

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.
April 28, 2015

PRESENT: Robert Dubois Margo Bik
Michael Catalano Daniel Keefe
Paul Haughey Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator
Julie Hebert, Town Accountant Kate Connolly, Town Counsel (for Costello)

OTHERS PRESENT: Sara Corduck (Melanson & Heath) William Walsh, Recycling Director
James Sullivan, DPW Superintendent Finance Committee
Paul Marvelle, Planning Board Steve Perrault, Collector/Treasurer
Sycamore Meadows representatives (developer, engineer and attorney)

1: CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. All members of the Board of Selectmen stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2: ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

Roll call was taken as noted above

3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF APRIL 14, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to accept the minutes of April 14, 2015. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

4. GOOD AND WELFARE – PUBLIC (7:30-8:00 P.M. (5 min. time limit per participant):

None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

None at this time.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

7. OLD BUSINESS:

• Special and Annual Town Warrant Articles:

The Finance Committee will make their recommendations regarding the extra contribution for the schools regardless of whether Millville will be able to meet their specified contribution. Last year Blackstone gave \$400,000 extra contribution and although the school reports they returned \$116,000, that was only for one year. The \$400,000 is added every year and eventually comes close to \$1,000,000. It was felt that the School Committee will stack the meeting and go after the Stabilization account.

Mrs. Bik noted that the total budget (without the Schools' budget) showed an increase of 0.97%. The Town Administrator and Department Heads have made an excellent effort to keep expenses down.

Mr. Keefe stated that Millville appears to have an interest in working together on the School budget and other areas in an effort to build a better relationship with Blackstone. Mr. Muller noted that Millville requested to meet with Blackstone's Finance Committee regarding the School budget.

Three Decker Tenement Buildings: Mr. Dubois noted that overcrowding in tenement buildings is becoming an issue in Blackstone, much as it already the case in Woonsocket. This should be addressed before it gets out of control.

- Woonsocket Waste Water: Deferred.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Sara Corduck – Melanson & Heath: The Management Letter for the year ending June 30, 2014 was reviewed. The audit was completed earlier this year than in previous years. Ms. Corduck stated she was very pleased with the way the Financial Team works together and the fact that there are no difficulties with reconciliation of accounts between the Town Accountant and Collector/Treasurer.
- Planning Board – Sycamore Estates – Developer and Engineer:
All the parties involved with the Sycamore Estates were present to discuss the drainage problem on Elm Street following the cease and desist order by the Board of Selectmen. Maps were displayed and videos shown and in the end it was decided that the Developer will make a temporary repair regarding the drainage on Elm Street by May 7, 2015. Once the Planning Board is satisfied that an effort is being made to rectify the situation, the Developer will come before the Board of Selectmen to have the cease and desist order rescinded. The Developer has agreed to provide a permanent solution to the problem in a timely manner.
- Canal Clean-up:
Mr. Walsh noted that the date for the Canal Clean-up is Saturday May 9, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Fifty (50) people have volunteered so far and he would like to see more residents turn out to help. The last clean-up day was held two years ago and 2 ½ tons of debris was collected. There will be a cook-out following at noon.
- Solar Farm: This has been in the works for over 2 years now. Mr. Walsh met with Ms. Beth Greenblatt on January 13, 2015 and she will be at the Annual Town Meeting to give an update. She has selected four companies that are qualified to build the solar farm. The final decision rests with the voters at the Town Meeting.
- Master Plan: The Master Plan was originally done in 1991 and amended in 1996.
- Appointment of Julie Wingate, 1 St. Paul Street, to the Historical Commission as an alternate member for an unexpired 3-year term to expire June 30, 2016:
A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Appointment of Daniel Keefe to the Capital Outlay Committee member for an unexpired 1-year term to expire June 30, 2015:
A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-0 with Mr. Keefe abstaining.
- Appointment of Paul Haughey to the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission for an unexpired 1-year term to expire June 30, 2015:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-0 with Mr. Haughey abstaining.

- Approve drainlayer license request from Anthony R. Iacovelli Excavation & Construction, 837 Mendon Road, Northbridge, MA. Approved by Superintendent of Public Works:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above request. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- James Watson – Capital Outlay Committee:

Mr. Watson gave an update of approvals made by the Capital Outlay Committee. They voted not to have money taken out of the Capital Trust to fund articles. He expressed concern about the police cruisers and recommended they be bought outright. Mr. Keyes noted that the leased vehicles do not meet the 5-year criteria and therefore do not come under the rules outlined by the Capital Outlay Committee. Mrs. Bik felt that Chief Atstupenas has done a wonderful job managing his fleet of vehicles all these years and should be allowed to continue.

Mrs. Bik reported that she was very disturbed over the lack of appreciation shown to Ms. Lynn Foster, Vice President of Unibank following her financial presentation at the last meeting. The crowd that formed in the lobby was so loud that the Chairman had to send someone out on 3 occasions to quiet the crowd so the Board's meeting could continue. This was a shameful demonstration and will not be tolerated in the future.

- Veteran's Park – Gale Associates:

Ms. Langlois gave an update on the progress at Veteran's Park. Flagging of the area is 75% completed. She does not see any major changes to the current plans.

- Approval of Payroll Warrant #15EWA24 and #15PW24:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, approving the above Payroll Warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-0 with one abstention.

- Approval of Vendor Warrant #15EW24:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, approving the above Vendor Warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-0 with one abstention.

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

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mrs. Bik warned citizens of the new scam where people are threatened with jail if they do not provide credit card information, banking information, social security numbers, etc. If anyone receives a call of this nature, you are encouraged to hang up. Ian Chartier, a 7th grader at the Frederick Hartnett Middle School, was selected out of 45,000 applicants for Math.Com, a national math competition held this past Saturday. We send out congratulations to Ian and would like him to know we are very proud of him.

Mr. Catalano stated that the Annual Tags and Trout event was a grand success.

Mr. Haughey reminded everyone that the Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2015 and the Town Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 and it looks to be a successful event.

Mr. Dubois praised the success of the Tags and Trout event and noted that the kids had a wonderful time. The warrants for the Town Meeting are posted on the Town's web site, as well as the audit and Management Letter. The Annual Town Report is ready and available at Town Hall for any citizen who wishes a copy. He wished all mothers in the viewing area a Happy Mother's Day. The dedication of the Tom Devlin room in the Senior Center has been rescheduled for May 12, 2015.

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-04-29-15

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk