

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 28, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Daniel Doyle, who declared a quorum. There were 171 registered voters in attendance.

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

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

A motion was duly made and seconded to waive Chapter 5, Section 8 of the Town By-Laws to allow the following non-registered voters to speak: Christopher Brow, Esq., and Ethan Divley, Miyares and Harrington LLP, Chad Lovett, Town Administrator, Lauren Taylor, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant, David Manzello, Regional Assessor, Regional Resource Group, Inc., Lisa Cheever, Library Director, Gregory Gilmore, Chief of Police, Vincenzo Tirone, Building Commissioner, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, and the Millville representatives of the BMRSD School Committee.

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 a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Collector to use all means of collecting taxes that a Treasurer may use when appointed Collector.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Finance Committee member Ross Nicol read all department totals for Article 2. The following department totals were held: Economic Development Committee, Retirement of Debt, and Long Term Debt.

The Moderator called for a vote on all non-held budget items.

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| 01114 | MODERATOR | | | |
| | Salary Total | 900 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 900 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | |
| | | | 126 YES 28 NO | |
| 01122 | SELECTMEN | | | |
| | Salary Total | 31,795 | | |
| | Expense Total | 64,800 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 96,595 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | |
| | | | 126 YES 28 NO | |
| 01123 | ADMINISTRATION | | | |
| | Salary Total | 215,383 | | |
| | Expense Total | 26,950 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 242,333 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | |
| | | | 126 YES 28 NO | |

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|-------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 01131 | FINANCE COMMITTEE | | | |
| | Salary Total | 1,500 | | |
| | Expense Total | 1,850 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 3,350 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 01132 | RESERVE FUND | | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 100,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 01133 | CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE | | | |
| | Salary Total | 1,000 | | |
| | Expense Total | 300 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 1,300 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 01135 | TOWN ACCOUNTANT | | | |
| | Salary Total | 191,239 | | |
| | Expense Total | 10,850 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 202,089 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 01141 | ASSESSORS | | | |
| | Salary Total | 76,588 | | |
| | Expense Total | 99,820 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 176,408 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 01145 | COLLECTOR/TREASURER | | | |
| | Salary Total | 146,578 | | |
| | Expense Total | 48,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 194,578 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 01151 | TOWN COUNSEL | | | |
| | Expense Total | 180,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 180,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 01155 | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | | | |
| | Expense Total | 223,800 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 223,800 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1158 | COPIER | | | |
| | Expense Total | 35,630 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 35,630 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |

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| 1159 | BONDS & INSURANCE | | | |
| | Expense Total | 253,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 253,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1161 | TOWN CLERK | | | |
| | Salary Total | 144,488 | | |
| | Expense Total | 14,925 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 159,413 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1162 | ELECTIONS | | | |
| | Salary Total | 27,000 | | |
| | Expense Total | 13,900 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 40,900 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1163 | BOARD OF REGISTRARS | | | |
| | Salary Total | 1,950 | | |
| | Expense Total | 5,500 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 7,450 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1171 | CONSERVATION COMM | | | |
| | Salary Total | 16,440 | | |
| | Expense Total | 715 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 17,155 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1175 | PLANNING BOARD | | | |
| | Salary Total | 56,640 | | |
| | Expense Total | 15,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 71,640 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1176 | ZONING BOARD | | | |
| | Salary Total | 1,440 | | |
| | Expense Total | 3,350 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 4,790 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1184 | CENTRAL MASS PLANNING | | | |
| | Expense Total | 2,911 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 2,911 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1190 | GENERAL | | | |
| | Expense Total | 189,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 189,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |

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| 1192 | PUBLIC BUILDING MAINT. | | | |
| | Salary Total | 57,625 | | |
| | Expense Total | 528,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 585,625 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1195 | TOWN REPORT | | | |
| 54210 | PRINTING | 3,000 | | |
| | Expense Total | 3,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 3,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1210 | POLICE DEPARTMENT | | | |
| | Total Salary | 1,918,979 | | |
| | Expense Total | 221,050 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 2,140,029 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1211 | POLICE DISPATCHERS | | | |
| | Salary Total | 281,174 | | |
| | Expense Total | 3,750 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 284,924 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1220 | FIRE DEPARTMENT | | | |
| | Salary Total | 1,413,987 | | |
| | Expense Total | 146,500 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 1,560,487 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1231 | AMBULANCE SERVICE | | | |
| | Expense Total | 66,400 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 66,400 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1241 | INSPECTIONAL SERVICES | | | |
| | Salary Total | 190,892 | | |
| | Expense Total | 4,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 194,892 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1244 | SEALER WEIGHTS/MEASURES | | | |
| | Expense Total | 2,500 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 2,500 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1291 | EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | | | |
| | Salary Total | 3,500 | | |
| | Expense Total | 17,580 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 21,350 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |

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| 1292 | ANIMAL CONTROL | | | |
| | Expense Total | 50,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 50,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1294 | FORESTRY | | | |
| | Salary Total | 8,800 | | |
| | Expense Total | 17,800 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 26,600 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1300 | EDUCATION - B.M.R. | | | |
| | Expense Total | 11,922,063 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 11,922,063 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1301 | BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOC | | | |
| | Salary Total | 1,500 | | |
| | Expense Total | 740,047 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 741,547 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1303 | VOCATIONAL TUITION | | | |
| | Expense Total | 750,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 750,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1412 | ENGINEERING | | | |
| | Expense Total | 15,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 15,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1420 | PUBLIC WORKS SUPT | | | |
| | Salary Total | 133,602 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 133,602 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1421 | HIGHWAY LABOR | | | |
| | Salary Total | 651,809 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 651,809 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1422 | HIGHWAY OPERATIONAL | | | |
| | Expense Total | 43,650 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 43,650 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1423 | SNOW & ICE REMOVAL | | | |
| | Salary Total | 27,500 | | |
| | Expense Total | 83,178 | | |

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| | DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL | 110,678 0 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1424 | STREET LIGHTING | | |
| | Expense Total | 109,375 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 109,375 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1428 | MECHANICAL REPAIRS | | |
| | Expense Total | 100,000 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 100,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1429 | CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE | | |
| | Expense Total | 330,000 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 330,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1432 | STREET CLEANING | | |
| | Expense Total | 3,500 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 3,500 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1433 | WASTE COLLECTION | | |
| | Expense Total | 804,475 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 804,475 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1434 | RECYCLING | | |
| | Salary Total | 148,466 | |
| | Expense Total | 70,393 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 218,859 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1510 | BOARD OF HEALTH | | |
| | Salary Total | 38,253 | |
| | Expense Total | 102,903 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 141,156 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1541 | COUNCIL ON AGING | | |
| | Salary Total | 240,925 | |
| | Expense Total | 26,250 3 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 267,175 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1543 | VETERANS | | |
| | Salary Total | 10,558 | |
| | Expense Total | 122,420 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 132,978 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |

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| 1610 | LIBRARY DEPARTMENT | | | |
| | Salary Total | 420,851 | | |
| | Expense Total | 216,360 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 637,211 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1650 | PARKS | | | |
| | Salary Total | 120,040 | | |
| | Expense Total | 53,577 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 173,617 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1691 | HISTORICAL COMMISSION | | | |
| | Expense Total | 2,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 2,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1692 | MEMORIAL DAY/INDEPENDENCE DAY | | | |
| | Salary Total | 1,800 | | |
| | Expense Total | 10,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 11,800 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1752 | SHORT TERM DEBT/ INTEREST | | | |
| | Expense Total | 314,889 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 314,889 | UNANIMOUS VOICE | VOTE |
| 1810 | CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS | | | |
| | Expense Total | 49,733 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 49,733 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1911 | COUNTY RETIREMENT | | | |
| | Expense Total | 1,316,539 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 1,316,539 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1913 | UNEMPLOYMENT COMP | | | |
| | Expense Total | 25,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 25,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1914 | HEALTH INSURANCE | | | |
| | Expense Total | 912,500 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 912,500 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1915 | LIFE INSURANCE | | | |
| | Expense Total | 4,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 4,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | 126 YES 28 NO |

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| 1916 | MATCHING MEDICARE | | | |
| | Expense Total | 85,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 85,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1918 | COMPENSATED BALANCES | | | |
| | Expense Total | 10,000 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 10,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1919 | COMPENSATED ABSENCE | | | |
| | Expense Total | 7,500 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 7,500 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 1960 | CAPITAL TRUST | | | |
| | Expense Total | 2,646,010 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 2,646,010 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | 30,615,258 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE | | | | |
| 60132 | SEWER RESERVE FUND | | | |
| 59610 | SEWER RESERVE FUND | 50,000 | | |
| | TOTAL TRANSFER | 50,000 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 60441 | SEWER SALARIES | | | |
| | TOTAL SEWER SALARIES | 21,800 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 21,800 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 60442 | SEWER MAINTENANCE | | | |
| | Expense Total | 317,275 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 317,275 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 60500 | TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND | | | |
| | Expense Total | 305,837 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 305,837 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 60510 | TRANSFER TO WATER | | | |
| | Expense Total | 46,125 | | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 46,125 | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 60443 | SEWER WOONSOCKET REGIONAL | | | |

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| | Expense Total | 581,600 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 581,600 | |
| | TOTAL SEWER | 1,322,637 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 61132 | WATER RESERVE FUND | | |
| 59610 | WATER RESERVE FUND | | |
| | TOTAL TRANSFER | 50,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 61450 | WATER DEPARTMENT LABOR | | |
| | Salary Total | 30,000 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 30,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 61451 | WATER ADMINISTRATION | | |
| | Salary Total | 107,250 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 107,250 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 61452 | WATER CONST & MAINTENANCE | | |
| | Expense Total | 580,125 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 580,125 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 61500 | TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND | | |
| | Expense Total | 431,681 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 431,681 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 61752 | WATER SHORT TERM DEBT | | |
| | Expense Total | 153,590 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 153,590 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| 61820 | MASS FED SAFE DRINKING WTR ASSMNT | | |
| | Expense Total | 2,000 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 2,000 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| | TOTAL WATER | 1,354,646 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| | WATER / SEWER ENTERPRISE TOTAL | 2,677,283 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |
| | TOTAL GENERAL FUND / WATER & SEWER | 33,292,541 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 126 YES 28 NO |

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE ALL NON-HELD BUDGETS
126 YES 28 NO

Anita Robetson, 61 Edgewater Drive, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, made a motion to amend the Economic Development Committee budget and explained the proposed amended budget; \$11,960, includes Community Input Events, Printed Brochures, Graphic Design, Website Updates, College Interns, Volunteer Training and Support, and Recording Secretary. The motion to amend the Economic Development Committee budget was seconded.

Danile Keefe, Board of selectmen, said that this proposed amendment did not go before the Board of Selectmen until the Public Hearing. He stated that he would like to see an action plan with the Economic Development Committee and for it to be revisited at a possible Special Town Meeting.

Jeff Silverstein, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the budget process starts in January or earlier and this was not presented for support until very late in the budget process, but it should have to go through the same process the other Boards and Commissions go through.

The Moderator called for a vote on the proposed amendment.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE BUDGET
60 YES 106 NO

The Moderator called for a vote on the Economic Development Committee budget as read by the Finance Committee.

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| 1182 | ECONO DEVELOP | | |
| | Salary Total | 1,500 | |
| | Expense Total | 1,000 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 2,500 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE |
| | | | 118 YES 39 NO |
| | | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE | |
| | | 118 YES 39 NO | |

Daniel Keefe, Board of Selectmen, made a motion to amend the Retirement of Debt budget; that of the \$590,792, \$220,782 will be paid out of the Capital Trust for the Water Filtration Plant. The motion was duly seconded.

The Moderator called for a vote on the proposed amendment.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT
130 YES 26 NO

The Moderator called for a vote of the Retirement of Debt budget as amended.

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| 1710 | RETIREMENT OF DEBT | | |
| | Expense Total | 597,792 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 597,792 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE |
| | | | 130 YES 22 NO |

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED
130 YES 22 NO

Daniel Keefe, Board of Selectmen, made a motion to amend the Long Term Debt Interest; that of the \$204,251, \$102,46 will be paid out of the Capital Trust for the Water Filtration Plant. The motion was duly seconded.

The Moderator called for a vote on the proposed amendment.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT
135 YES 20 NO

The Moderator called for a vote of the Long Term Debt Interest budget as amended.

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| 1751 | LONG TERM DEBT/ INTEREST | | |
| | Expense Total | 204,251 | |
| | DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 204,251 | MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 123 YES 16 NO |
| | TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED | | |
| | | 123 YES 16 NO | |

ARTICLE 2 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$33,292,541.00 to fix the salaries of all elected and appointed Town Officers and to defray Town expenses for all departments including the Reserve Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, and that said appropriations shall be funded as follows:

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| That | \$23,546,075 | raised from FY '25 Taxation net Estimated Overlay (Abatements & Exemptions) |
| That | \$2,038,612 | raised from FY '25 Projected State Revenue net State Offsets and State Charges |
| That | \$2,120,500 | raised from FY '25 Estimated Local Receipts |
| That | \$1,532,757 | transferred from Capital Trust |
| That | \$375,000 | transferred from The Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund |
| That | \$0 | transferred from the Septic Loan Betterment Receipts Reserved Fund |
| That | \$2,677,283 | raised from FY '25 Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenues |
| That | \$0 | transferred from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Certified Retained Earnings |
| That | \$737,518 | transfer from Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Reimbursement |
| That | \$0 | transferred from Stabilization |
| That | \$264,518 | use of Free Cash |
| That | \$0 | use of Overlay |

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
131 YES 25 NO

ARTICLE 3 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the members of Boards and Committees of the Town of Blackstone to be compensated for their services and to set the amount of said compensation; said compensation set by town meeting to be paid in four (4) equal installments provided, however, that no such installment shall be paid a) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the respective Boards and Committees (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter

268A) in the twelve (12) month period prior to March, June, September and December, as the case may be, if such member has been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates; or b) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the various Boards and Committees (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior to each of said dates if such member has not been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

134 YES 30 NO

ARTICLE 4 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the members of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee to be compensated for their services as such members and to set the amount of said compensation at \$1500.00 per member and \$1,800.00 for the Chairman, such compensation to be paid in three (3) equal installments in the months of July, November and March provided, however, that no such installment shall be paid a) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the twelve (12) month period prior to July 1, November 1 or March 1, as the case may be, if such member has been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates; or b) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior to each of said dates.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

124 YES 31 NO

ARTICLE 5 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to overlay town streets and roads to be determined by the Board of Selectmen, or for the construction, reconstruction and improvement of public ways and street drainage systems and to determine how such sums may be raised, whether by advancement from Town Treasury, or by borrowing in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or otherwise, by the Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

136 YES 19 NO

ARTICLE 6 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of public ways, street drainage systems and sidewalks throughout the Town.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

132 YES 11 NO

ARTICLE 7 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, or eminent domain an easement or easements for the purpose of construction, installation, maintenance and repair of municipal drainage, sewer water systems, and roadways, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available funds a sum of money to fund such acquisitions.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

130 YES 27 NO

ARTICLE 8 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate \$150,000 to fund FY2025 expenses of the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, as established by the vote under Article 29 of the May 28, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, pursuant to Mass General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53F ³/₄, said appropriation to be funded by fees received pursuant to the Town's cable licensing agreement and cable franchise agreement, with the fund to begin operation for FY2025 effective July 1, 2024.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

112 YES 25 NO

ARTICLE 9 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize expenses from the Library Revolving Fund established pursuant to Article IV, Section 5-33.1 of the General Bylaws in accordance with M.G.L. c44, Section 53 E1/2 up to the maximum amount of \$3,000 during FY2025.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

135 YES 17 NO

ARTICLE 10 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$500,000 for pavement reconstruction, paving, and/or sidewalks on Milk Street, Valley Street, Windsong Drive, and areas of Bellingham Road.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

123 YES 27 NO

ARTICLE 11 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of money in the amount of \$126,500 for engineering for sidewalks on Federal Street, contingent upon the Town receiving a \$500,000 Complete Streets grant.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

125 YES 25 NO

ARTICLE 12 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate from the Capital Trust the sum of \$175,000 for the purchase of a new truck with sander body and plow package and any other related costs.

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

104 YES 51 NO

ARTICLE 13 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$90,000 for the purchase of a new 1-ton dump truck with plow and any other related costs.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

90 YES 59 NO

ARTICLE 14 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Water and Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$200,000 for new well site exploration and any other related expenses.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

125 YES 27 NO

ARTICLE 15 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town borrow and repay from the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of \$700,000 for painting the Lincoln Street Water Tank and any other related costs.

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

97 YES 48 NO

ARTICLE 16 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town borrow and repay from the Sewer Enterprise Fund the sum of \$500,000 for repairs to the Main Lift Sewer Station and any other related costs.

TWO-THIRDS MAJOIRTY VOTE TO APPROVE

122 YES 28 NO

ARTICLE 17 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from the Water and Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$90,600 for the purpose of asset management initiatives for the public water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, including

improvements to the town's Geographic Information Systems (GIS), document management, and planning work relative to the Town's stormwater system assets, such sum to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners for engineering services for the asset management project, and to authorize the town to enter into agreement for grant and/or loan dollars from the MA DEP State Revolving Loan Fund.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

119 YES 26 NO

ARTICLE 18 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 for the purchase of teletypewriter (TTY) phone devices, services, and related equipment.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

113 YES 39 NO

ARTICLE 19 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000 for the removal and flush cut of approximately 125-150 trees on the Chestnut Street Landfill to comply with the 08 February 2023 Department of Environmental Protection Corrective Action Plan.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

111 YES 41 NO

ARTICLE 20 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$226,000 and \$24,000 from sewer and retained earnings as the Town's investment into the State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

108 YES 38 NO

ARTICLE 21 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$74,300 into the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB Fund) of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District established under General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, said funds to be used only to pay some portion of health benefits for retirees from the Blackstone Millville Regional School District.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

116 YES 34 NO

The Finance Committee read their recommendation for Article 22. Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, explained the this Article and its necessity for the District roof project.

ARTICLE 22 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town approve the \$10,000,000 debt authorized by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee on February 15, 2024 and amended by its actions of March 14, 2024 to pay for costs of roof reconstruction and the replacement to energy efficient rooftop HVAC units at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto. Such debt approval by the Town to be contingent upon the District's ability to secure grant approval from the Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair grant program.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

137 YES 18 NO

ARTICLE 23 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to purchase a command vehicle for the Fire pay Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

85 YES 55 NO

ARTICLE 24 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town borrow and repay from Ambulance Receipts \$475,000 to purchase a new ambulance and related equipment.

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

102 YES 44 NO

The Finance Committee read their recommendation for Article 25. A motion was made and duly seconded to amend Article 25 to read as follows: "The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$30,000 to the Stabilization Fund."

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 25

114 YES 22 NO

ARTICLE 25 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000 to the Stabilization Fund.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED

107 YES 28 NO

ARTICLE 26 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town increase the maximum amount of the Senior Tax Work-Off Program by amending its acceptance of Article 10 of the November 14, 2012 Special Town Meeting by replacing "by an amount not to exceed \$1,000 in a given tax year" with "by an amount not to exceed the maximum reduction allowable under G.L. c.59 5K, as that statute may be amended".

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

132 YES 13 NO

ARTICLE 27 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town increase the maximum amount of the Veterans Tax Work-Off Program by amending its acceptance of Article 11 of the November 14, 2012 Special Town Meeting by replacing "by an amount not to exceed \$1,000 in a given tax year" with "by an amount not to exceed the maximum reduction allowable under G.L. c.59 5N, as that statute may be amended".

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

141 YES 7 NO

ARTICLE 28 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Conservation Commission to accept as a gift of land the property located on Blackstone Street identified as Parcel A-R, on a plan entitled "Approval Not Required Plan of Old Lincoln Street in Blackstone, MA Owned by Cora Lane Group", which plan is dated September 11, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 973, Plan 102, and which parcel contains 91,959 square feet, more or less, for conservation and passive recreation purposes under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, and on such other terms as the Conservation Commission shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

113 YES 10 NO

ARTICLE 29 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend 5-15 of the General Bylaws as follows: 5-15 Manner of Voting: When a questions is put, the sense of the meeting shall be determined by electronic voting, or, as necessary because of unavailability or technical malfunction of the electronic voting system, by the voices of the voters, and the Moderator shall declare the vote as it appears to him. If the Moderator is unable to decide the vote by electronic voting, sound by the volume of the voices, or if his decisions is immediately questioned by seven or more voters rising in their places for that purpose, the Moderator shall determine the vote either by ordering a show of hands or

by a standing vote and he shall appoint tellers to make and return the count, or the meeting itself may specifically order, by proper motion in due order, that the vote on any motion shall be taken by a "yes" and "no" written ballot which shall be prepared by the Clerk in printed or mimeographed form in two divisible sections, one section with the word "yes" and the other with the word "no". The section showing the desired vote shall be detached by the voter and handed to the teller, and the unused section shall be retained by the voter.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

123 YES 16 NO

The Moderator made the following Finance Committee Appointments:

Dawana Ryan – unexpired 1-year term to expire ATM 2025

Rebecca Ryan – unexpired 1-year term to expire ATM 2025

Katie Moxam – unexpired 2-year term to expire ATM 2026

James Pitler – 3-year term to expire ATM 2027

Zachary Zielinski – 3-year term to expire ATM 2027

Kathryn Sweeney – 3-year term to expire ATM 2027

A motion was made and duly seconded, it was voted to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting and adjourn.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone