

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

October 3, 2016

PRESENT: Robert Dubois, Chairman  
Michael Catalano  
Paul Haughey

Margo Bik, Vice Chairman  
Daniel Keefe

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator  
Julie Hebert, Town Accountant

Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel

1: CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois at 7:23 p.m.

2: ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

Deferred to the 7:30 p.m. meeting.

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-10-04-16

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.  
October 13, 2016

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator  
Julie Hebert, Town Accountant  
Charles Sawyer, Chairman, Water/Sewer  
Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel  
William Walsh, Director, Recycling Department  
James Sullivan, Superintendent, DPW

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 two former town officials – George Bousquet and Leo Martinelli, who recently passed away.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2016:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, 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:

Mr. Keyes received a complaint about traffic on Canal and Farnum Streets. Commercial trucks are not using these streets as short cuts. Other trucks used Canal Street because they couldn't get through where the bridge was. This was a temporary measure. Mr. Keyes will contact DCR regarding the official opening of the Bike Path.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS: **Public Hearing – 8:00 p.m.** Placer two (2) new poles, Pole 2 and Pole 3, on the northeasterly side of Marzalkowski Street: Pole 2 to be located at a point approximately 173' northwesterly of Lakeshore Drive; and Pole 3 to be located at a point approximately 346' northwesterly of Lakeshore Driver, as shown on the plan. The petition is necessary for the purpose of providing service to new homes being built on Marzalkowski Street.

Mr. Thomas Blicharz was present representing Verizon. All abutters have been properly notified. Mr. Brian Stonkus of 166 Lakeshore Drive noted that pole #2 as proposed is about 5 ft. from their fence line and in a row of hemlocks. Mr. Stonkus requested that the pole be moved 16' closer to the new home with the guy wire on public property. Mr. Blicharz did not have a problem with this request. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to move both poles as stated above. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thomas Lafleur of 2 Marzalkowski Way requested that electricity be provided through a right of way in the woods. Mr. Blicharz noted that is not the way it is done. The poles must be on public land. Mrs. Novicki of 1 Marzalkowski spoke about the Mr. Brown's dilemma regarding cost. There is nothing in place for Mr. Brown to use the “paper” street. A motion was

made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous. A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to place poles #2 and #3 on Marzalskowski Way with the additional 16 ft. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Soldier On Update: A draft of the agreement has been received and there are about two issues left to be resolved. They insist they need 5 years to get financing. The second issue is finalizing the recreational fields. The language needs to be further defined. Mr. Costello will review the draft and have comments on development for the next meeting. The chairman of Parks & Recreation should be at the next meeting on October 18, 2016.
- Woonsocket Wastewater – IGA Host Fee: Town Counsel received a call from Woonsocket's Counsel regarding this matter. Our Town Meeting did not appropriate the funds at Town Meeting and we cannot pay a prior year's bill without approval. Their recourse would be to sue Blackstone. Town Counsel has not heard back from Woonsocket regarding this issue. Woonsocket is supposed to bill Blackstone quarterly but they are still doing yearly billing.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Recycling – Budget Review – Casella Agreement – Town of Northbridge Agreement:  
Recycling – Budget Review: Mr. Walsh thanked everyone for their support and cooperation during the past two years when the economy was down and noted that it is finally coming back. The budget approved at Town Meeting was \$326,042. To date the revenue for July and August is \$107,241.69. Ms. Hebert discussed Recycling revenues for the past 10 years. Mr. Walsh anticipates there will be no deficit this year. He also noted that traffic on Saturdays is over 200 cars at the Recycling Center. Mr. Keefe explained his concerns regarding the Recycling Center. The recent changes have had a positive impact at the Recycling Center. The cost for waste collection is under control. The budget for next year should be reduced by 25% and revenue should increase. Mrs. Bik made note of the positive aspects of the Recycling Center for the town in the past. Mr. Keefe reiterated his short term solution to the problem in detail. Mr. Haughey noted that this program has brought in money year after year and has been handled well prior to the economic downturn. It was decided that Mr. Walsh will report back to the Board of Selectmen with a quarterly update.  
Casella: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve a 5-year agreement with Casella contingent upon the approval of Town Counsel. There was no further discussion and the vote was 4-1.  
Northbridge Agreement: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to approve the host fee with Northbridge at \$10,000/year. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Massachusetts State Police WIVES – Blue Ribbon:  
A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the ribbon request proposed by the MSP Wives. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Subordination of Mortgage – Cheryl A. Mariano-Page, 10 David Drive:  
A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above subordination. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Subordination of Mortgage – Edward & Pauline Marchand, 29 Power Street:  
A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above subordination. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Water Treatment Plant: Mr. Sawyer and Jeff McClure reviewed the issue manganese and what the state will require of Blackstone ion the next 5 years. Well #8 was allowed to come on line as the manganese was very low. Within the last 3 years the quality of water is very good but the manganese has started to go up. Mr. Sawyer recommends starting to plan for a water purification plant which will cost about \$6-8 million. It was recommended that the Board of Selectmen visit Bellingham's water treatment plant. Mrs. Bik suggested that the Town be ready for any grants that become available to help with the cost. Mr. McClure will be able to keep abreast of any grants that Blackstone would qualify for.

- Water Drought: Our water usage is being monitored by the state. Revenues are down due to the drought.
- Water/Sewer Bills: A public hearing will be held to explain the need to raise the water rates again.
- Blue Wave Capital – Renewable Energy: It was decided to put a “hold” on this for the time being.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #17EWA08 & 09 and #17PW08 & 09: 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 #17EW08 & 09: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, 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 – A Walk-a-Thon will be held at the Library on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. They won an important grant from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Sciences.

Mr. Catalano – This weekend the Civil War Re-enactment will be held at Daniels Farm rain or shine.

Mr. Keefe – Discussion ensued about trucks using Farnum Street to put material in there and taking materials from the area. Mr. Walsh will research the situation and report back to the Board of Selectmen at the next meeting. Mr. Keefe is concerned about gravel and loam being taken in/taken out of the area. The Pumpkin People parade will be held October 15<sup>th</sup> from 11-4, hosted by Parks & Recreation. The Blackstone Marching Band is doing very well this season.

Mrs. Bik - Reminded people to read “A River Runs Through It” for information. A group from Scotland will be coming on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. It is a free concert but registration is required.

Mr. Dubois - The issue of the St. Paul Street bridge was brought up. The bridge does belong to Blackstone. Mr. Sullivan was all set to paint the bridge but if paint or chips fall into the Blackstone River below, there may be a fine from EPA, DEP or some other agency. The railings on the bridge need to be fixed and it will cost about \$500,000. The bridge does not qualify for small bridge repair money as the span has be 20 ft. from side to side. We will have to get Congressman McGovern and the Army Corps of Engineers involved in this.

There are 300 units of affordable housing going up in Milford. Every town has to meet their quota. We will come close with our Soldier On project.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-10-04-16

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk