

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

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

August 25, 2015

PRESENT:

Robert Dubois  
Michael Catalano  
Paul Haughey

Margo Bik  
Daniel Keefe

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator

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:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

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

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

- Dr. Alan Himmelberger, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Town Administrator and Selectman Keefe for their interest in the cable situation at the high school. Plans are now in place to reconnect the cable and enabling the students to edit and produce their own shows. Paul Jacob also lent his help and expertise in setting this up. There will only be a small upfront cost associated with this.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

None at this time.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

- Public Hearing – 8:00 p.m. – In accordance with Chapter 138, MGLA, a public hearing is being held on the application for a Common Victualler All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages license from Paradise Café Inc., Miguel Sanchez, Manager. The Paradise Café is located at 97 Main Street, Blackstone, MA. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to close the public hearing. There was no discussion and the public hearing was closed with a unanimous vote. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve a Common Victualler All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages License from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Woonsocket Wastewater: Because our repeated requests have been basically ignored. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to have Town Counsel take the issue to court for a resolution. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Solar Update: Mr. Keyes noted that the official closing documents are in order and ready for signatures at the September 15, 2015 meeting.
- Road Work and Line Painting – James Sullivan: Permission was requested for line painting by Highway Safety Systems in the amount of \$17,184.80 to be accomplished as soon as possible. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the request for line painting. There was further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Mr. Sullivan noted that Canal and Farnum Streets were done last week and he is still working on Milk Street. He is planning work on Marcel Lane (\$15,000), St. Germaine St. (\$15,000) and Woodcrest Road (\$30,000) before winter sets in. Mr. Haughey noted that, if at all possible, Lake Hiawatha area needs attention as well before winter.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Appointment of Patrolman Gregory W. Tappan, Blackstone Police Department, for a 1-year term to expire June 30, 2016: Chief Atstupenas stated that Officer Tappan will be filling the vacancy left by Officer Ryan upon his retirement. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above appointment. Chief Atstupenas gave a brief overview of Officer Tappan's career. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous. He was sworn in by Town Clerk Dolinsky and his family had the opportunity to take pictures at the swearing in ceremony.

Chief Atstupenas also congratulated Officer Ryan on his retirement after 30 years on the force. He will be missed.

- Appointment of Andrew Blanchette, 49 Farnum Street, to the Economic Development Committee, for a 1-year term to expire June 30, 2016: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the appointment noted above. There are now 3 members on this Committee and they can begin holding regular meetings. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Appointment of Eunice Lydon, 11 Liberty Hill, as an alternate member of the Historical Commission, for a 3-year term to expire June 30, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of One-Day Liquor License application from Millerville Men's Club, effective date October 11, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the application. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-0 with Mr. Dubois abstaining.
- Approval of One-Day Liquor License application from the Friends of the Blackstone Council on Aging, effective date November 7, 2015, from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above application. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of a Class II application from Gregory Degnan, Lucky 7 LLC, 157 Main Street (\$25,000 Bond required upon approval of license): Mr. Degnan gave a brief overview of his operation, most of which will be conducted on-line. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above Class II application. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Parks and Recreation – Blackstone/Millville Regional School System: This is a draft of the final document for irrigating the soccer fields making sure that the Board of Selectmen oversees any contract issues. The School Committee will also vote to verify this agreement. Parks and Recreation will then be able to move forward regarding the irrigation issue. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above with an eye to moving forward. There was no further discussion and vote was 4-0 with Mr. Haughey abstaining.

- Voting Machines – Claudette Dolinski:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to start using the three new Image Cast Precinct Optical Scan Election tabulators and to discontinue use of the Accu-Vote system tabulators as requested by the Town Clerk. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Blackstone Nursing Home – Susan Spaulding:

Because of a prior commitment, Ms. Spaulding was unable to attend the meeting this evening. In her place, Mr. Tony Catalano, president of the Lions Club, spoke on her behalf. This is an annual Family Fun Day sponsored by the Blackstone Nursing Home to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Lions Club will also be bringing in their 38 ft. mobile eye screening trailer for the day. There will be a petting zoo, games for the children, and food and beverages will be provided at no charge. DPW will be present to block off the road and a police detail will be present. The Fire Department has also been notified. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above request. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA02, 03, 04 & 05 and #16PW02, 03, 04 & 05:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the Payroll Warrants as noted above. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Approval of Vendor Warrant @#16EW02, 03, 04 & 05:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the Vendor Warrants as noted above. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

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

The EOCD situation will be discussed during our second meeting in September. Mr. Wayne Darrow will be here and Senator Fattman has also been invited to help with getting grants approved. In addition a letter has been sent to the owners of the property on Lincoln Street expressing the Town's interest in purchasing the property. There has been no response as yet.

Mr. Keyes gave an overview of Soldier On which is a non-profit group that takes care of homeless veterans. Anyone interested can go to Soldier On.org for more information.

The Planning Board has invited the Board of Selectmen to their meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at which time there be discussion regarding the Blackstone Valley Greenway and the Blackstone Viaduct.

#### 9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Keefe felt this meeting was very positive. He is looking for more programming time so the people of Blackstone will have a better understanding of how the Town works. He hopes to get things moving soon.

Mrs. Bik stated there was a lot going on at the high school and now everyone can be more informed. The Blackstone Historical Commission will be holding a work shop to provide an overview of protecting historical resources. This will be held at the Blackstone Public Library on September 24, 2015 between 4 and 6 p.m. Contact Mary Bulso at gmail.com or 508-883-1500. There are passes at the Library for all sorts of events and all are encouraged to take advantage of them. There is a foliage detective series at the Library on September 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Visit the senior's web site for a listing of events that are scheduled. The Wojcik Maze is coming up probably in September. She thanked Officer Ryan for his years of service to the Town.

Mr. Catalano feels the Town is heading in a positive direction. The Millerville Men's Club will be holding a bike ride for the benefit of the Norman Landry college fund. It is a wonderful event.

Mr. Haughey congratulated Sgt. Ryan for his years of service to the Town and for a great retirement. He also wished Officer Tappan good luck in his new position of serving and protecting the residents of Blackstone.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-08-26-15

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk