#### TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

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

November 17, 2015

<u>PRESENT:</u> Robert Dubois, Chairman Daniel Keefe Michael Catalano Margo Bik, Vice Chairman Paul Haughey

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator

<u>1. CALL TO ORDER:</u> The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted above.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- <u>FY 16 and FY 17 Budgets:</u> Mr. Keyes reports that the budgets are in good shape and will the drafts will be ready for review by the December 15, 2015 meeting and for the workshop scheduled for Saturday, January 9, 2016. No major issues were noted in the budgets. It was noted that Mr. Sullivan will be looking for additional funds for town roads.
- <u>Soldier On Update:</u> Following discussions in December by the administration of the Soldier On project with the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen, a Special Town Meeting has been scheduled for February 2, 2016 to vote on the Soldier On project.
- DOT Main Street Update: All the required information has been submitted to DOT.
- <u>Beacon Compassion Center</u>: The application for a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) has been submitted. They are willing to come and talk about their project and want to partner with the Town.
- <u>Contract(s) Union/non-Union</u>: Contract talks are on-going. The position of Assistant Accountant is now vacant. The position will be posted/advertised per union contract.
- 4. CERTIFICATE NOT TO ENCUMBER: All Selectmen have signed this document.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher Recording Secretary

Board of Selectmen Meeting – 11-17-2015

## TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

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

#### November 17, 2015

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator

#### 1: CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 27, 2015:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to accept the minutes as noted above. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

## <u>4. GOOD AND WELFARE – PUBLIC (7:30-8:00 P.M. (5 min. time limit per participant):</u> None.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was received from Jaime Terry of Mass Emergency with the results of the 24/7 public health call down notification drill was conducted on October 29, 2015. All four contacts listed responded to the drill and all four said they would be available to assemble should a real event occur. The response was prompt and required only eight minutes to reach all four contacts which is an amazing response time. Town officials were commended for a job well done and preparation was excellent.

Blackstone has received a grant for \$11,100 for the new mattress recycling incentive awarded to just 48 communities in the Commonwealth. It will pay for the cost of recycling residential mattresses.

There will be an installation of a new water main on Farm Street on Thursday, November 19, 2015. Water will be shut off at 9:00 a.m. and should be turned back on by 12:00 noon. A rain date for this project is Monday, November 23, 2015. Residents are requested to address any concerns to the Water Department (883-9331).

#### 6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

<u>8:00 p.m. – Public Hearing</u>: The purpose of this public hearing is for the Board of Assessors to present information to the Board of Selectmen on the issue of allocating the local tax levy among the five property classes for fiscal year 2016 as provided under Chapter 40, Section 56 of the MGL, as amended by Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982: Following Ms. Patricia Salamone's extensive presentation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the above, it was the recommendation of the Board of Assessors to maintain a single tax rate. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey,

seconded by Mrs. Bik, to close the public hearing, followed by a motion made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the single tax rate. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

# 7. OLD BUSINESS:

• <u>Woonsocket Wastewater – Agreement on Host Fee:</u>

The issue goes back to the FY 14 budget where a host fee was assessed at approximately \$42,000. Through legal negotiations between the two towns, it was agreed that Blackstone would pay \$21,195.74 without interest to clear up the matter. The funds would come out of Water/Sewer retained earnings. This will be the only other article on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on February 2, 2016 besides the Soldier On project. A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

# 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- <u>Blackstone Millville Regional High School Band National Champions</u>: This past week, the marching band, under the direction of Todd Schafer, returned from winning the National Championship in Division 4 held at Met Life Stadium in New Jersey. The Selectmen congratulated the band members on their outstanding accomplishments.
- <u>Special Town Meeting</u>: Mr. Keyes requested that the Board of Selectmen open the warrant for a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 for the purpose of the Soldier On program and for payment of the renegotiated Host Fee to the city of Woonsocket. The Soldier On program would rehabilitate Veteran's Park with ball fields and housing for veterans (75-150 units). A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for February 2, 2016. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- <u>CMRPC Janet Pierce</u>: Ms. Pierce is the Central Mass Regional Planning Executive Director. She distributed a new "services guide" which explains some of the programs offered to the communities. She offered suggestions for applying for grants to upgrade the infrastructure such as identifying areas of potential problems, documenting by taking pictures, having a pre-disaster mitigation plan in place, etc. Ms. Pierce extended an invitation to attend the late fall Legislative Breakfast on December 4, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at Union Station. The topic will be the Community Compact.
- <u>Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA11 and #16PW11:</u> 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.
- <u>Approval of Vendor Warrant #16EW11:</u> 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.
- <u>Matters that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen reasonable anticipates to discuss</u>: Mr. Dubois gave a presentation of the tax rates in surrounding towns and compared services received. Blackstone's trash pickup is included in the tax rate where most towns have to pay extra for this service.

# 9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Haughey encouraged everyone to complete the Master Plan survey. He also listed many of the programs available at the Senior Center and encouraged elders to take advantage of these. Mr. Haughey urged all to avail themselves of the many programs at the Library.

Michael Catalano noted that the Town has a nationally recognized marching band. Also the Lions Club had a food drive on November 7<sup>th</sup> and it was very successful event. The recycling collectors (Republic) made a donation to Daniels Farm. He wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Keefe noted that the Band Boosters have a part in keeping the school's cost down. He congratulated the band on their most recent accomplishments. He thanked the Woonsocket City Council for their quick response to the issue of the Host fees. He thanked the Water/Sewer Commission for keeping rates as stable as possible.

Mrs. Bik noted the silent auction at the Senior Center was a great success. They raised \$2,850 for the Senior Center. A spa day was held recently and many took advantage of the service. The Ribbons and Greens Holiday Workshop will be held at the Library on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mr. Dubois noted that December will be a busy month for the Board of Selectmen. Budget meetings are scheduled for Saturday, January 9, 2016 and it will be televised. Mary Bulso, Dave Barber and a few others volunteered their efforts in cleaning up the Blackstone River. They did a wonderful job. The survey is on the town's web site and it would be appreciated if people completed this to help with the Master Plan. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher Recording Secretary

T-11-18-15

cc: Board of Selectmen Town Administrator Town Clerk

Board of Selectmen Meeting – 11-17-2015