

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

September 13, 2016

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator
Steven Perrault, Collector/Treasurer
Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel

1: CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois at 7:03 p.m.

2: ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- Approval of Article 10 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting for the borrowing of \$500,000 to replace the roof: Mr. Perrault stated that the money would be borrowed from Eastern Bank at a rate of 0.9% for the length of the loan. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik to approve Article 10. There was no discussion and the vote was 4-1.
- Mr. Keyes noted that all department heads attended the FY 18 budget meeting and have started their planning phase.
- Mr. Keyes reviewed Ms. Greenblatt’s information from the last meeting and noted the legislature is voting on new solar projects which may benefit Blackstone. Attorney Costello stated that we may be able to put together a more definitive RFP for this next round.

4: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-09-14-16

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.
September 13, 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:

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. A moment of silence was held to honor those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 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):

Charles Sawyer, 30 Orchard Street. Several years ago the Town received a grant given by the state which we had to match in order to fix up the Civil War monument at the Union Hotel. At this time, Mr. Sawyer is looking for an opportunity to address the Mendon St./Main St. memorial that the Veterans of Foreign Wars installed a monument there. The Post paid over \$3,000 for the monument. There is now a granite stone in place that was saved when the dam at Harris Pond that burst in the flood of 1955. A plaque to remember the events of 9-11 would be appropriate in this area if we could find the funding for it. The event should not be forgotten. Mr. Sawyer thanked Mr. Keefe for donating the flag pole in this area when funding ran out. Mr. Sawyer asked for ideas to raise funds for this important project.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Keyes received notification from Mass DOT regarding the first round of funding for bridges which allows up to \$500,000 per bridge for reconstruction and/or repair. The first round of funding will be through August 31st and the second round will be February 28, 2017. This is a competitive process and we would appreciate input from everyone.

There was a department head meeting regarding finances and we are in excellent shape. Department heads are working on their FY 18 budgets. Any drafts of articles to be considered at Town Meeting should be submitted for review as soon as possible.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS:

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Beth Greenblatt, Managing Director, Beacon Integrated Solutions – Solar Update: Ms. Greenblatt was here on August 23, 2016 regarding the solar project. There was a significant upgrade of over \$600,000 far exceeding what we had budgeted. An alternative plan of net metering was suggested. Town Counsel discussed this in detail. In view of

this new information a motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to terminate the procurement process at this time. Mr. Keefe noted that he worked hard on the recycling end of this project. Kearsarge made a good faith payment which was used to offset Recycling's FY 15 budget. There were other sums applied to the Recycling budget to cover anticipated losses. The Town has pay \$95,000 to Kearsarge. The total that the Town has to pay for Recycling in the last 3 months amounts to \$885,000. Mr. Keefe was adamant that this issue in no way is a reflection on or about Mr. Walsh's duties or abilities. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

- A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to have Town Counsel enter into Blue Wave's Solar Incentive Plan negotiations.
- Soldier On Update: We received another update from Soldier On regarding the proposed development agreement. There are just some minor revisions that need to be made. They will maintain the fields. Mr. Keefe suggested that a workshop on this project be set up before the actual televised vote. Town Counsel suggests moving forward as aggressively as possible. There are no time constraints at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Approval of Article 10 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting for the borrowing of \$500,000 to replace the roof: The Selectmen have already signed the documents this evening and they were notarized by the Town Clerk. The roof repair is scheduled to begin on October 17, 2016 and be completed in one month. Town Hall will remain open during the repair.
- Appointment of Diane Robidoux, 310 Lincoln St., to the Cultural Council for a 2 year term to expire 06/30/18: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Appointment of Michele Daley, 4 Centennial Dr., to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term to expire 06/30/19: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve drainlayer's license request from Digs Construction LLC., 240 Main Street, Millville, MA (Application approved by Superintendent of Public Works): A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to approve the application. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve contract for License to Enter and Use Real Property on 43 Main Street to Michael L. Parody: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the contract as noted above. This is a yearly contract. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #17EWA07 and #17PW07: 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 #17EW07: 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 – No comment.

Mr. Catalano – No comment.

Mr. Keefe – Attorney Doyle spoke this week with Mr. Keefe about having a meeting with the Board of Selectmen regarding the sewer bill for Early Village and Fox Brook. Town Counsel has addressed the issue with Attorney Doyle in the past. Any abatement issues need to be addressed with the Water/Sewer Commission. There is no contract or agreement regarding assessments or sewer fees.

Mrs. Bik - The Department of Agriculture met at Wojcik's Farm regarding the severe drought. The corn maze is open again and is quite extensive. The Library is having a book sale on October 22nd. They are accepting used books, DVDs and CDs. On September 29th at 6:30 p.m. URI's Master Gardener, Melissa Pace, called Herb Talk. A program is scheduled for October 11th with the North Sea Gas, one of Scotland's most popular folk bands. It is free but registration is required. An Easy Walk program is scheduled for September 20th at 1:00 p.m. On September 16th at 11:00 a.m. a tour of the East Blackstone Meeting House (built in 1799) will be conducted. There are many more programs listed in the "A River Runs Through It".

Mr. Dubois - No comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Keefe, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-09-14-16

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk