

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.
December 15, 2015

PRESENT: Robert Dubois, Chairman
Michael Catalano
Paul Haughey

Margo Bik, Vice Chairman
Daniel Keefe

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator

Soldier On Administrative Staff:
Jack Downing, CEO
Kathleen Lynchberg, Finance Coordinator
Gary Shepard, President
Rick Reid, Building Inspector

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 DECEMBER 01, 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:

None at this time.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- FY 16 & FY 17 Budgets: The preliminary budget drafts for FY 17 are ready from all departments for our meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. In addition, we will talk about the FY 16 budgets as well and finalize some expenditure issues but most budgets are looking good.
- Soldier On: In attendance were members of the Finance Committee, Parks & Recreation, Planning Board, Water/Sewer, Board of Health, Inspectional Services, Veteran’s Agent, Police Chief, Fire Chief, DPW Superintendent and Department Heads. A short film was shown providing an overview of the Soldier On Program which was well received by all in attendance.

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 is the deadline for the Finance Committee to hold their public hearing prior to the Special Town Meeting scheduled for February 2, 2016 regarding the Soldier On Program. The Board of Selectmen has

brought the various boards and other members of the community together for their input on this program. Mr. Downing introduced his team and gave a presentation on the purpose of the Soldier On Program to try to end homelessness for veterans. Please refer to the video of this meeting for details regarding this program.

Ms. Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, reports that Parks & Recreation fully support this program. Mr. James Belisle, 9 Butler Street, asked if the roads will be public or private roads. Mr. Downing stated he is willing to work with the town and whatever they want will be written into the agreement/contract/deed. Mr. Downing noted that the project should be completed within approximately 3 years from start to finish. Mr. James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, questioned the change in land use. Mr. Keyes read the lengthy article for land use change. If the project falls through for any reason, land use would revert back to its original use.

Selectman Keefe suggested using a few buses to take interested citizens and committee members to see the other completed Soldier On facilities to get a better idea of what is involved and how the facilities look and impact other communities.

Charles Sawyer, 30 Orchard Street, Chairman, Water/Sewer Commission, noted that Well #6 on the Veteran's Park property is produces very little water, is currently not on line, is high in iron and manganese and will require a water filtration system at a cost of \$4-6 million. The plan is to shut down Well #6 as soon as Wells #9 comes on line in the near future. He stated that the Water/Sewer Commission supports the Soldier On Program. Kurt van Dyke of Elm Street, a member of the Planning Board, stated this is a good program and supports it. Mr. van Dyke asked many questions which were answered by Mr. Downing to Mr. van Dyke's satisfaction.

- Woonsocket Wastewater: Mr. Haughey would like the Special Town Meeting to focus on Soldier On and prefers to deal with the Woonsocket Wastewater issue at the Special Town Meeting in May as a prior year bill. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to have Soldier On the only article for the February 2, 2016 Special Town Meeting. There was no further discussion and the motion passed on a 3-2 vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Budget Hearings – FY 2017: The budget hearings are scheduled for Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.
- Educational Cable & Programming: Mr. Jacob met with the Superintendent on Monday and will meet again on Thursday regarding complaints about the audio portion of the video for the school. As before, Mr. Jacob has offered his services to correct the problem and it should be resolved by Thursday.
- National Heritage Corridor: DCR is not ready with their report. It is hoped that the report will be available for our January 12, 2016 meeting.
- Approve and Sign Warrant for Special Town Meeting – February 2, 2016: The warrant has been approved and will be signed by all members following this meeting.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA14 and, #16PW14: 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 #16EW14: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. 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: None at this time.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Keefe – He was pleased to see the Soldier On people in attendance. He hopes that more people will take up the offer to visit their facilities in the western part of the state. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mr. Haughey – We have worked extremely well on the Soldier On Program as well as the Woonsocket Wastewater issue. Woonsocket Wastewater still has not afforded us all the information we requested around invoicing for the quarter. Hopefully litigation will not be necessary. Mr. Haughey wished a happy holiday to everyone.

Mr. Catalano – He hopes that people will take the time to educate themselves for the Special Town Meeting on February 2, 2016 as this program will be very beneficial to the town. Mr. Catalano wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

Mrs. Bik – The Cookie Walk at the Library was very successful. The Ribbons and Greens program was also very successful with over 40 people attending. Mrs. Bik supports the Soldier On Program. She wished everyone in town a happy holiday season.

Mr. Dubois – He thanked Mr. Keyes for bringing the Soldier On Program to Blackstone. This will impact the town in a positive direction. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-12-16-15

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk