

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:00 p.m.
September 22, 2015

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

ABSENT: Margo Bik, Vice Chairman

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator, Patrick Costello, Town Counsel, William Walsh

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted above.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

Mr. Keyes gave an update of the FY 17 budget, noting that the Board of Selectmen should expect to see it in the first or second week of December. Every budget is expected to be level funded with the exception of salaries which are currently in negotiation.

At the Department Head’s meeting it was noted that the storage area in the basement level is just about cleaned out now.

The Solar contract should be ready to go within the next two weeks. Charges and fines were discussed. Mr. Walsh noted that because of the huge influx of solar requests, only five (5) permits per day will be allowed. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve permit fees of \$100/\$5,000. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.
September 22, 2015

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

ABSENT: Margo Bik, Vice Chairman

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Town Counsel
Senator Ryan Fattman Gino Carlucci, Economic Development

1: CALL TO ORDER:

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 SEPTEMBER 15, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to accept the minutes of August 25, 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:

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Solar Contract:
Mr. Keyes anticipates having the final contract within the next two weeks. A motion was made by Mr. Catalano, seconded by Mr. Keefe, that Town Administrator and Town Counsel shall finalize the net metering credit purchase agreement and related lease with a recommendation to the Board of execution. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

- Woonsocket Wastewater:
Town Counsel heard today from Woonsocket relative to their acceptance of a compromise over the dispute we have with the Host Fee agreement whereby Blackstone would pay 50% of the 2014 Host Fee subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen and Woonsocket City Council and appropriation of funds at Town Meeting. Town Counsel feels it is a reasonable solution to the issue.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Citation – Lorraine and Paul Jacobs – Grand Marshalls

Lorraine and Paul Jacobs will be the Grand Marshalls of the Autumnfest Parade and the citation was read in full by Robert Dubois, Chairman. Everyone in attendance wished them well.

- Massachusetts State Senator Ryan Fattman

Senator Fattman discussed FY 17 budgets and concerns, noted that ELL (English Language Learners) has increased from 19 to 66, special education, recycling, fuel assistance, downtown revitalization etc. A meeting will be held on October 22, 2015 with Senator Fattman, Rep. Kuros and members of A & F up at the State House, to see if he can get \$500,000 for the Town which has been highly anticipated for a long time.

Mr. Dubois noted that representatives from the state will be here on October 27, 2015 and has extended an invitation to both Senator Fattman and Representative Kuros to attend that meeting and take part in the discussion. In addition, the issue of Main Street and Economic Development needs to be addressed especially with the Bike Path coming through Town. Mr. Dubois would like to see something accomplished beginning next year. We also need to apply for grants for rehab housing. Mr. Keyes mentioned three areas of concern that need funding and they are the senior budget, veteran's budget and the expansion of public safety.

- Wayne Darragh – Community Development:

Mr. Darragh did not come to the meeting this evening. Mr. Keyes will call him in the morning for follow-up and ask him to be present at the October 13, 2015 meeting.

- Gino Carlucci – Economic Development – Master Plan:

The first step in developing the Master Plan is completion of a survey by the residents. Mr. Carlucci presented a 4-page survey for residents to complete. The survey will be available through the web site on-line, as a hard copy document available at Town Hall and Senior Center, or by calling Mr. Carlucci and he will mail out a survey upon request. If approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board, this will begin in the next two weeks and will be updated on an annual basis. Mr. Carlucci will head up the Economic Development Committee as well. The next 18-24 months will be an exciting time for progress in Blackstone.

- Permit Fees:

We have had an influx of permit fees for solar projects. Right now we charge \$100. We would like to charge \$100 for up to \$5,000 as they are now but anything over \$5,000 would be the base of \$100 plus 2% of the cost of the project which would be an additional funding to us. It is a good adjustment to make and we will be looking at other fees as well. The fees will not be charged to the residents. A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to change the fee as noted above. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

- Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA07 and #16PW07:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above warrants. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

- Approval of Vendor Warrant #16EW07:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above vendor warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

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

The FY 17 budgets will be submitted by October 15, 2015. Department Heads meeting was held and most look like they will be level funded. Increases are expected to be kept at or under 1%. Saturday, January 9, 2016 will be scheduled for budget reviews. This will be on cable t.v.

The property on Lincoln Street has had two offers but has not been accepted as yet.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Dubois reminded Board members that there are contracts waiting to be signed.

Mr. Haughey thanked Senator Fattman for coming to the meeting this evening. In addition, Mr. Carlucci's vast area of expertise in Master Planning is invaluable to us and he wished thank him for his service to us.

Mr. Catalano noted the summer is over and children are going back to school. The number for Fuel Assistant is 617-727-1420.

Mr. Keefe went to the bon fire on Saturday night and was surprised at how many people were there. He also thanked Senator Fattman and Mr. Carlucci for coming to our meeting. We are moving forward on the solar project. Our town is well represented by our Town Administrator.

Mr. Dubois noted that this evening's meeting was very important in getting Senator Fattman involved in the Main Street revitalization. We need a Master Plan and an Economic Development Plan and hopefully we can get Wayne Darragh here to get some grants which are needed.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-09-23-15

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk