

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

RESULTS OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Moderator Frederick J. Stone, who declared a quorum. There were 248 registered voters present and voting at the start of the meeting. A total of 288 registered voters checked in prior to the end of the meeting.

A motion was duly made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

A motion was duly made and seconded to waive Chapter 5, Section 8, of the Town Bylaws to allow the following nonresidents to participate in discussion at the Special Town Meeting: Patrick J. Costello, Esq., Louison, Costello, Condon & Pfaff, LLP; Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor; and Maureen Englund, Assistant Town Accountant.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

A motion was duly made and seconded to take all votes requiring a two-thirds majority in the same manner as when a majority vote is required (as permitted by G. L. Ch. 39, Section 15, as amended by Acts of 1996, Ch. 448, Section 2).

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 1. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$27,500 to pay for the acquisition and maintenance of a hydraulic Vertical Platform lift for the Municipal Office Building to meet Americans with Disabilities' Act (ADA) and Architectural Access Board (AAB) mandates.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 2. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,276.59 to pay prior year bill payable to Dennis K. Burke, Inc. for 1000 gallons of diesel fuel.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 3. Finance Committee Chairman Normand Bergeron made a motion to TAKE NO ACTION on this article.

Original Article:

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 9A which provides that the Town will pay one-half of the amount of the premium to be paid by a retired employee for group insurance benefits under the first sentence of section 9 of Chapter 32B, or take any other action related thereto.

Board of Selectmen Chairman John Wozniak made a motion, which was seconded, to amend the original article to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 9A which provides that the Town will pay one-half of the amount of the premium to be paid by a retired employee for group insurance benefit, including group life insurance, group general or blanket hospital, surgical, medical, dental or other health insurance, as identified in the first sentence of section 9 of Chapter 32B.

After lengthy discussion a motion was duly made and seconded to move the question.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO MOVE THE QUESTION

HAND COUNT VOTE ON AMENDMENT

YES 125 NO 146

MOTION TO AMEND FAILED

ARTICLE 4. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of money not to exceed \$225,000.00 for the purchase of two (2) used GVWR Refuse Collection Body Trucks.

After lengthy discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to move the question.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE TO MOVE THE QUESTION

SECRET BALLOT

YES 53 NO 178

MOTION FAILED

ARTICLE 5. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to **TAKE NO ACTION** on this article.

Original Article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$125,000.00 for the purchase of operating equipment for the recycling facility, or to take any other action thereto.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 6. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to **TAKE NO ACTION** on this article.

Original Article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$4,300,000.00 for the purpose of the design, construction, installation of, and acquisition of all necessary equipment and appurtenances relating to, a Solar Photovoltaic Energy Generating Facility at the Blackstone Landfill property for the generation of electricity to be used by the Town of Blackstone, or take any action related thereto.

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO TAKE NO ACTION

ARTICLE 7. Finance Committee Chairman Normand Bergeron made a motion to TAKE NO ACTION on this article.

Original Article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$75,000 for a Feasibility Study and Preliminary Architectural Study for a new Senior Center and Recreational Facility, or take any other action relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen Chairman John Wozniak made a motion, which was seconded, to amend the original article to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of money not to exceed \$75,000 for a Feasibility Study and Preliminary Architectural Study for a new Senior Center and Recreational Facility.

After lengthy discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to move the question.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE TO MOVE THE QUESTION

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO AMEND

MAIN MOTION
YES 142 NO 85
MOTION FAILED

ARTICLE 8. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$16,000 for the purchase of a used tractor with a side boom mower.

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 9. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to authorize use of a portion of the Town-owned parcel of land commonly referred to as "Veterans Park", as more particularly described in the Quitclaim Deed to the Town of Blackstone, dated December 30, 1997 and recorded at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Book 19487, Page 121, for the additional purpose of Solar Photovoltaic Facilities; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into such agreements in furtherance of this new use upon such terms and conditions as the Selectmen deem to be in the interest of the Town and not inconsistent with the existing use.

HAND-COUNT VOTE
YES 123 NO 62
MOTION FAILED

At this point a motion was duly made and seconded by Jeffrey Highcove to reconsider **ARTICLE 7.**

HAND-COUNT VOTE
YES 119 NO 72
MOTION FAILED

ARTICLE 10. Finance Committee Chairman Normand Bergeron made a motion to TAKE NO ACTION on this article.

Original Article:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. Chapter 59, §5K establishing a program to allow persons over the age of 60 to volunteer to provide services to the Town. In exchange for such volunteer services, the Town shall reduce the real property tax obligations of that person on their tax bill, in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person may otherwise be entitled, by an amount not to exceed \$1,000 in a given tax year; or take any action related thereto.

Board of Selectmen Chairman John Wozniak made a motion, which was seconded, to amend the original article to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G. L. Chapter 59, §5K establishing a program to allow persons over the age of 60 to volunteer to provide services to the Town, whereby in exchange for such volunteer services, the Town shall reduce the real property tax obligations of that person on their tax bill, in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person may otherwise be entitled, by an amount not to exceed \$1,000 in a given tax year.

After discussion, there was a motion duly made and seconded to move the question.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE TO MOVE THE QUESTION

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO AMEND

MAIN MOTION

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 11. Finance Committee Chairman Normand Bergeron made a motion to TAKE NO ACTION on this article.

Original Article:

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 108 of Acts of 2012, Section 8A [Amending Chapter 59, by inserting a new section, Section 5N] establishing a program to allow veterans, as defined in clause Forty-third of section 7 of Chapter 4, to volunteer to provide services to the Town. In exchange for such volunteer services, the Town shall reduce the real property tax obligations of that veteran on the veteran's tax bill, in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person may otherwise be entitled, by an amount not to exceed \$1,000 in a given tax year; or take any action related thereto.

Board of Selectmen Chairman John Wozniak made a motion, which was seconded, to amend the original article to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 108 of Acts of 2012, Section 8A, amending G.L. Chapter 59, by inserting a new section, Section 5N, establishing a program to allow veterans, as defined in clause Forty-third of section 7 of Chapter 4, to volunteer to provide services to the Town, whereby in exchange for such volunteer services, the Town shall reduce the real property

tax obligations of that veteran on the veteran's tax bill, in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person may otherwise be entitled, by an amount not to exceed \$1,000 in a given tax year.

After discussion, there was a motion duly made and seconded to move the question.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO MOVE THE QUESTION

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO AMEND

MAIN MOTION

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to dissolve the warrant and to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Claudette C. Dolinski

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Interim Town Clerk of Blackstone