

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:00 p.m.

January 13, 2015

PRESENT: Ryan Chamberland, Acting Chairman Robert Dubois  
Michael Catalano Margo Bik

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Esquire

1 & 2: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call was taken as noted above. Acting Chairman Chamberland announced that Chairman Wells has resigned his position with the Board of Selectmen

3: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- Finance Team/Department Heads: The Finance Team and Department Heads put together their budgets which were reviewed on Saturday and forwarded on to the Finance Committee.
- Introduction of COA Director Laurie Keefe: Mr. Keyes introduced Laurie Keefe as the new Director of the Council on Aging. Previously she had been the Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Keefe thanked Mr. Keyes for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. She stated she is looking forward to a good year. Mrs. Bik stated it was great to have Ms. Keefe on board.

4. BETH GREENBLATT – BEACON INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS:

Ms. Beth Greenblatt of Beacon Integrated Solutions appeared before the Board of Selectmen to discuss solar photovoltaic systems. Attorney Costello noted that for some time now the Town has been researching the possibility of having a solar facility on our property. This has been approved by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Ms. Greenblatt is an expert on solar energy and is very well regarded in this area. Her agenda was discuss market drivers and conditions, procurement options and consideration, added benefits and the steps to be taken leading up to the Annual Town Meeting. The cost to develop solar energy is more expensive than fossil fuel based energy generation but the federal and state governments have established financial incentives to induce renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Greenblatt discussed in detail the solar renewable energy certificates, known as SREC's as well as net metering credits. Her presentation was well received by all in attendance. For detailed information, please refer to the attached explanations. Mr. Costello has put together an RFP and put it out to bid. He will be available to help the Town through both the vendor selection process and contract negotiations.

A motion was made by Mr. Dubois, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to move forward with this project. There was no discussion and vote was unanimous.

5. ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn the 7:00 p.m. meeting was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Dubois. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

Board of Selectmen Meeting – 7:00 & 7:30 p.m. - 01-13-2015

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.

January 13, 2015

PRESENT: Ryan Chamberland, Acting Chairman Robert Dubois  
Michael Catalano Margo Bik

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Esquire  
Claudette Dolinski, Town Clerk Laurie Keefe, COA Director

1 & 2: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. and roll call was taken as noted above. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members of the Board. Mr. Chamberland announced that Chairman Wells has resigned his position as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, citing personal and health reasons.

3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2014:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Dubois, to accept the minutes of December 9, 2014 as written. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

4: GOOD AND WELFARE FOR THE PUBLIC - 7:30-8:00 p.m. (5 minute time limit per participant): (5 minute time limit per participant):

Mr. Watson stated that he was not speaking as a member of either the Finance Committee or Capital Outlay Committee, both of which he is a member. He just wanted to point out a few things. First, he would recommend the Town put an article for an appraisal of the power plant. This would cost approximately \$10,000 and the reason for suggesting this as an independent article is that it would put the funds aside and would be available for whenever the Board decides to address this issue and the funds would be there. The appraisal would be done to see what the power plant would yield as part of the regular tax roll. Secondly, Mr. Watson had a discussion with the Police Chief regarding the lease/purchase of three of the cruisers. Mr. Watson feels this is a Capital item and feels it cannot go forward. We passed a by-law several years ago which said the Capital Outlay Committee had to give a recommendation on all Capital Outlay items. Mr. Watson was surprised and concerned when he actually looked at the by law because what it said was that the article cannot go forward and that means we cannot ignore the issue because it would knock out the budget if at some point in the future it was determined it was a Capital item. If you just take that proposal and set it up separate and discuss it with the Town's attorney, it might be wise way to go to avoid what might become a problem. The third thing would be to put a warrant article on to have the Town accept Section 20 or Chapter 32B which would allow the Town to go forward in joining the state fund in investing the money to get a higher return. It is essentially a trust fund set up by the state that would allow money put in by the Town to be invested in a wide variety of investments which would have a higher level of return.

Ms. Nancy Davidson of 135 Lakeshore Drive who stated she is President of the Blackstone Friends of the Council on Aging. She is also a van driver for the seniors. She stated she wanted to discuss Mr. DiLibero. During her 7 years in the Senior Center, she saw only Dotty Clifford come into the Senior Center to call bingo on Wednesdays. Jay would come in to talk to the Director and meet with the seniors. During that 7 year period she never saw any member of the C.O.A. come in to the Senior Center to see what was going on, talk to the seniors, sit and have a coffee, see what they needed, see what the Center needed, attend a brunch, or a birthday party, or a "Friends" function. They did not like Jay probably because he worked with the Director (Karen and Jean). They made it known in public and in private that they did not like Jay or Jean. They changed the meeting hours to morning, knowing that Jay could not attend the meetings, nor could anyone else who worked during the day. Their whole missing was to get rid of Jay and ultimately the Director. They were successful. Now it

is a new year, we have a new Director and a new beginning. There are 3 great new members who want to get started but cannot even hold a meeting without a 4<sup>th</sup> member (7 is required for a full council). There are no volunteers beating down the door to serve out seniors. But we have Jay, an experienced volunteer and past chairman. She asked who turns down volunteers and the noted that apparently Mr. Chamberland does, as that was his first action as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Bik and Mr. Dubois recognized the need to get this board up and functioning to serve the seniors. She addressed Mr. Chamberland and noted that when he was running for selectman, he came into the Senior Center, scooped ice cream and promised the seniors that you would be there to address the needs of the seniors in the community. It is now 2 years later and we are still waiting. She asked him to stop furthering the past C.O.A.'s agenda and stop standing in the way of the needs of the seniors in our community.

Joen (last name unknown) stated she completely agreed with Ms. Davidson. She addressed Mr. Chamberland, stating he came into her home and promised to see the seniors and support them. We have had no support from Mr. Chamberland. She also could not understand why Mr. Catalano does not support the seniors. However, she noted that the seniors do have support from couple of good members here. There is no reason why Jay DiLiberio has to be left out. She stated Mr. Chamberland didn't even look into the reason behind the story and didn't even interview him or talk to him directly and that's what should have been done. She stated that Mr. Chamberland couldn't be bothered as he was too busy with other things she presumed. She stated she was very upset with those who voted "no". She felt they should look into the situation further and change the vote.

Nancy DelGizzi, 13 Devlin Circle stated with all due respect to Selectmen Chamberland and Catalano, she requested that they reconsider the appointment of Jay DiLiberio. We only have a few ladies on the board and we are at a standstill because we cannot have a meeting without a fourth person. Jay has the experience and he wants to work with the new Director. He has an interest in helping. The Friends group is here and although we haven't worked together in the past, we are willing to do so now with the new Director so we can have programs for the seniors. We want to be very involved with the seniors' events and programs. Ms. DelGizzi requested that they reconsider and change their vote. We plan on doing a lot of things with the Friends group and being more involved so that we can make it more attractive and people will have an interest in being on the Board or the Friends group. Our main concern is working with the Director and to make a difference so that people will want to join us so that we can get things done for the seniors.

Violet Theroux, 34 Edgewater Drive stated she is very upset and said "shame on you" for putting lives on hold just for your agenda, addressing Mr. Chamberland. We have great plans and great people and it has all come to a stop.

Mr. Chamberland noted that he will respond during "Good and Welfare – Selectmen"

#### 5: CORRESPONDENCE:

None at this time. Mr. Chamberland stated that now that he is Acting Chairman of the Board of Selectmen he has submitted his resignation as Chairman of the Capital Outlay Committee so he could focus on this Board. That spot will now have to be filled with another member of the Board of Selectmen.

#### 6: HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

None.

#### 7: OLD BUSINESS:

- E-Mail Policy: All Boards and Commissions: Mr. Keyes noted that this was put on the agenda by the former Chairman. Attorney Costello will put something together for when we have a meeting of all Boards, Commissions and departments regarding the issues and we will continue to move forward with this. Mr. Dubois noted that it is important that everyone follow the rules and regulations as they apply to e-mails, meeting minutes, Good and Welfare, etc. We all need to know what we can and cannot do. He felt that Blackstone follows the rules more so

than other towns. He felt a workshop in February or March would be most helpful for those wishing to learn more about the rules and regulations. Mr. Costello stated he would be more than happy to put on a presentation with guidelines regarding the Open Meeting Law and/or Public Record issues as they often are intertwined.

- 23 St. Paul Street: Lien Statement: Mr. Costello noted that in late summer/early fall of this year, we were caused to incur substantial expenses in order to abate the nuisance conditions that existed at 23 St. Paul Street. Those measures ultimately resulted in the demolition of the property. Under M. G. L., Chapter 11, Section 125 and Chapter 139, Section 3A, the Town is authorized to collect those sums from the property owner by two different methods. One is to file a contract action in Superior Court and the second is to place a lien on the property for the amount of expenses incurred. We have itemized all the expenses that were incurred to date. We gave the property owner 30 days within which to pay those sums. She has failed to acknowledge the document never mind the sums due and, accordingly, we are authorized by law to execute a statement of lien, record that in the Registry of Deeds as an unpaid real estate tax. Mr. Costello has prepared a statement that itemizes all the costs that are recoverable. The total cost is \$46,459.89. Although the fines assessed by the Board of Health are recoverable, they were not costs incurred by the Town and should not be in the document. A motion was made by Mr. Dubois, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to authorize execution of the document in the amount of \$46,457.89. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Introduction of COA Director – Laurie Keefe:  
Mr. Keyes introduced Laurie Keefe as the new Council on Aging Director. She was formerly the Outreach Coordinator, she is a certified S.H.I.N.E. counselor, supplemental nutrition assistant and she has planned, coordinated in-home visits to home-bound elders and has excellent organizational/analytical skills. Ms. Keefe said she was thankful for the opportunity to move into this position. She plans on a lot of good things happening this year, as well as big changes. We are really busy downstairs between what is going on and what we have planned for this year. Mrs. Bik noted that Ms. Keefe was instrumental in getting the buckets of sand and salt filled and delivered to seniors. She has received many notes of appreciation for providing this service. It was noted that Dean Bank purchased and donated 75 five gallon buckets for this project. Mr. Chamberland made mention that the appointment was made by the Town Administrator.
- Bond Anticipation Note:  
Mr. Keyes noted this is a rollover of a BAN on a note of \$1.7 million. The Treasurer went out to bid on this and had a 0.45% interest rate which is excellent because of the excellent bond rating we have, so tonight I am asking for a vote and signatures on this for the purpose of rolling this over until July 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the event he may be borrowing more money and then he'll do a bond in July. A motion was made by Mr. Dubois, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the bond anticipation note as documented by the Town Administrator and recommended by the Collector/Treasurer. Discussion: Mr. Chamberland stated he wanted to say "thank you" to the Collector/Treasurer – he is doing a phenomenal job in that office and during the budget process it was very clear to everyone on the Board that he is crossing his "t's" and dotting his "i's" and getting the best information for us to move forward. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Finance Update – Finance Team: Town Accountant, Assessor, Treasurer/Collector:  
Mr. Keyes asked for this to be passed over at this time.
- Call for Annual Town Election – Monday, April 7, 2015:  
A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to call for the Annual Town Election to be held on Monday, April 7, 2015. This will be posted on the Town's web site as soon as it is approved by the Board of Selectmen. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Call for Special Town Meeting/Annual Town Meeting – May 26, 2015:  
A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to call for the Special Town Meeting/Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 26, 2015. During that meeting, voting will take place to fill one 3-year term and one 2-year term on the Board of Selectmen. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve drainlayer application from Paul Trufant, d/b/a P.L. Trufant & Sons, 9 Prospect Street, Medway, MA. (Application approved by Superintendent of Public Works): A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Dubois, to approve the drainlayer's application for Paul Trufant, d/b/a P.L. Trufant & Sons. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #15EWA13, 15PW13, #15EWA14, #15PW14, and #15EWA15, #15PW15: A motion was made by Mr. Dubois, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve Payroll Warrant #15EWA13, 15PW13, #15EWA14, #15PW14, and #15EWA15, #15PW15. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Vendor Warrant #15EW13, #15EW14, #15EW15: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Dubois, to approve Vendor Warrant #15EW13, #15EW14, and #15EW15. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Matters that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen reasonably anticipates to discuss:  
None.

#### 9: GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Catalano stated he was sad to hear of Mr. Wells' resignation and wished him the best and thanked Mr. Chamberland for stepping up and taking over as Chairman. He hoped everyone had a good holiday. He is excited to see the solar program moving forward

Mrs. Bik spoke about the water color art class being conducted at the Senior Center. It is open to everyone regardless of age on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. She has also received many compliments on the beautiful baby blankets for sale in the lobby made by the seniors. Mrs. Bik also noted that sand bucket project was very successful. She received many calls of appreciation from those who received them. There are still a few left for anyone interested in having the salt/sand buckets delivered to their home. Assistance is still available in the Senior Center for almost everything the seniors would need, such as tax and circuit breaker assistance through AARP on Wednesdays by appointment, beginning February 4, 2015 through April 8, 2015. Mrs. Bik also noted that participants can try classes for free during the months of February and March which include Zumba, Tai chi, chair yoga, painting, strength training and many more. The Valentine Potluck Dinner is February 11<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the Library is very well used and there are many great programs coming up. Mrs. Bik too time to thank Mr. Keyes, the Finance Team and the department heads who did a wonderful job preparing the budgets. The Saturday morning meeting went smoothly and it showed that everyone is doing their part. We are building rather than breaking down which is a positive thing. She is confident this will be a good year for Blackstone.

Mr. Dubois was also pleased with the way the Saturday budget meeting went. It was the quickest he's ever seen it. He commended Mr. Keyes and the Financial Team for putting this meeting in order. Mr. Dubois commended the Board of Selectmen for voting tonight for the solar package. Ms. Beth Greenblatt made her proposal as a consultant earlier in the evening during the workshop. She is very knowledgeable in this area. She will make sure everything is done the right way. We are running out time and hopefully we will get this on the docket in time for the Annual Town Meeting and he stated he looks forward to getting this issue resolved.

Mr. Chamberland noted that the Board is a 4-member board at the present time and it will take 3 votes to pass something. If there is ever a 2-2 vote, it won't pass and therefore that will be a little difference for the next few months. We will the do the best job we can for the Town of Blackstone. In addition, Mr. Chamberland stated he has been a strong advocate for the seniors. As far as the vote that was taken in regards to Mr. DiLibero, Mr. Chamberland stated the vote was 2-2 and therefore failed and he was not appointed. He was given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Chamberland felt that Mr. DiLibero did not do well with his assignment over the past two years and he voted to have him removed and he stands by his vote. Everyone is allowed to volunteer in this Town. We welcome everyone.

10: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Dubois, to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-01-14-15

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk