

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 6:00 p.m.
January 26, 2016

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

ABSENT: Michael Catalano

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Town Counsel
Charles Sawyer, Chair, Water/Sewer

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted above.

3. WOONSOCKET WASTEWATER:

The issue of the reduced host fee of \$21,000 was discussed at length. Also discussed was Woonsocket's unilateral decision to reduce Blackstone's allotted flow rate in 1977 from 750,000 gallons to 480,000 without proper notice or agreement. The EPA and DEP funded about 75% of this project and should be made aware of the change. Mr. Sawyer would like to take the matter under advisement and discuss it further. Mr. Keyes concurred. Mr. Dubois suggested waiting to see what North Smithfield does. In the interim, a workshop with the Planning Board, Water/Sewer Commission and Board of Selectmen should be scheduled soon.

4. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- Draft STM & ATM Warrants: Held over for the 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- Update FY 16- FY 17 Budgets: Held over for the 7:30 p.m. meeting.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (see attached):

- Union Contracts:
- Contracts:

4. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.
February 23, 2016

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

ABSENT: Michael Catalano

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Town Counsel
Lynne Foster, Unibank Steve Perrault, Collector/Treasurer
James P. Belisle, Chair, Finance Committee James R. Belisle, Finance Committee member

1: CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois 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 JANUARY 26, 2016:

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:

- The Town of Millville has invited us to attend their parade celebrating their 100th anniversary of splitting from Blackstone. Mr. Dubois has accepted the invitation on behalf of the Board of Selectmen members.
- Correspondence was received from the Blackstone-Millville School District to be part of a reading class on April 8, 2016.
- Rep. Kuros and Sen. Fattman to let us know that they have sent correspondence to Stephanie Pollock, Secretary of Mass. DOT in support for our Main Street to be redone including installation of new sidewalks, curbing, repaving, restriping, etc. at a cost of \$1.8 million.
- A copy of the Master Plan survey was received. There were 138 answers. Rated “best” was the Library. Rated “worst” was cable. Verizon is not interested in coming to Blackstone. Police and Fire protection received excellent reviews.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Update FY16- FY17 Budgets: Police and Fire presented their budgets to the Finance Committee last night. We are waiting for request for proposals on the roof and proposals for Veteran’s Park. Everything should come together by mid-March. The public hearing for the school budget will be sometime in March.

- Review Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles: The warrant articles are in draft form for review only. We have a pretty good idea where we are headed and what the departments have requested. They will remain on the agenda for the next few meetings. Mr. Dubois would like to have a workshop to go over the articles in a month or so and the line item budgets. Mr. Costello has reviewed the articles and finds nothing that could be problematic.
- Legal Counsel-Discussion of Open Meeting Laws/State Ethics/Boards and Commissions: There have been issues regarding open meetings, ethics, whether people should recuse themselves, public records, etc. Mr. Costello is willing to hold workshops/classes on these issues in the near future.--

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Lynne Foster, Unibank – 2015 Audit: Ms. Foster gave an overview of the Financial Status of the Town. She noted no difference between 2014 and 2015. There is a budget surplus of \$1.4 million. She anticipates that 81% of the Town's outstanding debt will be retired in the next 10 years. Ms. Foster also addressed future debt including the school roof repairs, self-supporting and levy supported debt. She recommended establishing a 5-year Capital Plan, extending the ANP contract and continued contributions to the OPEB.
- Snow and Ice Budget: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve deficit spending for Snow and Ice. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Personnel Policy: We will be updating portions of the Personnel Policy including maternity, leave of absence and voting on the new hiring application.
- Social Media Policy: We do not have Face Book here but Mr. Keyes would like to have a Social Media Policy in effect regarding this for general government. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to accept a social media policy.
- Revoke appointment for Earl Vater, Municipal Inspector, for an unexpired 1-year term to expire June 30, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to revoke the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Appointment of Earl Vater, to Assistant Building Inspector for an unexpired 1-year term to expire June 30, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Appointment of Robert J. Speroni, to Building Inspector for an unexpired 1-year term to expire June 30, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve application for a Class II license from Ray Bruneault, Road Runner Auto Sales, 157 Main Street, Unit E, maximum 6 vehicles. (\$25,000 Bond required upon approval of license: Nick Patel is the owner of the property and he is leasing area this to Mr. Bruneault. The former license holder reneged by virtue of trying to sell the business on Craig's List. The current applicant has a signed lease with Mr. Patel and no repairs will be done on the property. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above application for a Class II License with a maximum of six (6) vehicles. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- Approve application for a Home Occupancy from Lynn Robinson Photography, 12 Meadow Lane: The name of the Home Occupancy will be changed from Lynn Robinson to Paul S. Robinson Photography LLP. A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the application request following the name change at the Town Administrator's office. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EW17 and 16PW17, #16EWA18 and 16PW18, #16EWA19 and 16PW19: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above payroll warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Vendor Warrant #16EW17, #16EW18, #16W19: 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.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Haughey – None.

Mr. Keefe – Thanked everyone for attending the Special Town Meeting. We are updating the web site over the next month or so.

Mrs. Bik – There will be a Downton Abbey tea at the Library on March 19th at 1:00 p.m. The COA and Lions pancake breakfast was a huge success. A blood pressure clinic is scheduled for tomorrow from 9-11 a.m. AARP tax aid will be available through April 6th on Wednesdays. The Worcester County Sheriff's office will be at the Senior Center on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 presenting a public safety initiative and also how to protect and dispose of your pills. Please refer to "A River Runs Through It" for details and more activities.

Mr. Dubois - Thanked the people who came to the Special Town Meeting. There was a 4-1 majority vote. The budget workshop for BMR is scheduled for tomorrow evening. The actual public hearing is on February 25th. The notice was only received yesterday.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-02-24-16

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk