

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 6:30 p.m.

January 12, 2016

PRESENT: Robert Dubois, Chairman Margo Bik, Vice Chairman  
Daniel Keefe Paul Haughey  
Michael Catalano (6:55 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Julie Hebert, Town Accountant  
William Walsh James Sullivan  
Gino Carlucci Kurt Van Dyke  
Christine Burke, Atty. for Estate of Gerald G. Demers

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted above.

3. SCENIC ROADS – PLANNING BOARD:

A preliminary list of roads to be considered as scenic routes was discussed. Mr. Keyes requested that Mr. Sullivan and the Planning Board meet within the next 30 days (with input from Police, Fire and residents) to move this project forward.

4. CERTIFICATGE NOT TO ENCUMBER @ 7:00 P.M.:

On advice of Town Counsel, a motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to issue the Discharge of the Certificate Not to Encumber regarding the Estate of Gerald G. Demers. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- Soldier On: Deferred at this time.
- Finance Team: Tax titles have been worked on and completed in a timely manner.
- Department Heads: Thanked the Finance Team for their excellent efforts with early budgets.
- Economic Development: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik to appoint Daniel Keyes as Executive Director of Economic and Community Development. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Hot Water Heater: Mr. Walsh reviewed the recent issue with the HVAC system and made recommendations to correct the problem saving the town a considerable amount of money.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

Board of Selectmen Meeting – 01-12-2016

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

January 12, 2016

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator

1: CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 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 15, 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.

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:

- Viaduct/Bike Trail – DCR Report (Gill Engineering) – Robert Lowell  
Mr. Lowell reported that Gill Engineering did a thorough assessment of the 7 arch viaduct structure and found the granite to be in good shape but the exterior concrete was somewhat destabilized. The cost assessment has not been determined thus far but it will be several million dollars. The Canal Street steel structure requires additional work. An interim measure is to stabilize any active driveways or passageways so material will not fall on those areas. Cleaning, sealing and waterproofing the viaduct structure to restore its capacity is the next step on the agenda. A ribbon cutting ceremony is expected for the summer if all goes according to plan. Also a Tot Lot (playground) will be installed in the area of the Family Grocer.
- Soldier On Program: The Finance Committee voted last night 7-0 to support the Soldier On Program at the Special Town Meeting scheduled for February 2, 2016. All the Boards in town have supported this program as well.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Superintendent of Schools – Cable TV Program: Dr. Himmelberger came before the Board with a proposal for use of the Blackstone Cable money to provide students with a modern learning environment as it relates to video

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production and broadcasting. A detailed list of planned purchases and their estimated costs was provided to the Board which included construction, hardware and software for an initial total of \$60,000. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve \$60,000 of the cable money to establish a new cable room at BMR. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Finance Update – Finance Team: Town Accountant, Assessor, Treasurer/Collector: It was noted that the Treasurer/Collector has done an outstanding job with moving tax titles forward. In addition, the collection rate is excellent. Budgets have been passed on to the Finance Committee. Dates have been set for department heads to meet with the Finance Committee. Towards the end of February there will be a meeting with the Unibank Financial Advisor for a presentation to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee regarding the town's annual financial report.
- Call for Special Town Meeting/Annual Town Meeting – May 31, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to call for Special Town Meeting/Annual Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Call for Annual Town Election – Monday, April 4, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to call for an Annual Town Election on Monday, April 4, 2016. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA15 and, #16PW15 : 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 #16EW15: 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. Catalano – Is excited that the Board encourages people to talk, listen and participate and let us know what they want. He hopes this continues. The bike trail is another asset to the town. Another facet of moving forward is the cable project for the school.

Mr. Keefe – The spirit of cooperation is alive and well in Blackstone. Seeing members of other boards sitting in the audience is a good thing. We are working towards the best interest of the people. We want to hear their concerns and be guided by them. We are moving in the right direction.

Mrs. Bik – She gave an apology to the Historical Commission as she forgot to announce their Holiday Open House. It was a wonderful time in spite of the omission. The Eagle Scout program in town is wonderful. Park benches at Valati Park were made and the area was cleaned up. The Senior Center is planning another silent auction in October at the Millerville Men's Club. The last one was very successful.

Mr. Dubois – The Lions Club and the COA will be putting on a pancake breakfast on Valentine's Day morning at the Senior Center. Mr. Dubois wanted to acknowledge the passing of the former Worcester County Sheriff, John Michael Flynn who was the sheriff for 18 years. He was 89 years of age.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-01-13-16

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk