a legal meeting of the qualified voters of the TOWN OF BLANDFORD held on September 10, 2015 at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts, the following business was transacted:

Asst. Town Clerk Nicole Barsalou conducted the meeting until Donald Carpenter was elected moderator.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 4 of the May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting which vote provided funding for the operation of the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed; secret ballot; 47 no to 77 yes, two blank votes

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the operation of the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; and further, to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to provide additional funds required to meet the assessment of the Town's share of the operating costs for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, provided, however, that any such additional appropriation shall be contingent upon approval of the voters at a Town election of an override of Proposition 2 ½ so-called in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.59, §21C; or take any other action relative thereto.

Amendment: motion to divide the question passed by majority

Article 2 AS AMMENDED: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,584,148. for the operation of the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Article passed by majority vote

Article 2, second part AS AMMENDED: and further, to raise and appropriate \$116,058 to provide additional funds required to meet the assessment of the Town's share of the operating costs for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, provided, however, that any such additional appropriation shall be contingent upon approval of the voters at a Town election of an override of Proposition 2 ½ so-called in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.59, §21C; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article failed

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Blandford By-laws, Section IV, Town Counsel, by deleting text of said section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

A. Appointment of Town and Special Counsel: The Board of Selectmen is authorized on behalf of the Town to prosecute and defend matters in which the Town has an interest, or to appear in favor or opposed to matters involving the Town's interest, and employ a Town Counsel and such special counsel as may be needed for such purposes.

B. Duties of Town Counsel: Town Counsel shall be present at all Annual Town Meetings and may be available by telephone for all Special Town Meetings at the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

C. Authorization for Shared/Joint Legal Representation: The official duties of Town Counsel, or special counsel so appointed, shall include simultaneously representing the Town, other municipalities and/or public entities in matters in which the Town has a direct or substantial interest, including but not limited to administrative and judicial proceedings in which the Town is also a party or wishes to be a party. Such representation may be undertaken in each particular matter in which dual or common representation is contemplated only upon the express written permission of the Board of Selectmen and provided that Town Counsel or, as appropriate, special counsel, has complied with all applicable rules of professional responsibility. In granting such permission, the Board of Selectmen shall make a separate finding that such dual or common representation furthers the interests of the Town, including, for example, to facilitate the pooling of resources for a common purpose, development of regional and mutual interests, or preservation of scarce municipal funds.

Article passed by majority vote.

A True Copy

ATTEST:

Mary N. Kronholm, Town Clerk, Blandford, Massachusetts



**Minutes Special Town Meeting
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden, SS.
Town of Blandford**

At a legal meeting of the qualified voters of the **TOWN OF BLANDFORD**, held on November 19, 2015 at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road Blandford, Massachusetts, at 7 P.M., the following business was transacted:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$25,213.00 to provide additional funds required to meet the assessment of the Town's share of the operating costs for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, provided, however, that any such additional appropriation shall be contingent upon approval of the voters at a Town election of an override of Proposition 2 ½ so-called in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.59, §21C; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion to fund the article from Stabilization was defeated.

Article 1: defeated with a vote of 68 no to 23 yes

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Blandford By-laws by inserting new By-Law Section X.1, Drainage Infrastructure, as follows:

X.1. Drainage Infrastructure

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this By-Law is protect the public health, safety and welfare of Blandford residents, to protect personal and public property, and to reduce the adverse effects caused by flooding and stormwater runoff by regulating the construction and maintenance of drainage infrastructure within the Town of Blandford.

Section 2. Definitions

DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE – includes all manmade infrastructure designed to collect, transport or divert water runoff, including but not limited to, culverts, trenches, drainage ditches, catch basins and underground piping.

GOOD REPAIR – includes the making of additions or alterations or the taking of any other action that may be required to ensure that a Drainage Infrastructure remains clear of any Obstruction.

OBSTRUCTION – means any object or condition which prevents or hinders the proper functioning of Drainage Infrastructure including, but not limited to, rocks, gravel, brush and debris.

OWNER – includes: 1) the registered owner of the land and 2) a lessee or occupant of property who, under the terms of a lease or similar document, is required to repair and maintain the property.

PROJECT – land disturbance activity which requires the construction of Drainage Infrastructure.

STORMWATER – runoff from rain, snowmelt, or a stream of water, including a river, brook or underground stream.

Section 3. Applicability

This By-Law applies to all Owners that undertake Projects and all Owners whose property already contains Drainage Infrastructure to divert Stormwater off their property.

Section 4. New Drainage Infrastructure Construction

Any Owner who undertakes a Project must design drainage patterns and construct Drainage Infrastructure so as to prevent Stormwater discharge onto adjacent public and private roads and adjacent properties.

Section 5. Repair and Maintenance

A. All Owners shall keep their Drainage Infrastructure in Good Repair.

- B. All Owners shall maintain their Drainage Infrastructure free of Obstructions and in such a state so as to prevent the discharge of Stormwater onto public and private roads and abutting properties. All Owners shall maintain their Drainage Infrastructure in such a state as to prevent the deviation from existing or approved drainage patterns.

Section 6. Enforcement Powers

- A. The Highway Superintendent, or their designee, shall be responsible for enforcing this By-Law.
- B. If the Highway Superintendent determines that a violation of this By-Law has occurred, they may make an order requiring the Owner who has caused or permitted the violation, to take such actions necessary to correct the violation. Such order shall set out, with reasonable particularity, the nature of the violation, the location of the land on which the violation occurred and the date by which any remedial actions must be taken.
- C. The Highway Superintendent may require an Owner to furnish the Highway Superintendent with evidence that an order made pursuant to Section 6(B) of this By-Law has been complied with. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, site inspection, photographic evidence and documents production indicating that Drainage Infrastructure has been brought into Good Repair.

Section 7. Notice

If the Highway Superintendent ascertains that there is any violation of this By-Law, they shall send notice and any accompanying order issued pursuant to Section 6(B), by registered mail or direct delivery by hand to the Owner.

Section 8. Offenses and Penalties

- A. Any Owner who violates any provision of this By-Law or fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to Section 6 (B) of this By-Law shall be fined not less than fifty (50) dollars or more than three-hundred (300) dollars for each offence. Each day that such violation or lack of compliance continues shall constitute a separate offense.
- B. This By-Law may be enforced by the Highway Superintendent or their designee through any lawful means in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, non-criminal disposition pursuant to G.L. Chapter 40, §21D. In the event that enforcement is sought through non-criminal disposition fines shall be imposed as follows, with each day that such violation continues constituting a separate offense:
 - i. first offense, \$50.00
 - ii. second offense, \$100.00
 - iii. third and successive offenses, \$300.00 each

Article 2: passed 62 yes to 6 no

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Building Stabilization Fund into the Capitol Fund for the purpose of funding the Highway Garage Project; or take any other action relative thereto. (two-thirds majority vote required for passage)

Article 3: passed 71 yes, -0- no

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money or less from the Stabilization Fund into the Capitol Fund for the purpose of funding the Highway Garage Project; or take any other action relative thereto. (two-thirds majority vote required for passage) Or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 4: Tabled

A True Copy

ATTEST: _____
Mary N. Kronholm, Town Clerk



Warrant Annual Town Meeting
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden, SS.
Town of Blandford

To: One of the Constables in the Town of Blandford, in said County and State

GREETINGS: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of Blandford qualified to vote in elections and town affairs to meet at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, on May 2, 2016 next, at 7 P.M., then and thereto to act on the following matters:

- Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 39, Sec. 15 that the Town Moderator be authorized to declare a two-thirds vote without a count when passage of an article requires a two-thirds vote by statute, provided, however, that if the vote is immediately questioned by seven or more voters, a count shall be taken, or take any other action relative thereto..
- Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officials and act thereon; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,611,060 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$129,291 for the Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$45,000 for the transportation expenses for Vocational Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer and/or Tax Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2017 as permitted by M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 53F; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 44, Sec. 17; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$25,000 for the Reserve Account; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 9:** [To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \\$60,000 for the Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.](#)
[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]
- Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec.

53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Fire Department for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with inspections and fees received from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, to be expended for the purpose of paying costs and expenses related to the purchase of gear, equipment, and building maintenance, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Fire Chief; or take any other action relative thereto.

- Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch.44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Council on Aging, for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with events that occur for the Council on Aging for the purpose of paying costs and expenses related to the purchase of items to benefit the Council, said sum not to exceed \$5,000 in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Chair of the Council on Aging; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Electrical Inspector and Plumbing Inspector, for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with inspections and permits issued by such inspectors, to be expended for the purpose of paying salaries for the Electrical Inspector, and Plumbing Inspector, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 for each in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½ to authorize a revolving fund for the Shepard Farm property, to be expended for the purpose of maintenance and improvements, into which will be credited fees and receipts generated through the programs undertaken at the Shepard Farm property, and to authorize the expenditure of such fund by the Shepard Farm Revolving Fund Committee, which shall consist of a representative from each of the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, and the Historical Commission; said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY17; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Board of Health for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with Perk Tests from residents/new home owners for the purpose of paying salaries and costs relative to such program, said sum not to exceed \$10,000 in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to authorize a revolving fund for the Board of Health for the purpose of depositing receipts received in connection with the sale of Transfer Station Trash Bags to residents, to be expended for the purpose of purchasing trash bags by the Board of Health, said sum not to exceed \$5,000 in FY17, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept all Federal and State grants available to the Town of Blandford; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept all Chapter 90 funds; or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 18:** [To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \\$1,550,727 and transfer](#) to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)
- Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$552,032_ from Water Department Funds to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto. (See Proposed Departmental Budgets)
- Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$100,000 for the Building Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.
[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]
- Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$12,000 for the Municipal Light Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.
[Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$100,000, representing the balance of retained earnings, for the Water Department Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto. [Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.]

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General Bylaws by adding a new Section entitled “Stretch Energy Code” in the following manner:

XXI: Stretch Energy Code

Definitions:

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) –The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency, and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards.

Stretch Energy Code- Codified by the Board of Building Regulation and Standards as 780 CMR Appendix 115.AA of the 8th edition Massachusetts Building Code, the Stretch Energy Code is an appendix to the Massachusetts building August 2013 code, based on further amendments to the International Energy Code (IECC) to improve the energy efficiency of buildings built to this code.

Purpose:

The purpose of 780 CMR 115.AA is to provide a more energy efficient alternative to the Base Energy Code applicable to relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings.

Applicability:

This code applies to residential and commercial buildings. Buildings not included in this scope shall comply with 780 CMR 13, 34, 51, as applicable.

Stretch Energy Code:

The Stretch Energy Code, as codified by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards as 780 CMR Appendix 115 AA, including any future editions, amendments or modifications, is herein incorporated by reference into the Town of Blandford General By-Laws. The Stretch Code is enforceable by the inspector of buildings or building commissioner.

Effective Date:

The Stretch Energy Code was adopted by the May 2, 2016 Annual Town Meeting, with a concurrency start date of July 1, 2016 and a sole effective date of January 1, 2017.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General By-Laws by inserting new Article XXI entitled “Personnel Bylaw” pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 41, §108C, a copy of said personnel bylaw as on file at the Town Clerk’s office; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Stabilization fund the sum of \$18,871 to supplement the Town’s annual assessment for the Gateway Regional School District for Fiscal Year 2016, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:
BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2016 Annual Town Meeting, hereby request the Board of Selectmen to file with the State Auditor a request for reimbursement for any and all unfunded mandates which are legally eligible for reimbursement, which mandates are imposed on the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including but not limited to costs for Vocational Education Transportation.
Or to take action relative thereto.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:
BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2016 Annual Town Meeting hereby request the Gateway Regional School District School Committee to file, with the State Auditor a request for reimbursement for any and all unfunded mandates which are legally eligible for reimbursement, which are imposed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, including but not limited to costs for Student Transportation)
Or to take action relative thereto.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, and further, to send notice of the same to its State Senator, State Representative, and Governor:
BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the voters of the Town of Blandford, Massachusetts at its 2016 Annual Town Meeting hereby request the Gateway Regional School District School Committee to explore all possible options to protect the financial and educational sustainability of the Gateway Regional School District, including but not limited to exploring and recommending ways to: (1) Ensure the financial and educational sustainability of the Gateway Regional School District with quantifiable and measurable five and ten year operational and capital plans; (2) Ensure the quality of education be sustained at the highest level possible; (3) Make practical recommendations to the Member Towns of the Gateway Regional School District to achieve these goals on a short term and long term basis; and (4) Provide annual reports to the Member Towns on progress made to reach these stated goals and requests.
Or to take action relative thereto.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to accept and approve the following resolution regarding the critical need for immediate action on wired broadband service, as written below,

Whereas the Town's Community Anchor Institutions have NOT been provided broadband service as promised by the Middle Mile campaign; and

Whereas the State's westward expansion of broadband service to our rural towns of is a matter of Equal rights and fair representation as guaranteed by the Massachusetts Bill of Rights; and
Whereas broadband service is THE lifeline to our economic survival; and

Whereas our population is aging and declining; and

Whereas our students' education is compromised in under-enrolled schools and thwarted by their inability to perform required online assignments; and

Whereas our residents are unable to utilize digital internet health care; and
Whereas broadband assures the interconnectivity essential to life in the 21st century; and

Whereas The Massachusetts legislature passed and the governor signed Bill H4355, an Act financing information technology equipment and related projects, on June 6, 2014, which authorized \$50 Million to the Massachusetts Broadband Incentive Fund,

THEREFORE be it resolved that we, the Selectboard of the Town of Blandford, call upon the Baker/Polito Administration to commit all necessary resources to ensure the provision of wired broadband service to Blandford in its entirety thus meeting the internet needs of all its residents; and
Expediently provide resolution to this most challenging situation by allocating the funds necessary to bring this project to conclusion; and

Instruct the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to work cooperatively with the towns and their agencies, including WiredWest, and to accept input and policy direction from the towns to jointly produce an actionable plan that is acceptable to our town by June 30th, 2016.

Be it further resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Secretary Jay Ash, or take any action related thereto.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested Copies seven (7) days at least before the time of the meeting in three (3) public places in Blandford. Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant with yow doings thereon to the Clerk of Said Town at or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands and the seal of the Town of Blandford this 25th day of April, 2016

1	Budget Document FY2017			Mini Town Meeting		Version 6 20160423
		FY2015 As Passed	FY2016 As Passed	FY2017 Request	FY2017 Recommended	FY2017 Comments
2						
3	GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
4	Moderator's Salary	75	75	75	75	
5	Moderator's Expense	-	-	-	-	
6						
7	Selectboard Salaries	4,761	4,761	4,880	4,761	
8	Town Admin./Admin Assistant	1	40,000	40,000	40,000	
9	Secretary Salary	9,000	9,225	9,456	9,225	
10	Technology Training/ Support-2015	5,616	-	-	-	
11	Selectmen's Expenses	1,020	1,500	1,800	1,800	
12						
13	Finance Committee	675	600	600	600	
14	Accountant Salary	14,000	17,937	17,937	5,200	Reflects change in responsibilities - only expense warrants
15	Accounting consultant			20,000	20,000	Manage GL, Develop policies & procedures manual
16	Accountant Expenses	598	600	600	600	
17						
18	Assessor's Dept. Salaries	4,471	4,470	4,471	4,470	
19	Assessor's Clerk Salary	14,871	15,243	17,316	15,243	
20	Total Assessors Expenses	20,944	21,495	23,011	22,911	
21						
22	Treasurer's Dept. Salary	15,600	16,380	20,000	18,000	
23	Treasurer Asst Salary	1,000	800	500	500	
24	Treasurer's Expenses	3,381	7,150	6,450	6,450	decrease reflects payroll setup fees not required for FY2017
25	Tax Title Legal Fees	10,200	12,000	10,000	10,000	
26	Tax Title Custodian (Research)	2,040	2,000	2,000	2,000	
27						
28	Tax Collector's Salary	14,016	14,366	14,366	12,366	Adjust for less workload
29	Tax Collector's Expenses	5,550	7,526	7,526	7,526	
30	Tax Title Advertising	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
31	Special Project: Collector's dept.		10,000	10,000	10,000	Ongoing
32						
33	Town Clerk's Salary	3,530	3,619	10,000	4,619	Requested: 16 hrs/wk @ \$12 (150% + increase), recommended: increase by \$1,000
34	Town Clerk Assistant		1,250	2,665	2,500	Requested: 4 hrs per wk @ \$12.81 (50% +)
35	Town Clerk's Expenses	2,244	4,500	4,383	4,383	
36	Town Reports Salary	676	693	710	693	
37	Street & Dog List Salary	560	574	588	574	
38	Street & Dog List Expenses	261	325	325	325	
39	Vital Statistics Salary	29	50	51	50	
40	Board of Registrar's Salary	58	60	62	60	
41	Election & Registration	1,860	3,000	3,310	3,310	
42	Town Reports Expenses	408	500	710	500	
43	Conservation Commission	700	2,000	2,000	1,000	No budget request submitted - Recommended: based on actual ytd
44	Conservation Maps		250	250	250	
45	Planning Board	518	500	500	500	
46	Pioneer Valley Plan Com Assessment	189	185	185	185	
47	Zoning Board of Appeals	300	300	350	350	
48	Zoning Secretary	400	400	400	400	
49	Town Hall Labor	11,232	11,513	11,801	11,513	
50	New Town Hall Maint. & Repairs	24,500	25,000	23,000	18,000	Recommended: based on actual ytd
51	External IT Support /Comp. Software	21,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	

1	Budget Document FY2017			Mini Town Meeting		Version 6 20160423
2		FY2015 As Passed	FY2016 As Passed	FY2017 Request	FY2017 Recommended	FY2017 Comments
52	Town Counsel / Legal Fees	70,000	25,000	35,000	30,000	Recommended: based on actual ytd
53	Audit Services - Town Records	18,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	External audit of Town records
54	Town Hall Utilities (excl. water)	7,000	10,000	25,000	30,000	Recommended: Should be 30K based on ytd
55	Town Water	-	9,958	10,456	10,456	5% increase by Water Dept.
56	Town Hall - Heating Fuel	33,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	
57	Town Office Supplies (all)	4,162	12,000	12,000	10,000	Based on YTD
58	Town Misc. Expenses (incl. mowing)	10,400	8,000	8,000	6,000	Consolidate lawn services into this line item. Put under Bill Levakis for administration. Include park mowing (paid from other source)
59	Old Town Hall: All expenses	6,300	8,000	-	5,000	Based on YTD
60	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.	355,146	406,805	455,733	425,394	
61	TOWN PROTECTION SERVICES					
62	Ambulance Service	21,253	22,000	23,210	38,710	5.5% increase plus anticipated share of 4x4 ambulance est. 15,500
63	Berkshire County Dispatch		4,940	4,940	4,940	
64	Police Salaries	25,875	26,522	30,177	20,000	Finance requested activity report - none provided. Reflects current low staffing level
65	Police Dept. Expenses	13,126	12,576	14,156	11,876	
66						
67	Fire Chief	10,764	10,764	10,764	10,764	
68	Fire Inspector			4,000		Pay out of fees collected
69	Clerk's Salary		-		2,000	\$12/hr
70	Total Fire Salaries	10,764	10,764	14,764	12,764	
71	Fire Department Expenses	30,500	34,100	40,000	37,300	
72					-	
73	Building Inspector Salary	5,589	5,589	5,600	5,400	Fees collected retained by Town
74	Building Inspector Expenses	510	510	510	510	
75	Plumbing Inspector Salary				-	Funded from fees
76	Electrical Inspection Salary				-	Funded from fees
77	Inspector of Animals	543	543	543	543	
78	Emergency Management (expense)	102	102	102	102	
79	Dog Officer Salary	860	860	860	860	
80	Dog Officer Expenses	306	306	306	306	
81	Tree Warden Salary	1,148	1,148	1,150	1,148	
82	Tree Warden Expenses	510	510	510	510	
83	Contract Svc - Tree Expense	7,650	7,650	7,650	7,000	
84	TOTAL PROTECTION	118,736	128,120	144,478	141,969	
85	PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES					
86	Highway Salaries	114,798	117,668	121,162	117,668	
87	TBD Worker	-	-	27,040	-	Requested: Additional employee
88	Highway Secretary	9,000	9,225	9,446	6,240	Completed special project. Reduced hours to approximate prior level
89	Overtime Salaries	4,223	4,500	6,000	4,500	Requested: 34% increase
90	P/T Salaries	12,000	12,300	14,350	12,300	
91	(new) Clothing Allowance			2,000	900	Requested: \$500 per FTE, 4 FTE/ Recommended: \$300 per FTE, 3 FTE
92	Total Salaries & Clothing	140,021	143,693	179,997	141,608	
93	Snow & Ice Labor	30,900	31,673	32,465	31,673	
94	Sand & Salt	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
95	Winter Repairs / Parts	10,000	10,000	12,000	10,000	
96	Winter Fuel and Oil	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	
97	Total Snow & Ice Removal	107,900	108,673	111,465	108,673	
98	(new) Equipment Rental			5,000	5000	mini-excavator/Ground vibrating roller
99	(new) Western Mass Mower			1,000	1000	mower coop program (will explain at meeting)
100	(new) Equipment Repairs (outside source)		30,450	20,000	20,000	Repairs not conducted by Blandford staff

1	Budget Document FY2017			Mini Town Meeting		Version 6 20160423
2		FY2015 As Passed	FY2016 As Passed	FY2017 Request	FY2017 Recommended	FY2017 Comments
101	(New) Equipment Repairs (inside)			-	0	Repairs conducted by Blandford staff
102	(new) Hwy Vehicle Inspections			1,300	1300	
103	(new) Fuel For Vehicles		38,550	20,000	20000	
104	Total Equipment Costs		69,000	47,300	47300	
105	(new) Bldg Maint & Repairs			3,000	3000	
106	Utilities (electric, propane)		7,800	3,200	3,200	
107	Building Costs		7,800	6,200	6200	
108	Bridge repair N. Blandford Road			30,000	30,000	
109	(new) Road Repairs (gravel, blacktop, etc)		70,400	30,000	30,000	
110	Routine Hwy Expenses			90,000	43,100	
111	Total Hywy Maintenance Expenses	151,190	70,400	150,000	103,100	
112	Highway Total Budget	399,110	399,566	494,962	406,881	
113	Transfer Station Salaries	11,317	11,317	11,317	11,317	
114	Cartage & Tipping	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	
115	Transfer Station Expenses	28,600	19,847	19,847	19,847	
116	Cemetery Commission Expenses	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	
117	Municipal Light Board	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	
118	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	469,027	459,730	556,126	468,045	
119	HUMAN SERVICES				-	
120	Board of Health Salaries	2,399	2,399	2,399	2,399	
121	Board of Health Secretary	3,236	3,236	3,236	3,236	
122	Board of Health Expenses	11,417	11,417	11,417	11,417	
123	Lee Visiting Nurses	377	350	350	350	
124	Council on Aging Expenses: TTL	2,652	2,496	2,496	2,496	
125	Veterans' Administration	1,632	1,700	1,758	1,700	
126	Veterans' Benefits	17,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	75% reimbursement from state
127	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	38,714	\$ 48,598	48,656	\$ 48,598	
128	CULTURE & REC.				-	
129	Library Salaries	25,384	26,019	37,367	28,600	
130	Library Expenses Total	19,115	19,612	30,626	19,012	
131	Recreation Committee	1,450	1,670	1,670	1,670	
132	Town Common Lawn Maint.	585	600	600	-	Consolidate lawn services
133	Historical Commission	900	900	900	600	No budget submission
134	Memorial Day	500	500	500	800	
135	TOTAL CULTURE & REC	47,934	49,301	71,663	50,682	
136	OVERHEAD EXPENSES					
137	Insurance (Property, Liability)	48,000	50,220	54,000	54,000	Net of 9,000 allocated to Water Dept
138	Fire & Police Disability Insurance	7,800	11,333	15,000	15,000	
139	Hampden County Retirement	38,728	45,675	54,305	54,305	
140	Workers' Compensation	4,000	5,045	11,000	11,000	
141	Unemployment Compensation	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	
142	Group Insurance (Health)	70,000	70,770	61,671	61,671	Anticipated rate increase, net of 16,600 direct charge to water
143	Medicare Town Share	-	10,000	10,250	10,000	Minimal change in overall salaries
144	TOTAL OVERHEAD EXPENSES	170,528	195,043	209,226	208,976	
145	EDUCATION					
146	Gateway Regional School District	1,509,148	1,584,148	1,611,060	1,611,060	Per GRSD estimated assessment per 03/02/2016 (\$8041) requested increase., after the DESE mandated increase of \$18,871 from FY16 that carried through to FY 17.

1	Budget Document FY2017			Mini Town Meeting		Version 6 20160423
2		FY2015 As Passed	FY2016 As Passed	FY2017 Request	FY2017 Recommended	FY2017 Comments
147	Vocational Schools	157,536	114,462	129,291	129,291	
148	Vocational Transportation	28,000	36,000	45,000	45,000	
149	TOTAL EDUCATION	1,694,684	1,734,610	1,785,351	1,785,351	
150	OTHER TOWN EXPENSES: DEBT, RESERVES, CAPITAL EQUIPMENT/PROJECTS, ETC.					
151	Emergency Stabilization Account	35,000	55,000	60,000	60,000	Emergency fund, capital equipment purchases
152	Reserve Account	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
153	Loan & Int.-Debt Exclusion approved by voters Town only	58,843	58,843	59,283	59,283	Landfill & Highway equipment
154	Loan & Int.-Debt Exclusion approved by voters Gateway only		-	-	-	Included in Gateway assessment
155	Remaining Loan Debt (not subject to an override)	59,267	113,458	117,780	117,780	Hurricane, Ice storm cleanup (lawsuit settlement)
156	Annual Capital Equip./ Projects	25,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	
157	Bldg Projects: Hwy/Fire/Lbry (stabilization)	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	For major building projects
158	Wired West Fiber Optic (Stabilization)		12,000	12,000	12,000	
159	TOTAL OTHER TOWN EXPENSES	303,110	394,301	404,063	404,063	
160						

1	Budget Document FY2017			Mini Town Meeting		Version 6 20160423
2		FY2015 As Passed	FY2016 As Passed	FY2017 Request	FY2017 Recommended	FY2017 Comments
161	TOTAL TOWN EXPENSE SUMMARY					
162		2015 Budget	2016 Budget	2017 Requested	2017 Recommended	
163					-	
164	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.	355,146	406,805	455,733	425,394	
165						
166	TOTAL PROTECTION	118,736	128,120	144,478	141,969	
167						
168	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	469,027	459,730	556,126	468,045	
169						
170	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	38,714	48,598	48,656	48,598	
171						
172	TOTAL CULTURE & REC.	47,934	49,301	71,663	50,682	
173						
174	TOTAL EMPL. OVERHEADS	170,528	195,043	209,226	208,976	
175						
176	TOTAL EDUCATION	1,694,684	1,734,610	1,785,351	1,785,351	
177						
178	TOTAL OTHER TOWN EXPENSES	303,110	394,301	404,063	404,063	
179						
180	Total Town Expenses	3,197,880	3,416,507	3,675,297	3,533,078	
181						
182	Town Revenue Summary					
183		2015 Budget	2015 Budget	2017 Requested	2017 Recommended	
184	Property & Real Estate Taxes	2,414,000	2,560,407	2,739,426	2,739,426	
185	Overlay Account	(26,000)	(27,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	
186	New Growth	15,000	22,000	15,000	15,000	
187	Water Dept. Overhead Expense	13,580	29,534	21,136	21,136	Revised methodology for FY2017 To be paid quarterly
188	Cherry Sheet (State aid)	175,000	181,436	166,383	166,383	
189	Subtract Cherry Sheet Allocated(ex. COA)		(2,235)	(2,189)	(2,189)	
190	Building Inspector Receipts	3,500	-	-	-	Included in local receipts
191	Local Receipts: Motor Vehicle, Food and Lodging taxes, Etc.	500,000	500,000	475,000	475,000	
192	Debt Exclusion Income	150,000	58,843	58,542	58,542	
193	Gateway Remodeling - Debt excl.		94,000	91,676	91,676	
194	Total Projected Revenue	3,245,080	3,416,985	3,539,974	3,539,974	
195						
196	Summary of Expenses and Revenue					
197		2015 Used				
198						
199	Total Town Expenses	3,197,880	3,416,507	3,675,297	3,533,078	
200			6.8%	0	3.4%	
201	Total Projected Revenue	3,245,080	3,416,985	3,539,974	3,539,974	
202			5.3%	0	3.6%	
203	Expense VS. Revenue Variance	47,200	478	(135,323)	6,896	
204						

1	Budget Document FY2017			Mini Town Meeting		Version 6 20160423
2		FY2015 As Passed	FY2016 As Passed	FY2017 Request	FY2017 Recommended	FY2017 Comments
205						

1	Budget Document FY2017			Mini Town Meeting		Version 6 20160423
2		FY2015 As Passed	FY2016 As Passed	FY2017 Request	FY2017 Recommended	FY2017 Comments
206	Water Department - Enterprise Account					
207	Superintendent Salary	35,000	35,875	37,000	35,875	
208	Clerk's Salary	6,000	5,200	5,200	5,200	\$20per/hr est 5 hr/wk per water dept.
209	Secretary	12,000	12,300	12,300	12,300	\$12.80 per/hr 18hr/wk
210	Water Dept. Administrator	-	-	-	-	
211	Backup Superintendent	8,000	8,200	10,000	8,200	
212	Commissioners' Salaries	6,000	6,150	6,150	6,150	
213	Licensed Assistant	2,000	2,050	3,126	2,050	
214	Field Commissioner	10,000	10,250	8,506	8,506	
215	Other Labor	31,000	20,000	17,000	14,500	2017 - Includes Breaks & Repair labor
216					-	
217	Utilities	50,000	56,000	30,000	30,000	
218	Chemicals	15,000	15,375	15,375	15,375	
219	Breaks and Repairs	25,000	35,000	43,500	35,000	Note - Labor is contract labor ("1099")
220	Testing	10,000	10,250	10,250	10,250	
221	System Repairs	-			-	
222	Office Expenses	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,100	
223	Equipment Repairs	3,000	3,075	6,000	3,075	
224	Legal/Audit Fees	2,000	1,000	3,500	1,000	
225	Software Support	4,000	1,025	1,025	1,025	
226	Education and Training	4,000	4,100	2,100	4,100	
227	Dept. Supplies	4,000	4,100	7,100	4,100	
228	Medical Ins			16,600	16,600	New - Direct charge to water Dept.
229	Property Insurance			9,219	9,219	New - Direct charge to water Dept.
230	Utility Billing Module			3,400	3,400	New - Direct charge to water Dept.
231	Dues, Membership fees		300	300	300	
232	Maintenance			6,000	6,000	
233	Capitol Expense			13,000	13,000	
234	Overhead/indirect Cost: Pd to town	13,580	29,534	21,136	21,136	Revised methodology for FY2017 To be paid quaterly
235					-	
236	Payroll	110,000	100,025	99,282	92,781	
237	Non-Salary Expenses	134,580	163,859	192,605	177,680	
238	Debt Repayment	262,585	260,089	260,089	260,089	
239	Total Water Dept. Expenses	507,165	523,973	551,976	530,550	
240	Water Department Revenue	515,278	525,317	552,032	552,032	Reflects 5% rate increase
241	Surplus	8,113	1,344	56	21,482	