

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 6:00 p.m.
WORKSHOP – RECYCLING/WASTE COLLECTION BUDGET

April 7, 2016

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

ABSENT: Paul Haughey

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel
Julie Hebert, Town Accountant William Walsh, Director, Recycling
Colleen Strapponi, Recycling Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois at 6:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted above.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- Union Contracts Update and Approval: (DPW, Police, Fire, Dispatch and Clerical):

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe to approve the POLICE union contract from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik to approve the CLERICAL union contract from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano to approve the DPW union contract from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Catalano, seconded by Mrs. Bik to approve the DISPATCHERS union contract from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe to approve the FIRE union contract from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

4. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING/STM WARRANT ARTICLES:

- WARRANT ARTICLES: Warrant articles for both the SMT (no changes made) and ATM were reviewed and approved except where noted below:

Article 10: Mr. Keefe stated he did not support this article. It should be noted that the Department of Revenue suggested several times that the position be appointed rather than elected and the Selectmen (on a 4-1 vote) agreed.

Article 17: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to remove this article. Subsequent articles shall be renumbered.

Article 18: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to remove this article. Subsequent articles shall be renumbered.

- FY 16 and FY 17 BUDGETS: Review of the FY 17 budget was conducted. All members approved the budget with exceptions/comments noted below:
 - Economic Development: The Professional/Technical line item will be moved to the Selectmen's budget.
 - Police: One position will be added (School Resource Officer for Blackstone only).
 - Dispatch: One position will be added.
 - Fire: One position will be added.
 - Emergency Management: Include upgrade to radio equipment.
 - BMR: The school department is looking for an additional \$886,000 from Blackstone and \$337,000 from Millville. Upon review, the most the Town can afford is \$400,000. (No word on Millville's affordability has been received as yet).
 - C.O.A.: Mr. Keefe recused himself.
 - Waste Disposal: This budget is off by 60% and it was determined that it can no longer sustain itself. Mr. Walsh asked that this budget be temporarily put into the General Fund. An RFP for the commercial side of the operation can be sent out by April 28, 2016 with a return date of May 25, 2016. The town shall remain responsible for the residential side of the operation and may mean a cost to each household of \$110/year. The baler and sorting facility will remain on-site and generate revenue to pay expenses.

The issue of the "host fee" generated by the City of Woonsocket is still an issue. If the Town Meeting does not approve paying the reduced fee from 2013 it will be necessary to go to arbitration. If approved, the funds would not come from free cash but Water/Sewer will be responsible for payment. Mr. Keefe stated he still has an issue with Woonsocket unilaterally reducing the flow rate from an agreed upon 75,000 gal. to 40,000 gal. He also stated he has issues with Woonsocket's billing practices which need to be resolved.

Tomorrow Mr. Keyes will add an article to transfer \$250,000 from free cash to take care of Recycling's deficit for the current fiscal year.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Catalano, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-04-08-16

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk