

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:00 p.m.  
April 7, 2015

The 7:00 p.m. meeting was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-04-07-15

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk

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

April 7, 2015

PRESENT: Robert Dubois  
Michael Catalano  
Paul Haughey

Margo Bik  
Daniel Keefe

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator  
Dr. Himmelberger, School Superintendent  
William Chaplin, School Committee Chairman  
Paul Marvelle, Chairman, Planning Board  
Celeste Langlois, Chairman, Parks & Recreation

Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel  
Dr. David Thompson, Asst. Superintendent  
James Sullivan, DPW Superintendent  
Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor

1: CALL TO ORDER :

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and roll call was taken as noted above.

2: ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE: As noted under the heading “Present”.

- RE-ORGANIZATION: Elect Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk:  
Mr. Keyes began the reorganization process by opening the nominations for Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Bik nominated Mr. Dubois as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Catalano. There were no other nominations and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Dubois accepted the position and asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Haughey nominated Mrs. Bik as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr. Catalano. There were no other nominations and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Catalano nominated Mr. Haughey as Clerk of the Board, seconded by Mrs. Bik. There were no other nominations and the vote was unanimous. A motion to close the re-organization was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Catalano. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- ADOPT AND UPDATE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD:  
A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, asking for a vote to change 6B “Tabling” to read “Any member who feels he or she needs more time to study a motion prior to voting may make a motion to table until the next Board meeting. This motion must be seconded by another Board member and is not debatable.” There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- ADOPT CHAPTER 268A, SECTION 20D:  
A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to adopt as above. Attorney Costello suggested that the application of this Chapter/Section be addressed to specific Board members who may have conflicts due to their dual appointments or employments. Mrs. Bik amended her motion, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to include the suggestion by Attorney Costello. There was no discussion and the vote was 3-0 with Mr. Haughey and Mr. Keefe abstaining.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:  
All members of the Board of Selectmen stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF MARCH 24, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Catalano, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to accept the minutes of March 24, 2015. There was no discussion and the vote was 3-0. Mr. Haughey and Mr. Keefe were not present at that meeting.

4. GOOD AND WELFARE – PUBLIC (7:30-8:00 P.M. (5 min. time limit per participant)): None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS: None.

7. OLD BUSINESS: None.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Allen W. Himmelberger, Superintendent – BMR School Budget:

Dr. Himmelberger gave an overview of the school's operating budget, noting the variations in enrollments, shortages in state funding and efforts to attain a balanced budget.

- Open Warrant – Review Annual and Special Town Meeting:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to close the Warrants. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Revise Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants:

Amendment #1 – Article 9 – Residential Rental Property Bylaw. Attorney Costello suggested some changes: In Section 5 and Section 12 change "Town Manager" to "Town Administrator. Under Section 6a, there is a reference to "#3" and this should be omitted. Under Section 7a, the 5 subsections following subsection "1" should be small letters. A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to accept and adopt Article 9 as amended. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Amendment #2 – Article 29 – Vehicles, Off-Road. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to accept the amendment to Article 29. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Amendment #3 – Article 31 – Economic Development Consultant. It was felt that a professional consultant would better serve the town in attracting new business. It is important and the people should be given the opportunity to vote on it. Mr. Haughey felt that if a consultant is hired, the Economic Development Committee should be disbanded. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to adopt Article 31 as written. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Patricia Salamone – 2 ½ Override and Levy Limit:

Ms. Salamone discussed the procedure and impact of a 2 ½ override on taxes. She also explained the difference between levy limits and the levy ceiling, citing specific scenarios. Mr. Keyes expressed grave concern that if the voters approve increases for the schools, how will the Town be able to maintain municipal services in FY 17.

- James Sullivan – Construction/Maintenance of Roads/Main Street:

Mr. Sullivan plans to grind Mann Street and Rathbun Street and repair sidewalks up to Westminster Street for about \$120,000. He also cited other areas such as Mendon to Blackstone Streets where the draining is not working and the road is too high. He would also like to repair Canal Street and redo Main Street which was last done in 1994.

- Paul Marvelle – Planning Board/ZBA – Articles for Town Meeting and Update of Sycamore Estates:

The issues at Sycamore Estates were discussed, the main problem being the inadequate retention ponds. The Board asked Mr. Marvelle to have the developers, their engineers and anyone else involved to attend the next Board of Selectmen meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Marvelle would like to resubmit the Article regarding Blackstone Code, Chapter 114 – Vehicles Off-Road. The wording has been adjusted for a clearer and better understanding of the Article. Members of the Planning Board and the Police department are in favor of this Article.

Mr. Marvelle also asked for a part-time Town Planner (5-10 hrs./week) to assist the Planning Board and the townspeople with questions/procedures. This will become as line item in their budget.

- Parks and Recreation – Warrant Articles and Seasonal Help:

Warrant Article 14 - \$17,085 - will remain the same.

Warrant Article 15 – should read “Not to exceed \$30,000”. This is for a well and irrigation of the soccer fields. If the receipt of gifts are involved, a clause stating that the Board of Selectmen authorizes Parks and Recreation to accept gifts, grants, funds, etc. should be added. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to increase the amount of the Article of \$30,000 and to add the previous clause. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Seasonal Help: It was noted that seasonal help positions need to be advertised and those selected need to have physical exams and all required paperwork completed.

It was felt that Millville needs to make some effort for use of the fields and be charged for their children using the fields. One solution suggested would be for Millville to cover one line item in the Parks budget. Further discussion is needed to determine a fee for use.

- Selectmen Appointments to the Capital Outlay Committee:

Appointments to the Capital Outlay Committee were deferred until after the Annual Town Meeting.

- Appointment of Patricia F Dubois, 56 Edgewater Drive, to the Council on Aging for an Unexpired 3-year Term to Expire June 30, 2015: (Note: Mr. Dubois and Mr. Keefe recused themselves). A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was 3-0.

- Appointment of Julie Wingate, 1 St. Paul Street, to the Council on Aging for an Unexpired 3-year Term to Expire June 30, 2016: (Note: Mr. Dubois and Mr. Keefe recused themselves). A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was 3-0.

- Appointment of James Dilibero, 219 Lincoln Street, to the Council on Aging for an Unexpired 3-year Term to Expire June 30, 2017: (Note: Mr. Dubois and Mr. Keefe recused themselves). A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was 3-0.

- Woonsocket Wastewater Contract – Discussion With Town Counsel:

The history of the Wastewater fee structure and the lack of a contract was discussed at length. In the end, Blackstone will be paying for FY 14, although there has been no response to our correspondence as of today.

- Approval of Payroll Warrant #15EWA21 and #15PW21:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, approving the above Payroll Warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Approval of Vendor Warrant #15EW21:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, approving the above Vendor Warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Matters that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen reasonably anticipates to discuss:

Chairman Dubois requested that all members of the Board sign the payroll and vendor warrants and any and all other material in a timely manner.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Haughey congratulated Mr. Keefe on his being elected to the Board of Selectmen and thanked everyone who voted.

Mr. Catalano congratulated both Mr. Haughey and Mr. Keefe on their being elected to the Board of Selectmen and is looking forward to working together.

Mr. Keefe congratulated Mr. Haughey on his election to the Board of Selectmen and thanked all who came out and voted.

Mrs. Bik welcomed the new members to the Board. Volunteer Appreciation Day was well attended. The Director of Elder Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was the guest speaker. BMR is having a Magic Night fund raiser on Thursday night. She encouraged people to visit the Historical Commission and take advantage of the programs offered by the Library. She encouraged the members to read their packets on a regular basis. She thanked all the people who worked on the election yesterday and made the election process a success.

Mr. Dubois announced plans to dedicate the Senior Center to Tom Devlin on April 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. He asked Mr. Keyes to contact Peter Sanborn of the EOCD program which addresses homes that need low interest loans and also dedicates areas of town that we may be able to get money for.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-04-08-15

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk