

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

April 5, 2016, 2016

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

ABSENT: Paul Haughey

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois at 7:09 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted above.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- Reorganization Discussion: Deferred until the 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Deferred until the 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- Update FY 16 and FY 17 Budgets: Deferred until the 7:30 p.m. meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

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

April 5, 2016

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

ABSENT: Paul Haughey

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator

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”.

• Re-Organize – Elect Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk:

Nomination of Robert Dubois as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous and Mr. Dubois accepted the nomination.

Nomination of Mrs. Margo Bik as Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen was made by Mr. Catalano, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous and Mrs. Bik accepted the nomination.

Nomination of Paul Haughey as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Catalano. There were no other nominations and the vote was unanimous.

• Adopt and Update Rules and Regulations of the Board:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to adopt the Rules and Regulations of the Board as written.

3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF MARCH 15, 2016 and MARCH 22, 2016:

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:

• Blackstone Cultural Council Grant Application: Ms. Carolyn Walsh, Chair of the Cultural Council, submitted a list of grant applications for the upcoming year along with a list of criteria used to determine how the grant money is awarded. It is hoped that the citizens of Blackstone will come out and support these events as they have in the past.

• Letter From Library Trustees Regarding State Aid and Budget: A letter was received from Ms. Marilou Branchaud, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees regarding state aid and the budget. The purpose of the letter was to correct erroneous information presented by a member of the Finance Committee at their March 28th meeting at which time it was stated that the Library appropriated \$300,000 for repairs and maintenance. In fact, the warrant article was for \$65,000. Also the same individual said the Library cost the town over a million dollars in FY `16 which is not true. The operating budget for the Library is \$400,324. No attempt was made to accept the correction made by the Library Chairperson.

- A letter was received from Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) noting that the FY 17 Chapter 90 share of money for Blackstone totals \$234,575.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles: There will be a workshop meeting on Thursday to finalize the warrant articles.
- Update FY 16 and FY 17 Budgets: The FY 16 and FY 17 budgets will also be addressed on Thursday night's workshop meeting. The Board of Selectmen will go into Executive Session to finalize employee contract negotiations at that time. Town Counsel and Town Accountant will also be present. It was noted that there is a 2.5% increase in property insurance this year and health insurance increased by 4.5%.
- Department of Public Works – Roadwork/Streets: The DPW Superintendent, James Sullivan, discussed his plans for repaving certain streets in town such as Mendon St. (at Lincoln St.) to Milk St. and #13 Chestnut St. to Union St. and repave a portion of Rathbun St. from Dollard St. to the fire station. Some sidewalk work may also be included. He also has a plan to address the drainage in that area to alleviate flooding. Plans also include doing Farm St. from the Rhode Island state line to the railroad bed and up to Pickering Rd. Mr. Keefe noted a huge and dangerous pothole at the parent drop-off area at the Kennedy School and asked the Superintendent to consider repairing that area.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Norfolk County Agricultural High School – Tuition Rate: The out-of-county tuition rate for FY 17 is \$22,149 per student and does not include transportation. Nineteen (19) students are expected to attend in the new school year. The in-county tuition rate is considerably less at \$1,961.
- Discussion and update regarding School Committee vacancy. Possible dates for joint meeting: The BMR budget will be discussed at the workshop meeting. The language of the agreement was read. Anyone interested in the vacancy should submit a letter of intent to the Town Administrator's Office no later than April 15, 2016.
- Zoning Board of Appeals Contract Hire: Passed over as no representative was present.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA22 and #16PW22: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above payroll warrants. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Vendor Warrant #16EW22: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, 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: The Planning Board is having a public hearing regarding Sycamore Meadows on the same night as the Board of Selectmen's workshop, April 7, 2016. Some of the issues of the Planning Board include eliminating street lights, reducing sidewalks to one side of the road, providing two (2) affordable housing units off-site rather than within the subdivision, etc. Chairman Dubois requested that Mr. Keyes attend part of the Planning Board meeting and remind them that the Board of Selectmen have real concerns when the Planning Board makes questionable decisions.
- The Town Report will be out tomorrow. The power plant was addressed and is actually for sale along with 40 others that are owned by the same company and that is the reason an agreement is not in place for the next 10 years. Once the sale is complete, talks of an extension can be entertained.
- Excise tax – there are those who say Blackstone has the highest excise tax in the state. In Massachusetts, every town/city has the same excise tax rate as everyone else in the state.
- An individual claimed her tax bill went up \$800. Upon checking, in fact her tax bill went up by \$26.91. People should check their facts before posting statements on social media.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Catalano - He thanked all who came out to vote in the election yesterday even though the conditions were terrible. He also expressed appreciation to the Town Clerk's staff and volunteers for their dedication. He hopes the next three years will be fruitful for the Town.

Mr. Keefe – North Smithfield voted to go to arbitration over their wastewater issue with Woonsocket and feels that Blackstone should wait and see what North Smithfield does. It might be a good idea to have town counsel from both towns have a discussion regarding the reasons for arbitration. Blackstone is still receiving one invoice per year instead of quarterly as agreed. Woonsocket fails to keep to the contract. We have paid our share as has the EPA and DEP and it is important that the sewer users get what they have paid for.

The work to remove the bridge on 126 will be removed on Friday evening, April 15th beginning at 10 p.m. and will be out of service until 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20th. Police, Fire and residents should be notified.

Corin Arronian of the Recycling Center passed away last week. He was a fixture there for quite a while. Services were held in Waltham last week.

Mrs. Bik – She congratulated Mr. Dubois and Mr. Catalano on their return to the Board of Selectmen. She also expressed thanks to the poll workers, police, DPW crews and all who helped out even though the numbers were not great. Even though the turnout was low, the amount of work that goes into prepping for an election/post-election is the same.

The Historical Commission's presentation was a success. The Library has an abundance of programs for townspeople to use to their advantage. The Civil War re-enactment is scheduled for October this year. She encourages everyone to read "A River Runs Through It". The Senior Prom will be held on April 30th from 4-8 p.m. put on by BMR sophomores. A Silent Auction will be in October at the Millerville Men's Club. The "RMV Near Me" has been implemented at the Senior Center to assist those who need to go on-line to renew license and/or registration.

Mr. Dubois - Thanked all those who came out yesterday to vote even though the weather was not the nicest.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-04-06-16

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk