

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 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: Christopher Brown, 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. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$44,635 to balance the deficit of the snow and ice account.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)

47 YES 11 NO

ARTICLE 2. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,562.73 to pay prior year Collector/Treasurer's bill to Kelley & Ryan Associates.

MOTION FAILS

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)

81 YES 16 NO

ARTICLE 3. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$542.18 to pay prior year Recycling Center bill to Casella Resource Solutions.

MOTION FAILS

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)

64 YES 12 NO

ARTICLE 4. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,318.00 to pay prior year Town Administrator's Office bills to Thomson Reuters.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
75 YES 20 NO

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 5.

Anita Robertson, 61 Edgewater Drive, stated that these are bills that need to be paid.

ARTICLE 5. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$187.62 to pay prior year Council on Aging bill to WB Mason.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
97 YES 12 NO

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 6.

Mary Noble, 40 Edgewater Drive, Finance Committee Member, asked clarification on the voting remotes. The Town Clerk clarified how the voting remote works.

ARTICLE 6. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$91.25 to pay prior year Fire Department bill to WB Mason.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
128 YES 14 NO

ARTICLE 7. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,903.59 to pay prior Town Clerk's Office bill to LHS Associates.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
132 YES 19 NO

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 8.

Matthew Ryan, 14 Rayner Street, Collector/Treasurer, explained why this is a prior year bill, there were some fraud charges on the bill, and they fought the bill, hearings and delays caused this bill to be late, and that it is also collecting interest.

ARTICLE 8. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$29,659.23 to pay prior year Collector/Treasurer's Office bill to the Department of Unemployment Assistance.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
135 YES 14 NO

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider Article 2.

Daniel Keefe, Board of Selectmen, stated that the Articles for this Special Town Meeting are bills that were submitted after June 30, 2023, 9/10th vote is required to pay these bills. He further stated that the interest will continue to increase, and eventually we will have to pay it, whether the town approves it now, or a judge requires payment. It does not impact the taxes this year.

Matthew Ryan, 14 Rayner Street, Collector/Treasurer, explained that an audit was done for that particular vendor for checks that were not cashed. By the time the bill got sent it was past the end of the fiscal year.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 2
127 YES 19 NO

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 2, the motion was seconded.

ARTICLE 2. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,562.73 to pay prior year Collector/Treasurer's bill to Kelley & Ryan Associates.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
131 YES 16 NO

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider Article 3.

Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, stated that if everyone knew the purpose of what we were voting on it may be easier to pass. He asked what Kelly & Ryan Associates was.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 3
141 YES 16 NO

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 3, the motion was seconded.

ARTICLE 3. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$542.18 to pay prior year Recycling Center bill to Casella Resource Solutions.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
136 YES 16 NO

A motion was made and seconded, by more than 7 standing voters, to do a hand-count vote of Article 3.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE HANDCOUNT OF ARTICLE 3

ARTICLE 3. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$139.90 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Haldeman Hydraulics.

The Moderator declared that the motion for Article 3 PASSES by a 9/10th MAJORITY VOTE.

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider Article 4.

Daniel Keefe, Board of Selectmen, asked to approve the reconsideration and then a hand-count of the reconsidered Article 4.

A motion was made and seconded, by more than 7 standing voters, to do a hand-count vote of Article 4.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION HANDCOUNT OF ARTICLE 4

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 4, the motion was seconded.

Frank Hope, 216 Blackstone Street, asked what Thompson & Reuters was.

Lauren Taylor, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant, explained that Thompson & Reuters was a publishing company that the Town has an online subscription for MA General Laws.

ARTICLE 4. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,318.00 to pay prior year Town Administrator's Office bills to Thomson Reuters.

The Moderator declared that the motion for Article 4 PASSES by a 9/10th MAJORITY VOTE.

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider Article 5.

A motion was made and seconded, by more than 7 standing voters, to do a hand-count vote of Article 5.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION & HANDCOUNT OF ARTICLE 5

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 5, the motion was seconded.

ARTICLE 5. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$187.62 to pay prior year Council on Aging bill to WB Mason.

The Moderator declared that the motion for Article 5 PASSES by a 9/10th MAJORITY VOTE.

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider Article 7.

A motion was made and seconded, by more than 7 standing voters, to do a hand-count vote of Article 7.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION & HANDCOUNT OF ARTICLE 7

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 7, the motion was seconded.

ARTICLE 7. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,903.59 to pay prior Town Clerk's Office bill to LHS Associates.

The Moderator declared that the motion for Article 7 PASSES by a 9/10th MAJORITY VOTE.

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider the reconsideration Article 2.

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read Article 2, the motion was seconded.

Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, asked what Kelly & Ryan Associates is.

Matthew Ryan, 14 Rayner St, Collector/Treasurer, stated that Kelly & Ryan is the Town's Deputy Collector and also does the bill mailing, this bill was for a bill mailing.

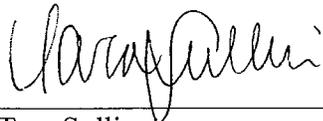
A motion was made and seconded, by more than 7 standing voters, to do a hand-count vote of Article 2.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION & HANDCOUNT OF ARTICLE 2

ARTICLE 2. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,562.73 to pay prior year Collector/Treasurer's bill to Kelley & Ryan Associates.

The Moderator declared that the motion for Article 2 PASSES by a 9/10th MAJORITY VOTE.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting. The Special Town Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone