TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 6:00 p.m.

WORKSHOP - WATER/SEWER COMMISSION

April 19, 2016

PRESENT: Robert Dubois, Chairman Margo Bik, Vice Chairman

Daniel Keefe Michael Catalano

ABSENT: Paul Haughey

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator James Sullivan, DPW Superintendent

Julie Hebert, Town Accountant Charles Sawyer, Chair, Water/Sewer
Thomas Devlin, Water/Sewer Bruce Patterson, 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. WATER & SEWER COMMISSION:

The Chairman of the Water/Sewer Commission requested a meeting with the Board of Selectmen this evening to bring forth a list of issues that concerned them and requested that an audit be conducted. Several auditing firms were contacted and it was determined that none would come into town just to do one audit. Mr. Sawyer was concerned that the water/sewer rates would have to be increased again this year and possibly next year. He also requested a complete list of invoices, expenses and allocation of the \$1.1 million as it pertains to well #8 and #9. Also requested was an accounting of long term debt, long term interest, health benefits for employees, recovery from uncollected rates, liens, breakdown of Water/Sewer Enterprise Account, an accounting of the Water/Sewer commitment vs. actual receipts and the policy regarding collection of water/sewer bills. It was determined that the majority of the information requested can be obtained by having a report printed out at the end of every month. Although a representative of Unibank recently made an in-depth presentation to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee a copy of her report will be furnished to the Water/Sewer Commission.

Mr. Sawyer also felt that the current split of salaries (1/3 from each entity) is unfair. It should be 40 (DPW)-35 (Water) and 15 (Sewer) to make it equitable. This would also apply to health benefits. He also would like the wastewater charges to be separate. He brought up the issue of the elderly housing complexes not paying for sewer as Blackstone is the only town in the area that does not charge the housing complexes for this service. It was noted that the assessment of sewer charges needs to be addressed with the responsible agency (Early Village - state) and (Fox Brook Manor - federal government).

If a new agreement is coming up with the power plant, Mr. Sawyer would like to talk about a water purification plant as the state continually lowers the amount of particulates that are allowed in drinking water. Today, the cost of this type of facility is about \$14 million and the cost increases with each passing year.

To fully address Mr. Sawyer's concerns, a meeting will be set up in the very near future to include Unibank, Town Administrator, Town Accountant, Water/Sewer Commission members and Jeff McClure, the Weston and Sampson consultant.

4. STM & ATM WARRANTS – POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS:

Another warrant article was added to the list and shall be known as #17, the funds coming from the Capital Trust in the amount of \$432,239 for the following capital debt payments: \$102,995 (BMR Sewer Note), \$254,014 (BMR Roof Project), \$26,155 (Recycling 3-Phase Electric Debt) and \$48,075 (Recycling Sorting Facility Equipment Debt).

5. FY 16 & FY 17 BUDGETS:

Deferred.

6. MATTERS THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THEBOARD OF SELECTMEN REASONABLY ANTICIPATES TO DISCUSS:

Deferred.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher Recording Secretary

T-04-20-16

cc: Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Town Clerk