

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 21, 2016

PRESENT: James P. Belisle, Chairman James Watson
Stephen Goudreau William Macy
James R. Belisle

ABSENT: John Wozniak, Jacob St. Amant, and Kathryn Sweeney

1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call was taken as noted above.

2: AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS:

A motion was made by Mr. Goudreau, seconded by Mr. Watson to pay the secretary \$60.00 for taking and transcribing the minutes of September 12, 2016. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

3: ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2016:

A motion was then made by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Goudreau, to accept the minutes as stated above provided the statement by Mr. Watson regarding the \$7,000 deficit is removed. (Statement removed and corrected page inserted). There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

4: TRANSFERS:

None at this time.

5: OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT UPCOMING BUDGET SEASON:

Mr. Watson distributed a report from the Capital Outlay Committee which is a revised funding from the bank to reflect changes made at the Annual Town Meeting. The second page makes it easier for Boards to understand the impact after the current PILOT program expires through 2023. He also discussed the actuarial (OPEB) requirements of the School Department. Mr. Watson feels the Town is in a strong position of indebtedness.

There are relatively few requests for FY 18 which include a one-ton truck, a backhoe, filtration plant study for \$125,000 and meter pit on St. Paul Street and an I and I study for Water/Sewer.

Mr. Macy recalled that about 3 years ago he requested that a log be kept of items that the Committee suggested be done and follow the progress but it never was implemented. The Chairman stated he was in favor of reinstating the logging system. Mr. Goudreau suggested making the logging system part of the standard template for our meetings. Mr. James R. Belisle suggested that a Finance Committee member be in charge of this system so nothing is lost and/or forgotten. Mr. Goudreau will start an "Issue Log" on a monthly basis. The Chairman suggested asking department heads if they have plans for the upcoming fiscal years. Mr. Macy would like some feedback on the progress with the bridges.

The Water/Sewer Commission will be meeting December 6, 2016 to discuss raising the rates.

6. GOOD AND WELFARE FOR THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Goudreau noted that on Saturday, December 10th there will be a "Cookie Walk" at the Library from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

7. GOOD AND WELFARE FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr. James R. Belisle noted that Jim Sullivan and his crew did an excellent job on Orchard Street. It was in pretty rough shape.

Mr. Macy stated he was submitted his resignation for personal reasons.

Mr. Watson appreciated serving with Mr. Macy both on the Finance Committee and the Capital Outlay Committee.

Mr. Goudreau noted that the Finance Committee has had an existing vacancy for quite some time now and now with Mr. Macy leaving, we need to actively recruit members. Anyone who is interested should contact the Chairman. Mr. Goudreau was concerned about the 3 month hiatus this year and felt that the only month a meeting should not be held is August. Mr. Wozniak contacted Mr. Goudreau regarding regionalization of K-5.

Mr. James P. Belisle noted the Finance Committee's budget is about the same as last year. He also read the payments for the school through May 15, 2017. Mr. James R. Belisle wants to know if Millville can't pay their share, why should Blackstone have to pay their share.

8. NEXT SCHEDULED FINANCE COMMITTEE:

December 12, 2016.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. James R. Belisle, seconded by Mr. Watson, to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher
Recording Secretary

T-11-22-16

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Finance Committee Members
Town Clerk