

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

April 14, 2015

PRESENT: Robert Dubois, Chairman Margo Bik, Vice Chairman
Michael Catalano Paul Haughey
Daniel Keefe

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to dor4der at 7:12 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted above.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

Mr. Keyes stated that Standard & Poor has renewed Blackstone’s rating at AA+ for 2 more years.

MIIA has increased the rate of health insurance by 3%. A 2 year agreement was attained for a zero percent increase in Property and Casualty insurance with an increase of no higher than 2.5% in FY 17.

Dental insurance is going up by 8.5%.

4. CONTRACTS:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the new contract for the Town Accountant. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the new contract for the Department of Public Works Superintendent. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the new contract for the Police Chief. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the new contract for the Fire Chief. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the new contract for the Town Administrator. There was a brief discussion regarding salary, personal days and vacation days. All were in agreement that Mr. Keyes has done a fantastic job of running the Town. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

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

April 14, 2015

PRESENT: Robert Dubois Margo Bik
Michael Catalano Daniel Keefe
Paul Haughey

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Lynn Foster, Vice President, Unibank
Julie Hebert, Town Accountant Steven Perreault, Collector/Treasurer
Paul Muller, Chairman, Finance Committee James Watson, Vice Chair, Finance Committee
William Macy, Finance Committee Stephen Goudreau, Finance Committee
James R. Belisle, Finance Committee James P. Belisle, Finance Committee
James Sullivan, DPW Superintendent Charles Sawyer, Water/Sewer Chairman

1: CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. All members of the Board of Selectmen stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2: ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF APRIL 7, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Catalano, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to accept the minutes of April 7, 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:

MIIA has increased the rate of health insurance by 3%. A 2 year agreement was attained for a zero percent increase in Property and Casualty insurance with an increase of no higher than 2.5% in FY 17. Dental insurance will increase by 8.5%.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS: None.

7. OLD BUSINESS: None.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Ms. Lynn Foster, Vice President, Unibank:
Ms. Foster discussed Standard & Poor’s bond rating for Blackstone which is AA+ for the next 2 years. Also discussed were the pension liability, OPEB which needs to be fully funded by 2035, outstanding debt, future debt, funding sources, recommendations, 5-year capital plan, the ANP contract and extension, if any and the establishment of a Capital Stabilization Fund.
- Sycamore Meadows – Planning Board:
The developer and engineers were notified that their presence was requested at the meeting tonight but they did not show up. Mr. Sullivan stated the drainage system does not work, explained why and has video to support the issue.

Following discussion, Mr. Haughey made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to put a cease and desist order on any work not previously approved, until the developer, engineers, and all concerned come before the Board of Selectmen on April 28, 2015 to discuss and resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the Board of Selectmen. However, Mr. Sullivan requested that the person buying the second house there should be allowed to roof and side the building to prevent buckling of the plywood. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Sign the Amended Articles:

Mr. Dubois requested that members of the Board of Selectmen sign the Amended Warrant Articles for the Special and Annual Town Meeting before leaving tonight. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, for the members to sign the amended articles as noted above. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Veteran's Park – Gale Associates:

This issue was moved to April 28, 2015 due to illness of a participant.

- One Day Liquor License for Boys and Girls Club, 115 Canal Street:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve a one-day liquor license for the Boys and Girls Club for June 13, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Approval of Payroll Warrant #15EWA22 and #15PW22:

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

- Approval of Vendor Warrant #15EW22:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, 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:

Mr. Dubois noted that the issue of a 2 ½ override has been making the news recently. A vote will be taken on this on April 28, 2015 as to whether we are going to do it or not.

The other issue Mr. Dubois wanted to discuss was the Waste Water Contract with the city of Woonsocket and the fact that several towns including Blackstone have not given anything towards the "Host Fee". We do not have a contract for a "Host Fee". Mr. Dubois plans to meet with the City Council President to discuss the matter. He noted that Blackstone is paid up.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Catalano stated he was impressed with the financial report given by Ms. Foster and Steve Perrault this evening and noted we are moving in a positive direction.

Mr. Keefe was pleased with the news that 98% of the residents pay their taxes on time. He also spoke about Mr. Walsh needing more people at the Recycling Center and urged those who qualify (veterans and seniors) to take advantage of the Work-Off program.

Mrs. Bik noted that the magic show put on by BMR students was very well attended.

Mr. Dubois noted the next meeting will be held on April 28, 2015 and looks to be a lively one.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-04-15-15

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk