

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

May 12, 2015

PRESENT: Robert Dubois, Chairman (7:09 p.m.) Margo Bik, Vice Chairman
Daniel Keefe Paul Haughey
Michael Catalano Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator
Julie Hebert, Town Accountant

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.

3: DEDICATION FOR THE LATE THOMAS E. DEVLIN:

The special session of the Board of Selectmen is to honor the late Thomas E. Devlin who served the town for many years in various capacities including Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. His family members were in attendance including his children, their spouses, his granddaughter Caleen and nephew Tommy Devlin who was Highway Superintendent for many years. Mr. Dubois presented the plaque dedicating the Senior Center to Thomas E. Devlin. Following the dedication by Mr. Dubois, John Eldridge, who served almost all of his years on the Board of Selectmen with Mr. Devlin, provided anecdotal remembrances of his years working with Tom for the Town of Blackstone. Mr. Eldridge stated that the Town needs more people like Tom Devlin.

4: ADJOURNMENT:

A recess was called by Mr. Dubois at 7:24 p.m. The regular Board of Selectmen meeting will continue at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-05-13-15

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/FINANCE COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING – 7:30 p.m.

May 12, 2015

PRESENT:

Robert Dubois, Chairman	Margo Bik, Vice Chairman
Michael Catalano, BOS	Daniel Keefe, BOS
Paul Haughey, BOS	Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator
Julie Hebert, Town Accountant	Paul Muller, Fin Com Chairman
James Watson, Fin Com Vice Chairman	James E. Belisle, Fin Com
James R. Belisle, Fin Com	John Wozniak, Fin Com
William Macy, Fin Com	Steve Goudreau, Fin Com
Kathryn Sweeney, Fin Com	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Charles Sawyer, Chairman, Water/Sewer	William Walsh, Director, Recycling
James Sullivan, DPW Superintendent	Steve Perrault, Collector/Treasure
Thomas Devlin, Water/Sewer	Linda Bournival, Actuarial Consultant

1: CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 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 28, 2015 and MAY 5, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to accept the minutes of April 28, 2015 and May 5, 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:

Mr. Keyes noted that the Town received a \$14,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding recycling, allowing us to continue with our recycling program and to use funds to educate the public for the second year in a row.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

- Special Town Meeting – May 26, 2015, 7:00 p.m. – Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium.
- Annual Town Meeting – May 26, 2015, 7:30 p.m. – Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Special and Annual Town Warrant Articles:
No new Articles were added.
- Final Approval of Education Budget:
(Note: Mr. Haughey recused himself from this portion of the meeting). It was noted that Millville voted to provide an

additional contribution to the School of \$115,000. Therefore, Blackstone's contribution of 72% amounts to \$285,000. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to adjust the Blackstone-Millville school's expense total to \$8,368,465, an increase of 3%. Last year the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee voted "zero". There was no further discussion and the vote was 4-1.

Blackstone Valley Vocational School:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the bottom line budget of \$732,620. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-1.

Vocational Tuition/Transportation:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the amount of \$524,192. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-1.

Recycling:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the total Recycling budget to \$356,898 (-33%). There was no discussion and the vote was 4-0.

** Note: Mr. Muller stated that the Finance Committee made their recommendations last night and all Articles passed except for Article 30 (Rolling Brook Lane). In addition, all budget items were passed except for line item 53202 (additional contribution), an item we voted to take no action. Mr. Muller asked for a vote to revisit that line item. A motion was made by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Macy, to approve the additional contribution of \$285,000. There was no further discussion and the vote by the Finance Committee was unanimous. Mr. Muller noted we have a good budget going into Town Meeting.

- Woonsocket Wastewater:

The Board of Selectmen directed Town Counsel to send correspondence to Woonsocket noting that we are working and living under the contract since last July in which the "host fee" is in question. The City Council finally understands that the discrepancy involves the issue of a one-year host fee. Town Counsel will be here next week with an update.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Bournival – KMS Actuaries:

Ms. Bournival gave an extensive presentation on where the town is headed and what we need to do over the next years in order to be compliant with GASB45. A lively discussion/question and answer period followed.

- Appointment of Judy L. Tovern, 94 Elm Street, to the Council on Aging for an unexpired 3-year term to expire June 30, 2017:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-1 with Mr. Keefe abstaining.

- Approval of Payroll Warrant #15EWA25 and #15PW25:

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 #15EW25:

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:

The success of the bike trail which goes through Blackstone is in jeopardy because the Chairman of the Town Council in North Smithfield is at odds with the Woonsocket over the Wastewater Treatment plant. It is a real shame to hold this project up and once the project goes away it will never come back. It is ridiculous for North Smithfield to hold this up, something we have wanted for so many years.

At the next Selectmen's Meeting, Dan Driscoll of DCR and the engineer will be in attendance to discuss easements and other matters related to the bike path. It is hoped that the townspeople will watch this meeting. Completion of the bike path is scheduled for September of 2017.

Another concern that has been raised and needs to be addressed next week is the Family Grocer. Their parking lot is blocked and the businesses in the area are suffering because of the fencing.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mrs. Bik read the Governor's Citation that was presented to the Water Department in recognition of maintaining a safe, clean and abundant water supply. A second citation was presented to the Water Department from the Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Program in recognition of their outstanding performance for two years in a row. Mr. Sawyer noted there are 1,730 water districts in the state and only 41 were recognized in this way.

Mrs. Bik announced the first annual "Go the Distance" one mile walking challenge is scheduled for June 8, 2015 at Roosevelt Field. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 8:30 a.m. On Clean Up Day, 350 30-gal. bags were filled. Other items collected were an axle, rugs, motor, car door, chairs, tires, bikes and a car frame. Streets cleaned included Canal, Main, Federal, Elm, Summer, Mendon, Park, Farm, Chestnut, Milk, Blackstone and Bridge. Lunch was served in the Senior Center with Mr. Keyes as chief chef.

Mrs. Bik thanked everyone involved in presenting a great budget this year with a less than 1% increase, something of which we can be very proud.

Mr. Haughey noted that last week was Nurse's Appreciation Day and Teacher's Appreciation Day. This week is Police Officer's Appreciation Week throughout the country. He is looking forward to Town Meeting and thanked everyone for their dedication in getting the budgets ready in a timely manner.

Mr. Catalano recognized Town Clean-Up Day on May 9th and thanked all those involved in the success of the day.

Mr. Keefe noted last week was Small Business Week. The bike path will be a positive experience for the community. The loss of revenue for the Family Grocer during construction of the bike path is very real and we need to support his business. Clean-Up Day was a great success.

Mr. Dubois thanked everyone who volunteered especially Mary Bulso and Bill Walsh who headed up the project. There will be a Selectmen's Meeting next week to finish up Parks and Recreation budget and address their issues. The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 25th and it is hoped that the Parade Committee will be here next week to talk about the parade and the activities afterwards. Mr. Dubois thanked everyone involved in the budget process for their cooperation and assistance.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-05-13-15

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk