TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

May 17, 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".

3. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2016:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bike, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to accept the minutes as stated 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):

Members of the Parade Committee were present to discuss the progress of the parade and any issues they need to address. The first issue was the electrical box by the fire tower. It is used for supplying electricity for amplifiers, lighting, vendors, etc. It is also used by the Fire Department. The seal on the top of the box has lifted and water gets inside the electrical box. The terminals are also corroded and a part is missing that supplies power to the breakers and it is arcing and ready to catch fire. Electricity is intermittent at best. This is a dangerous situation. Mr. Keyes made arrangements for an electrician to do an evaluation. It was determined that a new and proper electrical box will be installed, hopefully in time for the Memorial Day parade on May 29, 2016.

The starting point of the parade will start at the JFK/AFMaloney complex as the Town Common was too congested. The parade route will go from Mendon Street to Main Street and end at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street. All parade participants, entertainers and vendors are ready to go. Mr. Tony Catalano is in charge of the opening ceremony in front of Town Hall. Father O'Mara is the Grand Marshall this year. A flyer has been developed depicting the activities for the day. There is a critical need for people to help with this function and those who are interested can contact the Parade Committee to offer much needed assistance. A request for additional money for next year will be taken under advisement by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Tony Catalano has asked and received permission to place buntings and/or flags at various locations throughout the town for the day of the parade.

5: CORRESPONDENCE:

The Management Letter for FY 15 was received today and Mr. Keyes stated it was superb. Copies will be distributed to all concerned within the week. Ms. Herbert addressed and corrected the 3 very minor issues that were noted in the letter.

The Financial Team has done an excellent job. The books are balances and reconciled in a timely manner, unlike the fiasco that we faced year after year in the past. The Team is to be commended.

Mr. Keyes submitted a Community Compact application on behalf of the Town of Blackstone several weeks ago. The application has been approved and the Lt. Governor's office will be scheduling a signing event in the near future. The grant will be part of the Soldier On program.

6: HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

The Finance Committee held their Public Hearing last night and they will make their recommendations tomorrow night. Chairman Dubois thought the meeting went very well and stated the Chair along with the Committee members did an excellent job.

7: OLD BUSINESS:

Special & Annual Town Warrant Articles: Deferred.

<u>Update FY 16 and FY 17 Budgets:</u> Mr. Keyes noted that internal transfers will take place between June 1st through July 15th which will need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and turned over to the Finance Committee for their final approval. Mr. Keyes noted that the budget is balanced for FY 17 and was presented to the Finance Committee last night for their recommendations. Due to the relatively snowless winter the Snow and Ice budget came in under the \$70,000 that was requested. The bottom line for that budget should be about \$63,000.

8: NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of Roy Greenhalgh, 9 Bellingham Road to the Water & Sewer Commission for an Unexpired 3 Year Term to Expire June 30, 2016: The Water/Sewer Commission supports this request. Mr. Greenhalgh stated he was pleased to contribute and hopefully bring value to the Commission. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

<u>Approval of Reserve Fund Transfer – Recycling:</u> We would like to transfer \$15,000 in the Reserve Fund to the general fund in order to close out the books for FY 16. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano to approve the above request. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Also, DPW Superintendent Sullivan has requested a DPW Reserve Fund transfer of \$25,000 for paving of a small portion of Social Street in order to save the town about \$7,500. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano to approve the above request. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

<u>Draft – Maternity Leave Policy</u>: The last update was to this policy was in 1993. This was reviewed by Town Council and it was recommended to adopt this section of the law. In Massachusetts there is an eight week maternity leave option. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to adopt the Maternity Leave Option and incorporate it townwide in all departments. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

<u>Department of Environmental Protection – James Sullivan:</u> This is a magnesium issue regarding the water and Mr. Sullivan feels it can be ready by September 1st and completed by February of 2017. This is a preliminary presentation. Mr. Keefe noted that a water filtration system may be needed in the future.

Approval of Payroll Warrant #16EWA24 & #16EWA25 and #16PW24 & #16PW25: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe to approve the above payroll warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

<u>Approval of Vendor Warrant #16EW24 & #16EW25</u>: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe to approve the above vendor warrant. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Matters that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen reasonably anticipates to discuss: Chairman Dubois gave a history of sidewalk replacements in the town. Sidewalk placement in the 1980's was done on Market Street, First Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, Power Street and Raynor Street. In the 1990's it was Dollard Street, King Street, Valley Street, Shore Drive, Edgewater Drive, Carter Avenue, Diana Street, Richmond Street, Lloyd Street, Miller Street, Ethel Street all of the High Rocks streets, Austin Street, Prospect Street, Mason Street and Pleasant Stree4t. In the 2000's St. Paul Street, May Street, Warner Street and Summer Place were done. More recently partial sidewalk replacement was done on Rathbun Street, Mendon Street and Blackstone Street. It should be known that the town does not subsidize sewer installations in new developments. Last year paving was done on Marcel Lane, Woodcrest, all of Milk Street, Farnum Street, Canal Street and a portion of Rathbun Street. Mendon Street was completed today. Farm Street from the state line to the railroad bed will be done soon. Blackstone does not fill in pot holes in parking lots.

9: GOOD AND WELFARE - SELECTMEN:

Mr. Catalano: The public hearing last night was well attended and well run. Mr. Wozniak's comments about the deficiencies we have in the schools on the Blackstone side were right on. Blackstone has always been willing to help Millville. Mr. Wozniak deserves kudos for bringing that issue forward. He thanked the parade committee and hopes they get the volunteers that they need. The Financial Team has set a benchmark and it is hoped that the level of excellence will be maintained. We've never enjoyed this success in the past and we support what they are doing.

Mr. Keefe: The issue of the state refurbishing Main Street with repaving, sidewalks, water pipes, etc. is still unclear as to what they will actually do and when. The Public Hearing went well last night. He would like to see a fair and equitable regional agreement. A group of concerned citizens came together to determine the best value for the children of both communities and it was disheartening to see how they were treated and disrespected via social media.

Mrs. Bik: She spoke with Selectman Haughey today and he is making good progress. The Tags and Trout event was successful and well attended. The prom night was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Library had an event where they recognized the 100+ volunteers. The seniors will be taking a trip to Newport at a cost of \$25 person on June 10th. She encouraged everyone to read "A River Runs Through It" for the senior activities.

<u>Mr. Dubois:</u> The Selectmen attended Millville's 100th anniversary parade. The Tags and Trout event was very successful. The Finance Committee did a great job with their public hearing last night. He wished all mothers a belated Happy Mother's Day and goo wishes to all the fathers on Father's Day coming up soon. He hoped to see as many people as possible come to the Annual Town Meeting on May 30th. The Memorial Day parade is on May 29th at 1:00 p.m. The annual Town Report is available at Town Hall for anyone who would like a copy.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher Recording Secretary

T-05-18-16

cc: Board of Selectmen Town Administrator Town Clerk