

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 6:30 p.m.  
August 23, 2016

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

ABSENT: Michael Catalano

OTHERS PRESENTS: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel  
Members of the Polish American Citizens Club: Mr. Maloney, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Lizotte and  
Mr. Archibald

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted above.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

Polish American Citizens Club: There are 5 years left on the Club's option to rent the building and land from the Town. The Club is in their 10<sup>th</sup> year of a 15 year lease. The Club members originally were looking to start the lease process early. However, the prospect of buying the building and land outright was brought up. Attorney Costello noted that the Inspector General's office has new rules and regulations that must be adhered to before a sale can take place and proceeded to outline all steps required. Buying the property seemed to be a good option for the Club. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to have the Town Administrator research the issue and report his findings to the Board of Selectmen and the Club by the end of September.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-08-24-16

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk

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

August 23, 2016

PRESENT: Robert Dubois, Chairman Margo Bik, Vice Chairman  
Michael Catalano (7:03) Daniel Keefe  
Paul Haughey

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel  
Beth Greenblatt, Managing Director, Solar Update

1: CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois at 7:00 p.m.

2: ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- Beth Greenblatt, Managing Director, Beacon Integrated Solutions – Solar Update: Ms. Greenblatt gave an overview of the Town’s current status in the Solar project. National Grid wants to redesign and came back with a cost option of \$629,000 as a necessary upgrade to the substation which will be very challenging. Ms. Greenblatt noted there are other projects that could better benefit the Town. These other projects will be taken under advisement. Any and all recommendations will be discussed at the September 13, 2016 meeting. The Town will have to repay the \$90,000 already received. Mr. Costello suggested giving consideration to other net metering avenues which would provide savings for the Town.
- Pending Litigation Update: Attorney Costello gave a brief overview of the Board of Health’s issue, noted that another case was already in Land Court and a pre-conference with Attorney Steve Pfaff in the Hurwitz matter is scheduled for September 20, 2016.
- Soldier On Update: A draft is in place regarding the contract with Soldier On. Dean Bank has expressed an interest in the financial aspect of this project.
- ANP: Mr. Keyes reported that ANP will close from October 21, 2016 through November 1, 2016 for rebuilding and a major overhaul of the plant as they plan on remaining in Blackstone.

4: ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-08-24-16

cc: Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, and Town Clerk

Board of Selectmen Meeting – 08-23-2016

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

August 23, 2016

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel

1: CALL TO ORDER:

Pledge of Allegiance:

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF JULY 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:

None at this time.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

Mr. Dubois noted that a 6-B motion was made and seconded and no further discussion was allowed until tonight and it cannot be used again in the matter of the contract for roof replacement.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Approval of Contract for Roof Replacement: There was a question of the cost and the product at the last meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik to approve the roof contract at \$450,400. Mr. Keefe explained his rationale for imposing the 6-B rule and he is still opposed to the cost and the product as the planning and cost for the roof was done by the manufacturer of the product. However, there is a green grant of about \$80,000 that could be used on insulation on the roofing product and the sky light which would offset some of the cost. Mr. Haughey noted that the vendor was the lowest bidder, was vetted and met all criteria. Mr. Dubois checked on many projects done in the area by this company and was satisfied with their performance as was Town Counsel. Mr. Catalano, along with Mr. Keefe, felt an independent architect should have been hired and would have saved the Town \$140,000. However, with winter approaching, time of the essence. Following this discussion and the motion, the vote was 3-2 to approve the Contract for the Roof Replacement.
- Board of Selectmen Re-appointments:  
Adam Ross, Conservation Commission – 3 year term to expire 06/30/19:  
Jennifer Ross, Conservation Commission – 3 year term to expire 06/30/19:  
Roy J. Greenhalgh, Water & Sewer Commission – 1 year term to expire 06/30/17: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the 1 year term. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Board of Selectmen Meeting – 08-23-2016

- Beth Greenblatt, Managing Director, Beacon Integrated Solutions – Solar Update: Kersarge Energy entered into contract negotiations with the Town to provide solar development. The overview was quite extensive. The impact study by National Grid resulted in a cost of \$633,000 to interconnect to National Grid's 3-phase system which is an astronomical cost. This is less economically viable than originally anticipated. There are now six (6) projects scheduled ahead of Blackstone. There may be other projects that could benefit Blackstone which she would like the Town to consider, the details of which were discussed. Town Counsel suggested that the Town take the alternatives under advisement and come to a decision by September 13, 2016.
- Soldier On Update: Mr. Keyes and Mr. Costello met with Soldier On principals a few weeks ago. They are committed to the project and are in the process of securing funding. The scope of the project is between 125-150 units. The recreational projects are still on track. The timing of Soldier On's financing is key. This project will not cost the Town anything. Hopefully a draft will be available by Labor Day. When the agreement is signed, the property will go on the tax rolls whether a building is on the property or not. This project will have a nice impact on the community. In addition it will bring us closer to the threshold of affordable housing required by the state.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Dharmi Patel – Family Grocer – Tourist Information Center: The Patel family is looking for the Town's support in developing a Tourist Information Center at 202 Main Street in the now vacant building that used to be a restaurant. The Patel family found that people are using the bike path even though it's not complete, and the bikers are also using the Patel's bathroom facilities which are private. Discussions with DCR have taken place but no action has been decided. Mr. Dubois suggested that Congressman McGovern should be contacted to help with this situation. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to send a letter supporting a Tourist Information Center to the appropriate people who could have a positive impact on this development. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve application for Change of Manager from Miquel Sanchez to Rebecca Carroll:, Paradise Café, 97 Main Street. Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above application. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve Braking Aids Ride on Friday, September 23, 2016 from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.: It was noted that about 125 participants will be in the "Ride". A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the request. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Department of Public Works – Road Paving and Water & Sewer Update: The plan is to mill and pave a section of Farm Street from North Main Street, Woonsocket to just above Pickering Road and the entire length of Whipple Avenue, along a small area off Lincoln Street where several driveways converge. The project will be submitted to Mass. DOT to use Chapter 90 money. Estimated cost is \$242,058.50. First Avenue will also be paved. Some drainage areas need improvement on Federal Street. Drainage on Rathbun Street is being surveyed at this time.

Mr. Sawyer discussed the seriousness of the mandatory water ban imposed by the State, including monthly water usage in Town. Our water deficit is over 10 in. We will be looking to raise the water rates again and we will have a public hearing on the issue. We would like to have an audit of the Water & Sewer Commission. The biggest problem seems to be getting timely bills from the City of Woonsocket. In the contract, we are to be billed quarterly yet the City sends our bills only once a year. This puts a strain on our budget. We need a few short term capital projects such as a metering pit on the top of St. Paul Street at a cost of about \$120,000 to meter the water going into North Smithfield and also install shut-off valves. Valley Street needs new lines from one end to the other. An I and I study is needed on the sewer lines which is mandated by the state and is expensive. Many of the water lines are over 100 yrs.

old. We need to think about a water purification plant in Town. This is about 10 years down the road but we need to start planning for it now. It would be nice to have audio and pictorial histories regarding the Town.

- Blackstone Housing Corporation: Town Counsel researched the issue of elderly resident facilities not paying water/sewer fees. There are no statutory rules excluding these facilities from paying their fair share. It was determined that the rest of the rate payers have been picking up the tab for these facilities. The sewer fees for these establishments are over \$1,000 a month. Those agencies providing subsidized housing should be paying the sewer bills.
- Interview elder residents to discuss history of Blackstone – Cable Programming: Paul Jacob noted that several residents approached him about interviewing some of the residents of Blackstone who know the history of the Town who still remember interesting items about the Town.
- Time Clocks – Town Hall, DPW, Recycling and Library: Time cards will be gone as of September 1, 2016. The new time clocks have been installed and will use fingerprint identification. Time will be coordinated through the Town Accountant's Office.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #17EWA03, 04, 05, 06 and #17PW01, and #17EWA03, 04, 05, 06: 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 #17EW03, 04, 05, 06: 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 Reasonably Anticipates to Discuss: None.

#### 9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Haughey – The Town Library will be putting on a program regarding eating with diabetes on August 29, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. There are a number of children's programs that will be presented throughout the year.

Mr. Catalano – Thanked Mr. Keefe for trying to save the town money.

Mr. Keefe – The first day of school is next week. Be careful.

Mrs. Bik - Look at the billboard in front of the Library for programs. Be sure to read "A River Runs Through It" for activities involving the senior community. The IRS will never call you – they communicate by mail. Do not give out any information. Hang up on these phone callers. The new chips in your credit cards come off so be sure it's still in the card when it's returned to you. It contains all your information. The End of Summer bash has changed to September 12, 2016 at 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Be sure to conserve water.

Mr. Dubois - Reiterated the fact that the IRS will never call you – they always contact you by mail. Congratulated Parks and Rec. for their water balloon day. The Lions will have a car show up at the Daniels Farm.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-08-24-16

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk