

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

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

October 27, 2015

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

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator
Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel

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:

- Personnel: Mr. Keyes noted there will be a shift in personnel in the near future. A temporary position will be created for an assistant assessor to learn the duties of Rachel Campopiano who will be retiring on June 30, 2016. In addition, the Town Accountant will be taking a leave of absence at the end of February 2016.
- Goals and Objectives: Mr. Keyes reminded the members to submit their goals and objectives. There will be a meeting with the Department of Transportation regarding changes to the Main Street area, infrastructure issues, curbing, sidewalks, etc., will be discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik . There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

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

October 27, 2015

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel
Robert Lowell, Acting Chief Engineer, DCR Senator Ryan Fattman
Representative Kevin Kuros Soldier-On Executive Board Members

1: CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 OCTOBER 13, 2015:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, 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):

None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Attorney Costello addressed the issue of the fence the School Department wishes to erect on a portion of the property. The cost of the fence is less than \$25,000. The School Committee does not need approval from the Board of Selectmen and it remains the jurisdiction of the School Committee.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Department of Conservation and Recreation – Update on Bike Trail: Robert Lowell, Acting Chief Engineer of DCR provided an interim update on the Bike Trail and the issue surrounding the 7 arches conduit. Gill Engineering has been hired to perform a full evaluation of the historical site. A full report will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen in December.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Soldier On Presentation: John Downing and Gary Shepard: Mr. Downing gave an in-depth overview of the Soldier On Program for veterans with an eye towards establishing a similar facility in Blackstone for veterans as is located in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.
- Cable Account Programs: The Comcast Cable Account has upgraded to HD (high definition). All boards and commissions should be on cable by December 1, 2015. We have an account that will allow us to partner with BMR

High School to present an educational program to include their own studio, cameras, etc., and offer a curriculum to enhance the program throughout the town and the schools. A curriculum could be ready sometime in December. The balance in the Cable Account is \$328,795.

- FY 17 Budget/Warrant Articles/Capital Items: Mr. Keyes reminded everyone that most operating budgets have been submitted and will be ready on or about December 1st. If there are any articles that need to be placed on the warrant, please submit them as soon as possible for review. Budget hearings are scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 9, 2016. Capital items must be submitted by December 4, 2015.
- Approval of application for a Class II license for Gregory Degnan, d/b/a Lucky 7 LLC, 63 Main Street, Unit C (4 vehicle limit): A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the application as stated above as long as there are no more than four (4) vehicles on the property at any time as recommended by the Building Inspector.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA09 and #16PW09, #16EWA10 and #16PW10: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above payroll warrants. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Vendor Warrant #16EW09 and #16EW10: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Bik, 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: Senator Fattman, Mr. Dubois and Dan Keefe went to Boston on Thursday and met with Mr. Daley from DOT regarding funding to do Main Street over. Superintendent of Public Works has concerns regarding the water lines under the street that date back to the 19th century. If the project goes through, it would be wise to replace the water lines at the same time.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Haughey reminded all that Halloween is Saturday and to watch for children in the streets. Veteran's Day is coming up and he wants to recognize our and all veterans for their service. Warning chains on both sides of the bridge on St. Paul Street can be put up to warn truckers of the low clearance as noted by Bob Morse. October is Breast Awareness month and if you can make a donation to this worthy cause, please do so.

Mr. Catalano thanked Senator Fattman and Representative Kuros for their concerns and support with the issues in Blackstone. Be careful driving on the streets Saturday night with the children on the roads. The Lions are having their annual food drive on November 7th at Park & Shop. Please be as generous as you can.

Mr. Keefe thanked Senator Fattman and Representative Kuros for coming to the meeting tonight and keeping us up to date on the progress. He encouraged people to visit the Family Grocer to help them recoup some of the losses they've endured in the past year or so due to the construction of the bike path. Soldier On is an incredible program.

Mrs. Bik thanked all who worked tirelessly in preparing and presenting their budgets. She also reviewed the activities that are going on at the Senior Center as well as the cost-savings programs available to seniors and veterans. She also reminded everyone that the Social Security Administration never contacts people on the phone. Their contacts are done in writing.

Mr. Dubois also noted that the Internal Revenue Service never contacts people by phone. It is always done in writing. He wanted to thank the veterans for their service. This Saturday is Halloween so be alert to children in the roads.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-10-28-15

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk