

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

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

October 13, 2015

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

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator

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:

- Discussion of Goals and Objectives: Mr. Keyes asked the members to review and prioritize their goals and objectives and submit them to him in order to present a comprehensive list.
- Soldier On Program: Mr. Keyes went to the Soldier On Program in Pittsfield and was very impressed with their operation. Representatives of the program will be in Blackstone on October 27<sup>th</sup> to provide detailed information.
- Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR): Robert Lowe, Acting Chief, will provide an update of the 7 arches structure which is owned by DCR.
- Assessor's Department: Mr. Keyes reports that everything will be filed with the Department of Revenue by November and the tax rate will be set by then as well. Free cash is \$1,049,593; Water/Sewer: \$709,335; Recycling: \$58,164.

4. CERTIFICATE NOT TO ENCUMBER:

The document was presented to the Board members for signature regarding property at 5 Goddard Street, Blackstone, MA owned by Todd and Eileen Edel.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.  
October 13, 2015

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Police Chief Ross Atstupenas  
Fire Chief Michael Sweeney Alan Dolinski, Cable  
Wayne Darragh, Community Development Grant

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 and September 22, 2015:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to accept the minutes as noted above. 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):

Thomas Bik of 95 Elm Street, wanted to remind everyone of the Learn to Fish event at the gorge sponsored by the Metacomet Land Trust and DCR on Sunday from 1-2 p.m. Bait is free and DCR has waived the need for a fishing license for this event. There will be a walk scheduled following the event.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Milk Street is completed except for the yellow lines and fog lines. Speed limit signs are up.
- The Resident Survey will be available tomorrow morning on the web site which will help guide Town policies as part of the Master Plan for the Town. Printed forms will also be available at Town Hall and the Library. The forms should be completed and returned to Town Hall by November 30, 2015.
- MIIA notified the Town this past week that there is a credit going into this year of \$32,611 because all the employees participated in the safety program and educational programs which provides a cost-savings to the Town.
- The Town also received a \$3,550 grant for sustainable materials recovery program thanks to Bill Walsh and his team.
- The Department of Revenue just notified us of Free Cash approval of \$1,049,593, Water/Sewer retained earnings of \$709,235 and Recycling \$58,164 with an additional \$70,000 for phase-3.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

7. OLD BUSINESS:

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Alan Dolinski – Cable: Mr. Dolinski was present to clarify some information regarding cable service. He stated there is no Cable Committee in Blackstone although he assists in negotiating contracts with Comcast; any concerns regarding

cable should be addressed to the Town Administrator. Senior residents can qualify for a discount of \$2.00 by meeting the criteria set forth by the Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs. There is a fee of 5% imposed on the subscribers by the Board of Selectmen to manage local access. It was voted many years ago to give 1% of the cable fee to the schools; Millville also contributes 1%.

- Wayne Darragh – Community Development Grant: Mr. Darragh came by this evening to discuss community development grants and informed the Board of Selectmen that Blackstone does not qualify for grants this year. He is hopeful that needs scores formulas will be revised and the town may benefit next year.
- Gino Carlucci, PGC Associates – Master Plan Survey: The survey will be available tomorrow and all residents are asked to complete and return the form by November 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be updated on an annual basis. We need everyone's input.
- Chief Atstupenas, Chief Sweeney – Mutual Aid – Town of Millville: There was misinformation generated at the Millville Selectmen's meeting and both Chiefs were present to clarify the mutual aid situation and noted that Blackstone has never refused to provide mutual aid. Mr. Keyes noted that both Chiefs run a superb operation. Chief Atstupenas was the one who went back to see if he could resolve the situation and he did it and is commended for that.
- Approve application for a Common Victualler License from Nitant Raval, Bapa Ne Sana Corporation, d/b/a Thrifty Discount Liquors, 97 Main Street: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above application. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve application for a One-Day Liquor License for the Blackstone Valley Boys & Girls Club, 115 Canal Street, effective November 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above application. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve application for a drainlayer's license from Michael J. Barba, d/b/a Anchor Bolt Excavating, 376 Hancock Street, Wrentham, MA (Approved by Superintendent of Public Works): A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above application. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Discussion of Viaduct: Correspondence was received from Robert Lowell, Acting Engineer, DCR, that they have entered into a contract with Gill Engineering to perform structural assessment of the 7 arches conduit in Blackstone to determine if the structure is structurally sound and if it could be restored in some capacity to support the bicycle traffic. The assessment should be complete in a month or so and a report will be forthcoming. A meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2015 and Senator Fattman and Representative Kuros are expected to be in attendance.
- Respective scope of responsibilities and duties of Boards, Commissions, and Committees: The only body allowed to hire is the Board of Selectmen. It would be a good idea to set up a meeting the Chairmen of each discipline to go over the scope of their responsibilities and duties.
- Appointment of Randy Ciak, 49 Farnum Street, to the Economic Development Commission for a 2-year term to expire June 30, 2017. A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-0 with Mr. Haughey abstaining.
- Appointment of Michael Buckley, 48 Reilly Avenue, to the Economic Development Commission for a 1-year term to expire June 30, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was 3-0 (with 2 abstentions, Mrs. Bik and Mr. Haughey).

- Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA08 and #16PW08: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above payroll warrants. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Vendor Warrant #16EW08: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above vendor warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Matters that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen reasonable anticipates to discuss: Correspondence was received from Nancy Delgizzi informing the Board that she is resigning from the Council on Aging as she is moving to Millville. Correspondence was also received from Christopher Ryan, resigning from the Water/Sewer Commission as he is moving out of town. They were both thanked for their service and will be missed. These vacant positions will be posted on the web site.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Haughey visited Wojcik's Farm recently, taking advantage of the corn maze. In addition, I have great respect for our emergency services. These are not easy jobs and we should continue to have faith and trust in them. Autumnfest was exceptional this year.

Mr. Catalano was taken aback by Mr. Darragh's commentary regarding Blackstone's ineligibility for housing grants and felt it was absurd. In addition our police and fire chiefs have high standards.

Mrs. Bik attended a ceremony in Bellingham for Will Cohan who drowned this past year. There is a memorial fund set up with the Lake Hiawatha Association to assist the family. She encourages all to visit all that Blackstone has to offer including the Historical Society, the Library, the Senior Center, etc. There will be a silent auction on November 7th from 3:30 to 6 p.m. The Flu Clinic will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a Halloween brunch on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Dubois noted that Jeff Gamache did a fantastic job at the Autumnfest Committee. He also congratulated Paul and Lorraine Jacob as they were Grand Marshalls this year. BMR's marching band was the best without question. They did a fantastic job.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-10-14-15

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk