

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

November 15, 2016

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

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 7:00 p.m.

2: ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE:

As noted under the heading “Present”.

3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- Holiday Schedule: A motion was made by Mr. Catalano, seconded by Mrs. Bik to allow employees to have a half day off for the holidays on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. There was no further discussion and the vote was 4-0 with Mr. Keefe abstaining.
- Appointment of Public Records Officer: Mr. Keyes notified the Board that the Public Records Officer will be Sandy Nadeau-Lemoine as of January 1, 2017, with a stipend of \$5,000 per year. All requests for public information will go through this office. Mr. Keyes has scheduled a meeting for all department heads on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Town Counsel, Patrick Costello, will conduct this educational seminar regarding the rules and regulations of this new law.

4: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-11-16-16

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 7:30 p.m.  
November 15, 2016

PRESENT: Robert Dubois, Chairman  
Michael Catalano  
Paul Haughey

Margo Bik, Vice Chairman  
Daniel Keefe

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Keyes, Town Administrator  
Charles Sawyer, Chairman, Water/Sewer

Patrick Costello, Esq., Town Counsel  
James Sullivan, Superintendent, DPW

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dubois at 7:40 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 MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2016: A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to accept the minutes as noted above. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous with the proviso of correcting the typographical error in the amount owed to the Woonsocket Wastewater Department. (Correction made and submitted).

4. GOOD AND WELFARE – PUBLIC (7:30-8:00 P.M. (5 min. time limit per participant): Mr. Tony Catalano, Director of the Economic Development Program, reports that the very few reservations were received for the “Open For Business” breakfast, therefore it has been postponed until the Spring.

5. CORRESPONDENCE: MIIA (the Town’s insurance carrier) reports that the rate changes for FY 18 (0%) and FY 19 (no more than 2.5) are due to overall success of the program and the Town’s loss history in worker’s compensation, property claims and employees being OSHA certified.

6. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS: None.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Blue Wave & NEI Net Metering Contact – Beth Greenblatt: Ms. Greenblatt discussed in detail the NEI net metering credits. The Town is being asked to consider three projects with Blue Wave, 2 in Mendon and one in Hopedale and NEI Solar in Upton. This is the best mix for opportunities for the Town. It should materialize by May 8, 2017 of next year. A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to authorize net metering with NEI Solar and Blue Wave. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Woonsocket Wastewater Host Fee Invoice: Town Counsel sent a letter to Woonsocket’s Solicitor General notifying them of what our position is that we are not liable for the entire sum. In the event we are unable to resolve the issue, we will have to go to arbitration. Mr. Keyes asked the Board to see if we can come to some kind of resolution. Otherwise we would have to go back to Town Meeting. Mr. Keefe noted that Blackstone has always paid their obligations to Woonsocket. Mr. Haughey agreed that we’ve always paid our obligations and would like to see this old invoice remedied in a fair way. There are about 1200 sewer users in Town yet other people who don’t have sewer are allowed to vote on this issue. There are big issues coming down the road, including the power plant.

Mrs. Bik recused herself from this part of the discussion as she is on the Board of Early Village. Mr. Sawyer noted that water/sewer rates will have to be raised next month. Mr. Sawyer has asked for an audit of his department this year. The seniors who live in the housing authority units will not have their costs increased by one cent. The water will not be shut off at the elderly housing units.

- Soldier On Program Contract: Mr. Keyes received a draft of the agreement with Soldier On. Mr. Costello noted that we are fairly close to a formal agreement. There are some minor changes that need to be addressed including the scope of the recreational fields. Soldier On will be responsible to provide maintenance for the next ten (10) years. A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik to authorize Town Counsel to issue the latest draft of the proposal. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Update of Contract for the Meadows: Mr. Keyes noted an appendix was added to the contract for the scope of work to be added. This issue was moved to the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Roof Project Update: The Garland Company was represented by Adam Cylan. Others present included Robert Speroni, Building Commissioner, William Walsh, Building Inspector, and Earl Vader, Assistant Building Inspector. Mr. Speroni gave an update of the status of the roof as of today. Estimated time of completion should be around the middle of next week barring any unforeseen issues. Eighty percent of the project is complete at this time. The tie-in should be done next week. A slit in the old membrane allowed for rain to seep in and leak through to the ceiling. This has been repaired. The Chairman was instructed to write up any problems that may arise and submit it to Adam. The Town will bear no cost for any problems noted. Mr. Walsh also toured the building and made a "punch list" of things that need to be addressed and he stated Adam assured him this would be taken care of. Before signing off on the project, make sure that all work promised is actually done. Mr. Keefe had issues with the roof not being stripped down to the metal decking in all areas. The roof is guaranteed for thirty (30) years.
- 148 Lincoln Street - Parcel of Land: A letter was received from Scott White, Realtor for the McCooey Trustees notifying the Town that the Trustees wish to sell the land. Town Counsel noted that the letter lack sufficient and proper information and there is no valid certified Purchase and Sales agreement attached. A motion was made by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to have Town Counsel issue a letter to the realtor explaining exactly what is required to be a valid offer. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Approve Change of Officers request from Allen Archhibald. Polish American Citizens Club: A motion was made by Mr. Keefe (no relation to a Mr. Keefe in this Club), seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the above change. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Appointment of Bonnie Combs, 33 Ascension Street, to the Conservation Commission for an unexpired 3-yr term to expire June 30 2019: A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to approve the above appointment. There was no discussion and the vote as unanimous.
- Approval of Payroll Warrant #17EWA11 and #17PW11. and 17EWA12 & #17PW12: 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 #17EW11 & 17EW12: 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 at this time.

9. GOOD AND WELFARE – SELECTMEN:

Mr. Haughey – With the conclusion of the elections, it was impressive to see the turnout for this election. It's difficult to talk to children about this past election. They have seen and heard things they shouldn't. Mr. Haughey thanked his wife for the care she provided during his recent illness.

Mr. Catalano – He concurs with Mr. Haughey. We're moving forward in a positive direction. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Keefe – On Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, the off-road Jeepsters Club met at Wojcik's Farm for a veterans charity trail ride for a \$25 donation to the Dare to Dream charity. Jeep rides could ride for half an hour at their leisure. They raised about \$1500 that was donated directly to the veterans. This weekend he went with his son to MetLife Stadium to watch the Blackstone-Millville Regional Chargers Marching Band win the national championship in Division 4. Todd Shaefer and crew did an excellent job.

Mrs. Bik - Went to the bonfire and this is the second year in a row of winning the national championship with a score of 97.425. There is a football game this Saturday. She reminded everyone to check with the Library and "A River Runs Through it" to see what is going on in Town. Many things are free. There was a huge fire at Kimball Sand and Gravel. No one was hurt even though they had to drive the vehicles out through the fire.

Mr. Dubois - Thanked the Town Clerk's Office and poll workers for the amount of work they put in during the recent election. He also wished the veterans a good day. It was the veterans who gave us the right to vote. Early voting seemed to work out well in the Commonwealth for everyone. Ms. Lemoine will update the minutes on-line. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bik, seconded by Mr. Haughey, to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-11-16-16

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:13 p.m.

November 15, 2016

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – NOT FOR PUBLICATION - CONFIDENTIAL**

At 7:13 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to go into Executive Session for discussion of management contracts. A voice vote was taken and Mr. Dubois said yes, Mr. Haughey said yes, Mr. Keefe said yes, Mrs. Bik said yes, and Mr. Catalano said yes. Mr. Keyes notified the Board that our Town Accountant was chosen as the new town accountant for the town of Acushnet. At 7:30 a motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to close the Executive Session. Everyone was in agreement and a voice vote was taken where Mr. Dubois said yes, Mr. Haughey said yes, Mr. Keefe said yes, Mrs. Bik said yes, and Mr. Catalano said yes. The Executive Session was closed. END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – NOT FOR PUBLICATION - CONFIDENTIAL**

- Executive Session – Employee Contracts; Town Administrator, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Town Accountant, Superintendent of Public Works: Chairman Dubois made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss employee contracts regarding management staff. A voice vote was taken where Mr. Dubois said yes, Mr. Haughey said yes, Mr. Keefe said yes, Mrs. Bik said yes, and Mr. Catalano said yes.

The Fire Chief will turn 65 on July 23, 2017 and his contract will end in 2017. An additional two years was added on for department heads which will enable all management contracts to end on June 30, 2020. Department heads will each receive a 3% increase each year until 2020. Mrs. Bik noted we have some big projects coming and we need to keep the people we have who are doing a great job.

The power plant issue will come up in the very near future and possibly another one may come on line and we would like it to be a smooth transition.

A motion was made by Mr. Haughey, seconded by Mrs. Bik, to come out of Executive Session. A voice vote was taken as follows: Mr. Dubois said yes, Mr. Haughey said yes, Mr. Keefe said yes, Mrs. Bik said yes and Mr. Catalano said yes. **END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary