

Town of Blackstone



ANNUAL TOWN REPORT



Table of Contents

This is Blackstone	1
Elected Officials	3
Appointed Officials	5
Resigned Officials	9
Report of Board of Selectmen	10
Report of Town Administrator	12
Town Counsel	13
Blackstone-Millville Regional School District	15
Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School Blackstone	18
Blackstone-Millville Regional High School	22
Blackstone-Millville Regional School District salaries.....	25
Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District	35
Board of Assessors	56
Building Commissioner/Inspectional Services	61
Collector/Treasurer	62
Council on Aging	69
Fire Department	75
Board of Health	78
Historical Commission	79
Blackstone Housing Authority.....	82
Blackstone Public Library	94
Parks and Recreation Commission	101
Planning Board	104
Police Department	105
Public Works, Department of	108
Zoning Board of Appeals	109
Town Clerk	110
Warrant, Annual Town Election, April 3, 2023	111
Results, Annual Town Election, April 3, 2023.....	112
Warrant, Special Town Meeting, April 25, 2023	116

Table of Contents

Results, Special Town Meeting April 25, 2023	118
Warrant, Special Town Meeting, May 30, 2023	122
Results, Special Town Meeting, May 30, 2023.....	126
Warrant, Annual Town Meeting, May 30, 2023	130
Results, Annual Town Meeting, May 30, 2023.....	144
Warrant, Special Town Meeting, November 6, 2023.....	173
Results, Special Town Meeting, November 6, 2023	175
Town Accountant	176

THIS IS BLACKSTONE

AREA: 10.97 square miles
DATE OF INCORPORATION: 1845
COUNTY: Worcester
POPULATION: 9490
ELEVATION: 200' to 490' above sea level

The topography ranges in elevation of 200' in the Elm and Mendon Streets areas to 490' above sea level on "Southwick Hill" off Milk Street. Several brooks and rivers flow through to also scattered ponds. The Blackstone River flows through the Southwest portion of Town.

ABUTTING TOWNS: Bellingham, Mendon, Millville, Massachusetts and North Smithfield and Woonsocket, RI DISTANCE: approximately 37 miles (southwest of Boston) approximately 30 miles (from Worcester) approximately 22 miles (north of Providence) NEAREST DISTRICT COURT: Rte. 122 Uxbridge, Mass. REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES: offices in Milford, N. Attleboro & Worcester, MA. FY 2022 TAX RATE: \$17.90. FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Town Meeting, 5 Member Board of Selectmen, appointed Town Administrator. NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO: (local) WNRI (1380), WWON (1240) both in Woonsocket, RI; The Blackstone Enlightner, a monthly newspaper published in Blackstone; The Woonsocket Call, a daily newspaper published in Woonsocket; Local cable access; The Milford Daily News, a daily newspaper published in Milford; The Blackstone Valley Tribune, a weekly published in Northbridge, Massachusetts. MEDICAL FACILITIES: Landmark Medical Center-Woonsocket Unit, Cass Ave., Woonsocket, RI & Fogarty Unit, Rte. 146, North Smithfield, RI; Milford Hospital, Rte, 140, Milford, MA CHURCHES: (LOCAL) St. Paul's Church, St. Paul St.; St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Rathbun St.; Christ Community Church, Church St.

HOUSING

There are approximately 3835 housing units in Blackstone. The Blackstone Housing Authority directs Fox Brook Manor, developed Housing structure 56 units for the elderly. The Blackstone Housing Corporation, a non-profit group similar to the Housing Authority directs the elderly and handicapped complex containing 48 units at the Joseph D. Early Village on Blackstone Street.

ORGANIZATIONS

Blackstone offers its residents a variety of Civic Organizations. Many are political, religious, recreational, or service oriented. In addition, there are those that cater to primarily senior citizens or area youth.

Most of these groups often have articles published in local newspapers, which relate their activities and also make mention of time and place when future meetings will be held.

Listed below are several civic organizations. Information on Church organizations may be obtained by contacting each Church rectory.

Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 17
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
Blackstone Police Youth Center Association
Boy Scouts of America
Cub Scouts of America
Brownies
Girl Scouts of America
Democratic Town Committee
Republican Town Committee
Lion's Club
Senior Citizens Drop-In Center
B-M Music Association
Blackstone-Millville Youth Baseball
Blackstone-Millville Athletic, (BMAA), Inc.
Farm League
Men's Basketball League
Blackstone Rod & Gun Club
Youth Basketball League
Blackstone Housing Authority
Blackstone Valley Boys & Girls Club

Elected Officials, Boards, Commissions, and Committees

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

FRANCENA SCHANDELMAYER-DAVIS

JEREMIAH CAREY

JESSIKA ANDREAS

BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DANIEL KEEFE

TARA LARKIN

TED NOVIO

KERI GAUDETTE

CHARLES DUNTON

ERIN VINACCO

TARA SCHOUBOE

MATTHEW CATALANO

BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JAMES BRODERICK

BLACKSTONE HOUSING AUTHORITY

LORI POIRIER

JACQUELYN ROBINSON

EDWARD E PELLETIER

ARTHUR RITTWAGER

LINN DOLL BUTLER

BOARD OF HEALTH

KEVIN J RYAN

PETER C RYAN SR

JOSHUA J RYAN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RYAN CHAMBERLAND

TANYA POLAK

MARY BULSO

BRIAN SCANLAN

DANIEL KEEFE

CONSTABLES

CHERYL MARINO-PAIGE

THOMAS DUNAYESKI, II

BENJAMIN PUTNAM

JOSHUA BENJAMIN

JAMES CUNNINGHAM

PARKS AND CREATION COMMISSION

CELESTE LANGLOIS

ROBERT GILBERT

DONALD COX

KIM BRIGGS

SARA PETERS

KEVIN SULLIVAN

ASSISTANT ASSESSOR

PATRICIA SALAMONE

ASSISTANT TREASURER

ERIN PELLETIER

ASSISTANT COLLECTOR

LORI CHARBONNEAU

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

ALISON VAILLANCOURT

TOWN CLERK OFFICE ASSISTANT

MELISSA GERMAIN

BURIAL AGENT

TARA SULLIVAN

CABLE COMMISSION AD HOC

MARK TANCRELL

RYAN CHAMBERLAND

BRIAN SCANLAN

ROSS NICOL

THEODORE POLAK JR

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ZONING AGENT

VINCENZO TIRONE

CUSTODIAN OF TAX POSSESSION PROPERTY

MATTHEW RYAN

DELEGATE TO CENTRAL MASS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

JOSEPH BELROSE, JR

MARY BULSO

ALTERNATE DESIGNEE TO THE CENTRAL MASS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RYAN CHAMBERLAND

SPECIAL OFFICER DEPUTY OF TAXES

JAMES BRODEUR

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

KEVIN ROY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

WILLIAM KESSLER

FIRE CHIEF/FOREST WARDEN

WILLIAM KESSLER

HEALTH AGENT

COLLEEN STRAPPONI

HEALTH INSPECTOR

WILLIAM FISHER

LIBRARIAN

LISA CHEEVER

MUNICIPAL INSPECTOR

FREDERICK HEIM JR

Appointed Officials, Boards, Commissions, and Committees

CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE

MATTHEW J. RYAN SR.

BRIAN SCANLAN

JOSEPH EMIDY

MICHAEL SAVARD

TANYA POLAK

JEFFREY SILVERSTEIN

BRAD WEISSMAN

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ALLAN BAILLIE

JORDAN M ANDRADE

RYAN CASEY

COUNCIL ON AGING

JAMES DILIBERO

JULIE WINGATE

J. EDWARD COLLETTE

JILL ANDERSON

GAIL STOKES

LINDA MCGILVRAY

CULTURAL COUNCIL

PAUL ROBINSON

CAROLYN SULLIVAN

JUDITH E. GETTLESON

LINDA MCGILVARY

JULIE WINGATE

DISABILITY COMMISSION

SARA PETERS

TANYA POLAK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

KEVIN CUTILLO

BERNARD HANNON

CATHY KILLIAN

BARBARA L ASTUPENAS

ANITA ROBERTSON

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ROSS NICOL

KATHRYN M SWEENEY

BRAD WEISSMAN

ZACHARY ZIELINSKI

MARY NOBLE

JAMES WATSON

JEFFREY SILVERSTEIN

KASEY BIK

MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR/RIGHT TO KNOW LEGISLATION

WILLIAM KESSLER

PARKING CLERK

GREGORY GILMORE

PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR

JAMES PAIGE

ASSISTANT PLUMBING INSPECTOR

KURTIS PATERSON

CHIEF OF POLICE

GREGORY GILMORE

POLICE LIEUTENANT

SHAWN BRODEUR

POLICE SERGEANT

MAXWELL HURWITZ

KEVIN LUIS

MATHEW MANTONI

POLICE PATROLMAN

DAVID BLANCHETTE

JOSEPH NIEMCZYK

GREGGORY HAYNES

ANTHONY LUNGARINI

TRAVIS LOETHER

CRAIG METZ

PATRICK DAIGLE

MICHAEL PAVONE

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

JOHNATHAN SAVOIE

HARRY CERVANTES

ERIC LAWLER

TAYLOR HANSON

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JAMES SULLIVAN

ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/TOWN ACCOUNTANT

LAUREN TAYLOR

ASSISTANT TOWN ACCOUNTANT

KELSEY LEMOINE

ACTING TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

ROSS ATSTUPENAS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

CHAD LOVETT

TOWN COUNSEL

CHRISTOPHER BROWN

TREE WARDEN/MOTH SUPERINTENDENT

KENNETH MARCOTTE

TIMOTHY HOWELL

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HELEN F MURRAY

RICHARD GUILBEAULT

JULIE WINGATE

CAROLYN POWERS

MICHAEL BUCKLEY

ELIZABETH BELLAIRS-ROY

ROBERT SLACK

ALT: SUSAN TENEROWICZ

ALT: JOHN LODGE JR

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

MARY LOU BRANCHAUD

PATRICIA GUZINSKI

KELLY GILLIS

MARYANN DOBECK

JEAN ALEXANDROWICZ

KATE ELLEN RENAUD

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE

CATHERINE NORCROSS-MELSON

TANYA POLAK

DONALD COX

RYAN CHAMBERLAND

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

MARC J.V. GREENWALD

WILLIAM RYAN

TARA SULLIVAN

WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

ROBERT BRUCE PATERSON

ROB PATERSON

THOMAS F DEVLIN

JACOB STANDLEY

WOONSOCKET REGIONAL WASTEWATER COMMISSION

DANIEL P KEEFE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

MICHAEL SAVARD

LORI PORIER

ANITA ROBERTSON

PAUL DISCENSO

MARK SINIBALDI

ALT: ROBERT HOLMES JR

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

GREGORY GILMORE

ASSISTANT ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

PLANNING BOARD

PAUL E MARVELLE

MICHAEL SAVARD

KIRK A VAN DYKE

JOSEPH BELROSE

OWEN T BEBEAU

ALT: JOSEPH EMIDY

MODERATOR

DANIEL DOYLE

COLLECTOR/TREASURER

MATTHEW RYAN

TOWN CLERK

TARA SULLIVAN

RESIGNATIONS

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
ANDREW PLANTE	WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION	1/31/2023
DORI VECCHIO	TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	2/17/2023
ASHLEY BEAUPRE-ALDRICH	OUTREACH COORDINATOR	3/16/2023
RYAN CASEY	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	7/1/2023
AMANDA FISCHBECK	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	9/7/2023
ROBERT SLACK	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	10/17/2023
WILLIAM RYAN	BOARD OF REGISTRARS	11/17/2023
ELIZABETH McGEOUGH	RECORDING SECRETARY	6/30/2023
SANDY NADEAU LEMOINE	ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN ADMINSTRATOR	1/15/2023
ELIZABETH FLOODSTROM	MUNICIPAL SECRETARY	5/15/2023

To the Residents of Blackstone,

Since the last Annual Town Meeting in May of 2023, the Board of Selectmen, along with the Town Administration, worked hard laying the foundation to modernize and enhance town hall to better serve you! At this Annual Town Meeting, the townspeople approved many priorities to fix, enhance, and further develop our Town. With the changing of times and realignment of our town priorities, the Board of Selectmen recognized the need for additional oversight of the Town's operations and to assist the Town Administrator.

The town voted to append Lauren Taylor's existing title to Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant along with a vote and support of the Board of Selectmen. The townspeople voted in the Community Choice Power Supply Program which will allow the Town to bundle electric users to get a lower rate. This is a great step towards mitigating the rising costs of electricity which has been successful in many other towns. \$20,000 for Voice over IP (VoIP) was approved and will save the town around \$6,000 to \$8,000 per year once implemented. The Town Hall feasibility study also passed, and it is currently out to bid; this will allow the town to address many of our structural issues at Town Hall. Two of our parks received approval to move forward with necessary improvements with allocations of \$293,000 for Turbesi Park and \$350,000 for Roosevelt Park. This will bring much-needed investments to our park facilities and make them more entertaining, safer, inclusive, and accessible for all.

With the results of the Fire Department Assessment coming back to show serious concerns and a lack of investment, training, and equipment to keep our town safe, the BOS with the leadership of Chief Bill Kessler, put together a package to address the report. The package included many warrant articles such as:

- A previous resident-approved purchase of a fire truck that did not fit into our current fire station was amended and approved to instead reinvest those original funds to purchase a new fire truck that better meets the community needs for an additional \$155,513.24. The rest of the money for the purchase came from a warrant article from a previous warrant article.
- \$90,000 for the purchase of Structural Personal Protective equipment and backup gear.
- \$215,000 for self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs).
- \$140,000 for EMS equipment for the Fire Department Ambulance Service and general fire equipment.
- \$60,000 for the purchase of a command vehicle for the Fire Department leadership.

The Board of Selectmen thanks the residents for supporting the Fire Department and helping to improve the public safety needs in our community.

The residents also passed \$45,000 for HVAC software for the new HVAC system purchased with APRA funds for the library and voted to allow BMR to establish a Stabilization Fund for capital planning which will allow them to use \$500,000 towards the district feasibility study if approved by Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The town's financial operation continues to be strong with the Standard and Poor's rating of AA+ credit assigned to the Town's General Obligation Fund.

From an administrative perspective, the Board hired former Police Chief Ross Atstupenas as our Interim Town Administrator with the departure of Dori Vecchio. In October of 2023, after hiring MRI to conduct a Town Administrator search, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to hire Chad Lovett. The Town wishes to thank Dori Vecchio and Ross Atstupenas for their leadership, dedication, and service to the Town of Blackstone.

The Town would like to give a huge thank you to Fire Chief Bill Kessler who after 35 years of service to many towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has retired. Chief Kessler was instrumental in getting the Fire Department in Blackstone, the necessary training and equipment to enhance our Fire Department's capabilities. We were able to address the major concerns that were identified by the Fire

Department Assessment that we undertook last year. With his retirement, the Town ended its successful Regional Service Agreement to share a Fire Chief. The Town would like to thank the Town of Mendon for being a good partner and is hopeful that this will lead to additional regional service agreements in the future. With the retirement of Fire Chief Bill Kessler, the board hired Deputy Chief Kevin Roy as the new Fire Chief. We wish Chief Roy all the success in his new leadership role with the Town.

As the year went on the Board of Selectmen and the Town worked diligently on many projects. The Water Filtration Plant has been completed and is undergoing final testing before it comes online for the residents. The Town website has been redone to ensure an easily accessible, transparent, and quality way for residents to access their town government. The Board of Selectmen worked with the Treasurer/Collector's office to approve and send to auction foreclosed and abandoned properties owned by the Town. On January 11, 2024, we held the first auction of a few approved properties, and it was successful in getting them back on the tax rolls.

The Board voted to authorize the use of \$2,776,247.00 in APRA funds from the Federal Government to fund \$1,662,237.00 for the Water Filtration Plant. Additional ARPA funds approved included \$41,000 for Website upgrades; \$249,129 for HVAC replacement at the library; \$125,000 for radio and pagers at the Fire Department; \$20,000 for seating at outside recreation areas; and \$51,000 for Municipal Building upgrades and maintenance. Two important highlights worth noting are that we authorized the hiring of a Grant Writer to not exceed \$60,000 in billable hours to be able to go after additional Grants to save the town money.

We also approved \$45,075 for budgeting software to give the town government and the residents, a more comprehensive and analytical look at our Town's operations. This will enhance transparency and provide way more information at future town meetings so that everyone will be able to make informed data-driven decisions. We received a grant to have a third-party company come in and do an analysis and marketing plan for the town-owned land at Veterans Park to kickstart our Economic Development needs as a town. In total, the town was awarded roughly 1.8 million dollars in grant money for FY23.

It was also discovered that the multiple solar farms in the Town of Blackstone have not been correctly assessed, which has added to and validated the major concerns that were documented in the Town's Process Audit done by BerryDunn. With the personnel turnover in the Assessor's office, the Board of Selectmen and the new Board of Assessors voted to approve a contract to hire Regional Resource Group to address these concerns and properly assess the entire Town. We have continued to add policies and procedures to streamline and realign priorities within our Town to better serve you!

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank all the residents, Town employees, and businesses who make up our great town and we are all honored to serve you on the Board of Selectmen.

Thank you,

Ryan Chamberland, Chairman

Mary Bulso, Vice Chairman

Tanya Polak, Clerk

Brian Scanlan, Member

Daniel Keefe, Member

Report of Town Administrator

To the Citizens of the Town of Blackstone:

I want to express my gratitude for allowing me to serve you from December 4, 2023. Though my time here has been brief, it's been a pleasure getting to know the hardworking town employees, volunteers, and residents.

Between my arrival and the close of 2023, the town witnessed significant transitions. The departure of the previous Town Administrator led to an interim period before I assumed my role. Additionally, changes occurred within the Fire Department, marked by the conclusion of the regional agreement with Mendon and the retirement of Chief Kessler. I am pleased to welcome Kevin Roy as the new Chief of the Blackstone Fire Department. Furthermore, various boards and committees experienced turnover, with departing members making way for new faces on bodies such as the Conservation Commission, The Memorial Day Committee, and the Economic Development Committee. My sincerest appreciation goes to all who have served and continue to serve in these pivotal roles.

Throughout 2023, Blackstone continued to embark on numerous projects that will yield long-term benefits for our residents. Among these were advancements in projects like the Robert J. Dubois Corrosion Control Facility at 53 Elm Street and the reopening of Canal Street between Saint Paul Street and the overlook. Progress on street paving initiatives was also evident with Reilly Ave, Kimberly Ln, Nancy Ct., Mark Dr., and Bridge Street from Main St to the bridge, alongside the ongoing efforts of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to restore the arched viaduct and extend the Blackstone River Bikeway to Rhode Island. At our Annual Town Meeting, residents supported funding for constructing new playgrounds at Turbesi and Roosevelt Park, a testament to our collective commitment to enhancing community spaces.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all town employees and volunteers for their unwavering dedication to making Blackstone the community it is today.

Respectfully submitted,


Chad Lovett
Town Administrator

REPORT OF TOWN COUNSEL

We were reappointed by the Board of Selectmen as Town Counsel in July 2023. In November 2023, our firm name changed from Miyares and Harrington LLP to Harrington Heep LLP. Our firm appeared on behalf of the Town in the matters described below. We also continued to provide legal advice and opinions to the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Clerk, and various other Town officers, boards, commissions, and agencies on matters relating to Town Meeting, contracts and procurement, real estate transactions, zoning/building code enforcement, Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, conflict of interest issues, personnel administration, labor and employment issues, zoning variance/special permit proceedings, and other general legal issues. We also attended the 2023 Annual Town Meeting on May 30, 2023 and the Special Town Meetings on April 25, 2023 and November 6, 2023 to provide legal advice to the Town officers and the voters at the meeting. Harrington Heep LLP also continued to provide regular updates to the Town of legal developments and changes to state or federal law affecting the Town through client alerts and our monthly newsletter.

A summary of the litigation matters in which Town Counsel was engaged on the Town's behalf in calendar year 2023 and through the date of this report is set forth below.

AFSCME Council 93 v. Town of Blackstone, AAA Case No. 01-23-0000-8972

This matter was a labor grievance arbitration by the union representing Town DPW employees challenging the discipline of one of their unit members. The Town reached a financial settlement with the Union before the arbitration occurred. This matter is now closed.

Town of Blackstone v. Emily J. Dana, Uxbridge District Court, Docket No. 2165CI00003

This action concerned a December 15, 2021 appeal of two Notices of Violation and Fine issued by the Board of Health to the owner of 8 Ives Street for failure to comply with the Board's "Regulation for the Mandatory Tie-in to Public Sewer of Property with Failed Private Sub-Surface Disposal System or Upon the Sale of Property Where Public Sewer Tie-in is Available." The Town and the property owner entered into an Agreement for Judgment in April 2022 to secure compliance with the Board's regulation and tie-in to the public sewer system. After a hearing for compliance in May 2023, the Court found the owner responsible and assessed fines. The Board of Health is continuing to monitor the owner's compliance with the sewer tie-in regulation.

Eric Conrardy et al v. Town of Blackstone, Worcester Superior Court C.A. No. 2285CV00242

This action concerned a March 2, 2022 suit for declaratory judgment regarding the denial of building permits for three lots located on Federal Street. The matter had been stayed while the plaintiffs pursued relief from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The matter was dismissed by the Court in September 2023 and is now closed.

Aaron Maloney v. Town of Blackstone et al, U.S District Court for Massachusetts C.A. No. 4:23-CV-12187

This matter concerned alleged civil rights violations by the Town and members of the Police Department stemming from an arrest in July 2021. The Town denied the allegations. The matter was defended by the firm Pierce, Davis & Perritano, LLP, counsel appointed by the Town's liability insurer. Insurance defense counsel reported that the plaintiff was no longer interested in pursuing the matter and the case was dismissed with prejudice in January 2024. This matter is now closed.

Celia Pereira v. Blackstone Board of Health, Suffolk Superior Court C.A. No. 2184CV02369

This action was an appeal by a homeowner seeking to overturn the decision of the Board of Health denying her a variance to construct a five (5) bedroom sized septic system upon her property located 131 Lakeshore Drive. This action was filed on October 18, 2021. The parties filed and argued cross-motions for judgment on the pleadings at a hearing in September 2022. The Court denied the motions without prejudice in January 2023, and remanded the matter for the Board to provide the Court a statement of the reasons for the denial of the variance. After the Board of Health held a further hearing in March 2023 and supplemented the record with the reasons for denial, the Court entered judgment in the Board's favor in June 2023, allowing its motion for judgment on the pleadings and affirming the Board's decision to deny the variance. This matter is now closed.

On behalf of the attorneys and staff at Harrington Heep LLP, we thank the Board of Selectmen for the honor and privilege of serving as your Town Counsel.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher L. Brown, Esq.
Harrington Heep, LLP
Town Counsel
March 11, 2024

2024

Dear BMRSD Community,

I hope this message finds everyone happy, rested and well.

I am sure you are as excited as I am when thinking about all of the possibilities that 2024 can bring. There is so much going on in BMRSD.

At the beginning of this school year, I sent the below message to our BMRSD Community:

“Our commitment to excellence in education remains unwavering. Our dedicated teachers have spent the summer refining their lesson plans and creating engaging learning experiences that will challenge and inspire our students. Our support staff has worked tirelessly to ensure our facilities are safe, welcoming, and ready to facilitate the educational journey ahead.

To our students, you are the heart of our community. As you step through our doors, remember that each day is an opportunity to learn, to question, and to grow. Embrace challenges with determination, collaborate with your peers, and make the most of the resources we offer - work towards mastering our 5 C's!

Parents and guardians, your partnership is invaluable. Your involvement in your child's education is a cornerstone of their success. We encourage open communication and invite you to participate in the various opportunities we have planned to foster a strong home-school connection.

Throughout the school year, we have an exciting lineup of events, projects, and initiatives that will enrich the educational experience for all. From academics to sports and music events, from clubs and arts to community service projects, there's something for everyone to get involved in - so let's get involved.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each member of our school community for your dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering support. Together, we will make this school year a remarkable one, filled with achievements and memories that will last a lifetime.

Here's to a successful, enriching, and inspiring school year in BMRSD! Go Chargers!”

The actions outlined in our *Back to School* message ring true. We have so much to be proud of - BMRSD students continue to grow and thrive, our staff push themselves to reach and support our students in new and innovative ways, District enrollment is growing, and it will only get better from here!

This year we are in year two of our revised district strategic plan known as *Blueprint 2.0*. Our Blueprint outlines our commitment to you, our school district community, and lays out the focus of our work ahead. More specifically, ***“THE CHARGER WAY”***:

Our Promise:

Every Blackstone-Millville Regional School District student is prepared and empowered to be a responsible and productive citizen in a diverse and competitive world.

Our Focus on the Skills ALL BMR Graduates will Possess (also known as our Portrait of a Graduate):

Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking.

Our Goals:

Curriculum

Leverage high-quality, rigorous, and equitable curricula, assessments, and educator professional development to ensure that all students are able to meet the expectations/demands of the MA Curriculum Frameworks and Portrait of a Graduate.

Instruction

Engage and support all students by providing equitable access to purposeful and relevant learning that allows them to demonstrate their growth in multiple ways.

The Whole Child

With the support of faculty, families, and community members, and ***our commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone belongs***, all students will be equipped with developmentally appropriate social emotional skills and empowered to use those skills to persevere so they may learn at their optimum ability.

The Community

Cultivate a shared responsibility for all students’ growth by strengthening partnerships across the Blackstone and Millville communities, seeking feedback from stakeholders, and encouraging active engagement between home, school, and community.

We are grateful for the engagement of the community as we continue to implement our promise to our towns.

In other important school district news, as we plan ahead...

- After a series of meetings with the school district community, the School Committee voted to consolidate our buildings and adjust our grade configuration for School Year 24-25. Beginning in late August (Wednesday, August 28, 2024 is the first day of school for students) the new grade configuration will be PK-3, which will be located at the JFK/AFM Complex for next year with the hopes of moving the staff and students back to the Millville Elementary School the following year. Grades 4-7 will be housed at the FWH Middle School and grades 8-12 at BMRHS. While change is not easy, we are looking forward to all the opportunities and possibilities this new model will bring our students, staff and community.
- As we continue to care for our facilities and “right size” the school district, we are eager to start the Feasibility Study in the fall of ‘24 for a potential addition/renovation of BMRHS which opened its doors in 1969 (55 years ago.) There will be a great deal of communication on this as we move through the study.

I have so much hope and optimism for what the rest of the year will bring! It is truly an honor to serve and be part of Charger Nation.

My very best to each and every one of you and your families.

Sincerely,
Jason DeFalco, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Enrollment

As of January 1, 2023, total student enrollment is 385
This is an increase of 34 students from 2022.

6th grade - 133
7th grade - 101
8th grade - 151

We have seen a recent increase in enrollment of ELL students, with additions in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The predominant language has been Portuguese.

Curriculum

All middle school students are provided with a full academic experience.

6th grade students study English Language Arts (ELA), Social Studies, Math, and Science.
7th grade students study ELA, Pre-Algebra, Science, and World History.
8th grade students study ELA, Algebra, Science, and Civics.

Specials classes include Art, PE/Wellness, STEM, Chorus, and Band.
6th grade band enrollment is 45 students. 7th grade is 44, and 8th grade is 48.
30 students across all three grades are enrolled in Chorus.

Our Science department is participating in a district wide review of our science curriculum.

Instruction

FWHMS committed to a new three to five year school-wide instructional focus: Through effective collaboration and reflection, all Hartnett students develop and apply critical thinking skills. Our collective focus for the first part of the school year has been on effective student collaboration. We have just begun our work with student reflection. In addition to learning new strategies for collaboration, Professional Learning Community (PLC) work in ELA and Math has included analyzing student assessment data to identify skills that need review and practice in the classroom and in our Academic Concentration Math and English (ACME) intervention classes.

Staff have benefited from the District professional development modules in the areas of instructing English Language students and special education best practices.

This year twenty 8th grade students broke new ground as the inaugural 8th Grade Academy. They spend the first two periods at the high school each day, studying Algebra 1 and Spanish

for high school credit. The high school has embraced these young scholars, including them in opening day activities, pep rallies, and career fairs. The program has been a clear success, and discussions are underway for how to continue it next year.

The Whole Child

The middle school was happy to partner with the Department of Education last year in the administration of the SELIS survey - a questionnaire designed to provide the state and district with data reflective of student skills in the SEL Competency areas of Self Awareness, Self Management, Social Skills, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making. That data has driven our work in creating Advisory. The SELIS survey was re-administered this fall, and that data will continue to provide insight into the ways we can support our students.

A daily 18 minute Advisory provides students with an opportunity to build positive relationships with staff and peers as well as learn helpful academic skills.

FWHMS implements the Second Step curriculum once a week in Advisory with the focus on recognizing bullying and harassment.

The Community

BMR parent Tom Moore continues to provide valuable STEM education to the students of FWHMS by coordinating a small army of volunteers to run “Hour of Code” activities for all students. Volunteers bring cutting edge technology to demonstrate for students. High school students code Deep Racers - robotic cars - and compete with each other on a track in the gyms. Science classes visit the racetrack and learn about technology and coding. This activity is made possible by a donation of the track and Deep Racers to the BMR community.

FWHMS is committed to providing families with opportunities to come into the school and experience student learning. Our fall event is STAR night - Science, Technology, Arts, and Reading. Families are able to see student artwork, play with cardboard arcades built in STEM, peruse Shark Tank projects from 7th and 8th grade Critical Thinking classes, and shop the book fair. A similar event will be held in February and will coincide with our winter book fair.

Extracurricular

FWHS offers the following year-round clubs:

- Healthy Start Club - students are welcome to come to school as early as 7:10am to begin their day with healthy exercise and breakfast
- Student Council - this leadership group provides opportunities for students to organize, fundraise for, and lead school wide events like the holiday gift giveaway.

- National Junior Honor Society - members engage in school leadership activities and individual service projects.

January saw the training of 30 7th and 8th grade students to become Peer Leaders. Accompanied by school psychologist Brooke Badeau and 7th grade special education teacher Teresa Carr, these students experienced 4 days of training with the Anti-Defamation League. They learned about how to create a community where all students feel like they belong. These students will now work with Ms. Badeau and Ms. Carr to develop lessons to present to 6th grade students.

Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) funds popular seasonal clubs such as LEGO club, Flag Football, Movie Making Club, Retro Game Club, and Dungeons and Dragons. Students participate in musical opportunities outside of the school day as well. These include marching band, color guard, and jazz band.

Middle School students participate in both high school and middle school sports, including soccer, field hockey, basketball, cheerleading, softball, baseball, cross country, and track.

In June of 2023, 60 8th grade students traveled to Washington D.C. and visited monuments, museums, and historical sites, helping to bring their Civics curriculum alive. There are over 80 students scheduled to go on this field trip in June of 2024.

Parent-Teacher Organization

Middle School students are fortunate to benefit from the hard work of a very dedicated PTO. They fundraise effectively (the Color Run this fall raised over \$10,000), and use the proceeds to provide enrichment opportunities for our students including:

- Three seasonal clubs each quarter
- A 6th grade social with open gym, dancing, and games
- A 7th grade glow dance with open gym
- The 8th grade promotion dance
- Busses for 6th and 7th grade to attend field trips to the Museum of Science, the Worcester Art Museum, and Nature's classroom.

Thank You

First and foremost, I'd like to thank Superintendent DeFalco and the members of the school committee for the opportunity to serve BMRSD as the principal of the middle school. Please know that I am committed to working in partnership with you to meet the needs of all students.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the families in the community as well. Your support makes all the difference in the lives of our kids.

It's no secret that the middle school has some difficult work ahead of us; I strongly believe that the staff of FWHMS is up for the challenge. I thank them for their hard work, reflection, and commitment to improvement.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Giuffre
Principal

Blackstone Millville Regional High School
2023 Report of the Principal

Last year the mission and vision for Blackstone-Millville Regional High School was solidified in our pillars of the Portrait of a Graduate. We continue to have these values guide our learning journey.

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is always at the heart of teaching and learning. This year, our staff have spent time in professional development working on higher order thinking questions in order to support our critical thinking initiative. During the 2023-2024 school year, staff have concentrated on improving their practice by looking at Webb's Depth of Knowledge Chart as a reference. We continue to utilize ASE (Analyze-Support with Evidence-Evaluate) as a primary instructional practice which is now in its third year. All departments engage students in critical thinking tasks and spend time during their professional learning community meetings to analyze student work in order to improve student outcomes.

The Grade 8 Academy is in its second year. Twenty six eighth grade students come to the high school to begin their day with Spanish 1 and Algebra 1 for high school credit then return to the middle school for the remainder of their day. They are benefitting from a taste of high school before they arrive next year. It has been wonderful to incorporate these students into our Charger community.

Communication

Our students have been exercising their communication skills in a variety of ways this past year. We have a new teacher, Sarah Sanchez, in our visual arts department. She has brought new life to BMR News, publishing 8 issues so far this year. All students in her video production class participate in creating and delivering the content for the whole school to see. The English department added a new course this year, Performance Literature. Students in this class recently performed their adaptation of 12 Angry Men, entitled Twelve Angry Jurors.

As always, we are keeping our school community up-to-date on happenings at BMRHS through our weekly newsletter. Our athletic director has also added a monthly athletics newsletter and has updated our sports webpage to make it more accessible for all families.

Collaboration

Collaboration has taken a priority spot in our School Improvement Plan. Teachers, using student feedback, created a collaboration rubric and have made it a point to create collaborative opportunities for students in every class. One class that highlights collaboration is our Leadership in Sports Management class. This junior/senior PE course is run by the students and facilitated by Tracey Ducharme. They select the sports to engage in, select the managers, teams, adapt the rules, choose officials, and play. At the end of each unit, students present the statistics, name award winners from each team, and reflect on their experience, noting how they

could improve next time. This is a very popular class, one many seniors recognize as their favorite.

Our Charger Community Advisory Program, with the goal to establish and maintain a culture that promotes positive relationships throughout the entire school community, continues with weekly programming. A few highlights from the advisory program include pumpkin carving and door decorating to coordinate with our pep rally theme. Programming also included lessons on goal setting, empathy, leadership, and responsible decision-making. This past year we implemented an Adulting 101 program for our seniors. Students rotated through 4 sessions highlighting basic automotive skills, conflict resolution, gourmet ramen, and financial literacy. With great feedback from our students, we will continue to provide this programming for the Class of 2024.

BMRHS continues to collaborate with the elementary school to bring our high school students to classrooms in a variety of ways. Our sports teams have had the opportunity to read to our elementary students and this always provides an opportunity for students to ask questions about life in high school. This is also the second year Jean Riedel has brought her Spanish 4 class to the elementary school to present lessons to students. Additionally many of our seniors have the opportunity to work as interns at all 3 schools in the district. We appreciate this partnership and it really shows how we are a “district of one.”

Citizenship & Character

The Citizenship pillar focuses on contributing positively to the BMRHS community. Our Student Council leads this charge. This group of dedicated students received the 2022 MASC Council of Excellence Program Recognition Award. Some of the events they sponsor throughout the year include BMR Karaoke, Freshman Orientation, Homecoming Dance, and the ever popular Spirit Week ending with our Pep Rally. Additionally, Student Council members have volunteered at Millville Elementary's After School Art Club.

The BMR Music Program had an active year with many exciting opportunities for students and many successes along the way. Beginning in February, the Jazz Ensemble performed at the annual Blackstone Valley Jazz Festival held at historic Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket, RI. Our jazz ensemble continued on to have their best year in 16 years. In March, they received a Gold Medal at Jazz Districts, with Senior trumpet player Tori Gervais being named “Most Valuable Player” of the entire festival. From there they continued on to Jazz States in March where they received a Gold Medal for only the 2nd time in the last 20 years. This was a huge accomplishment and resulted in their invitation to perform at the Hatch Memorial Shell in Boston on May 7th.

Winter Guard and Winter Percussion both had excellent seasons. Both teams moved up a competitive division, competing against large schools from all over New England. Our Winter Guard finished the season 3rd place out of 9 teams at their Finals, while Percussion finished 4th out of 8 teams in their division.

On March 10th, our marching band members performed at Stadium Theatre with the premier Fleetwood Mac cover band, Tusk, to a sold out crowd. It was a fun performance, and something different than we normally do. We have been invited back for this coming March! In April, the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band both received a Silver Medal at the state's MICCA concert festival. This past fall, the BMR Marching Band had a season of huge improvement. After starting the season with only 2/3 of their show completed, they were able to finish the show by the end of September and a month later won 1st place at New England State Championships. The marching band finished their season with a 4th place finish at the National Championships. The team grew immensely this year and is set to grow in size and ability next year. The marching band was also invited and participated in the Uxbridge First Night Parade on December 2nd. It was a fun parade and we have been invited back for next year. Members of the wind ensemble and chorus also performed at the rescheduled Blackstone Tree lighting ceremony on December 11th.

Our National Honor Society has community service as one of its four pillars. As a group, our NHS students clocked more than 300 hours of service to our community in 2023. They hosted their 17th annual Empty Bowl fundraiser in March, and raised \$1,600 at the event which was donated to the Blackstone Food Pantry. NHS members also volunteered at events for our elementary students, engaged in peer tutoring, and continued to help at the food pantry twice a week.

Mr Ducharme and Dr DeFalco continue supporting our young men's group. They meet monthly to discuss various issues, engage in career exploration opportunities in the surrounding areas, and also give back through community service. They have volunteered at the local food pantry and helped support a charity in Worcester.

Our student athletes display their character every time they step on the playing field. Their perseverance led to post season play for many of our teams including a Central Mass Class B Championship for our girls volleyball team, and a first ever Dual Valley Conference Championship for our football team. We also have a first for BMR as 3 of our students were selected as MIAA student representatives. Hailey Ducharme, Shaun Haynes, and Grace Buzzell attend monthly meetings, participate in various activities and attend the annual Student-Athlete Leadership Conference at Gillette Stadium. We are so proud of their leadership.

I could go on and on about the work happening here. Moral of the story is great things are happening at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School!

Respectfully submitted

Jill Foulis
Principal

Blackstone-Millville Regional	Salaries for FY23	
Name	Description	Salary
Acosta, Dora A	Spanish Teacher	\$46,532.64
Aicardi, Kathleen M	Kindergarten Aide	\$23,224.50
Aicardi, Kathleen M	Longevity	\$900.00
Allan, Michael	Custodian	\$49,418.60
Allard, Denise L	Clerk	\$13,178.56
Allard, Denise L	Paraprofessional	\$15,835.05
Allard, Denise L	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Allard, Denise L	Bus Monitor	\$4,956.72
Allen, Stacy L	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$61,757.68
Andrade, Denise M	Cafeteria Manager	\$25,445.97
Andrade, Denise M	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Anuforo, Vivian C	SLPA	\$33,428.39
Avila, Blanca	High School Teacher	\$20,880.08
Avila, Paul D	Custodian	\$44,299.37
Azevedo, Elizabeth A	Cafeteria Worker	\$12,972.56
Azevedo, Elizabeth A	Longevity	\$900.00
Bacon, Paul M	Custodian	\$54,912.07
Bacon, Paul M	Longevity	\$900.00
Badeau, Brooke D	Psychologist	\$63,481.38
Bak, Tracy J	Cafeteria Manager	\$26,015.27
Baldini, Ann M	Kindergarten Aide	\$23,829.01
Baldini, Ann M	Longevity	\$550.00
Barbato, Jessica A	Library Paraprofessional	\$27,746.04
Bartusek, Karen E	Paraprofessional	\$23,926.50
Bartusek, Karen E	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Bartusek, Karen E	Bus Monitor	\$2,587.06
Beaven, Donna M	Cafeteria Worker	\$15,534.01
Beaven, Donna M	Longevity	\$900.00
Beech, Lona M	Cafeteria Worker	\$11,665.93
Beech, Lona M	Longevity	\$550.00
Bellan, Brianna G	Paraprofessional	\$22,542.00
Bennett, Diane L	Reading Teacher	\$57,130.74
Berard, Elisabeth M	Special Education Teacher	\$56,134.69
Bergman, Max A	Permanent Sub	\$6,024.00
Blomstedt, Rachel O	High School Teacher	\$86,796.08
Blomstedt, Rachel O	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Boisvert, Kathy A	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$90,433.78
Boisvert, Kathy A	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Boisvert, Lisa M	Special Education Team Chair	\$86,591.78
Boratyn, Mary A	Nurse MVL	\$69,610.52
Bouley, Rebecca A	Guidance Counselor	\$73,809.29
Bourgery, Patricia A	English Teacher	\$77,018.98
Bourgery, Patricia A	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Bramley, Kathryn D	Science Teacher	\$47,899.28
Bravo, Sullybeth	High School Teacher	\$69,610.52

Breen, Molly K	High School Teacher	\$63,126.92
Briar, Kristin A	Paraprofessional	\$22,763.25
Brienze, Denise E	Guidance High School	\$65,512.00
Burgess, Isabel K	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$54,541.00
Buteau, Karen E	Kindergarten Aide	\$23,697.38
Buteau, Karen E	Longevity	\$550.00
Cahill, Joseph T	Custodian	\$49,308.96
Carlson, Katherine W	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$86,366.00
Carpentier, Jamie L	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$61,996.00
Carreiro, Lindsay	Adjustment Counselor	\$54,732.48
Carrier, Denise M	Director of Finance and Operations	\$30,172.41
Carson, Lauren M	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$83,171.42
Carson, Lauren M	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Chan-Remka, Jenny	Principal	\$114,736.34
Chaplin, Victoria A	Paraprofessional	\$23,692.50
Chaplin, Victoria A	Longevity	\$550.00
Christie, James	Substitute Teacher	\$2,970.00
Chunis, Kaitalyn E	LPN Hourly	\$9,750.00
Cintron, Leonel	Custodian	\$38,259.77
Clark, Lisa D	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$72,132.01
Clemente, Sylvie L	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$49,624.08
Colannino, Mary E	Lead Coach	\$82,967.30
Cole, Jill M	Middle School Teacher	\$78,376.62
Colgan, Susan M	Intergrated Preschool Teacher	\$83,171.42
Conklin, Samuel A	Network Operation	\$72,358.96
Connolly, Erin E	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$54,338.02
Connor, Ashley A	High School Teacher	\$69,686.62
Conrad, Gina M	Speech AFM	\$74,552.46
Constantineau, Jaimie R	ABA Technician	\$25,592.27
Conti, Carol M	High School Teacher	\$83,171.42
Conti, Carol M	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Corbin, Shelby	Long-Term Sub	\$9,030.00
Cossuto, Christopher P	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$53,136.43
Costa, Maria	High School Teacher	\$83,429.00
Costa, Maria	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Costello, Diane L	Kindergarten Aide	\$23,935.02
Costello, Diane L	Longevity	\$1,300.00
Cote, Esther H	CCLC 21st Cent. After School Program	\$17,952.50
Cote, Esther H	Substitute Clerical	\$112.50
Cote, Esther H	Substitute Teacher	\$4,200.00
Cote, Genevieve R	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$49,624.08
Cote-Brown, Samantha E	Substitute Cafeteria Worker	\$2,472.58
Cotillo, Annelise R	Substitute Teacher	\$1,485.00
Cotillo, Mary V	Principal	\$95,179.59
Courtemanche, Kim M	Paraprofessional	\$23,224.50
Cruz, Sara K	High School Teacher	\$56,124.01
Cummings, Samantha C	Paraprofessional	\$8,864.10

Cummings, Samantha C	Permanent Sub	\$8,772.00
Cummings, Samantha C	Bus Monitor	\$434.80
Curran, Jeffrey M	PTL Coach	\$72,721.69
Curran, Jeffrey M	Longevity	\$6,500.00
Curt-Hoard, Tonya M	Principal	\$17,655.16
Cusack, Sharon K	Paraprofessional	\$26,495.70
Cusack, Sharon K	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Custer, Casey D	Special Education Teacher - BMR	\$8,419.30
D'Andrea, Tara J	Special Education Teacher	\$80,551.41
D'Eletto, Nicholas M	High School Teacher	\$74,274.52
Dampousse, Madison E	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$49,624.08
Dansereau, Linda A	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$86,796.08
Dansereau, Linda A	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Davey, Samantha	Technology Aide	\$20,938.08
Davidge, Debra A	Paraprofessional	\$24,294.60
Davidge, Debra A	Longevity	\$1,150.00
DeFalco, Jason V	Superintendent	\$181,228.50
Degrooth, Brittany L	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$46,776.71
Deschamps, Lisa A	Paraprofessional	\$23,640.75
Deschamps, Lisa A	Longevity	\$900.00
Deschamps, Lisa A	Bus Monitor	\$2,956.64
Descoteaux, Stefanie A	High School Teacher	\$84,646.29
Descoteaux, Stefanie A	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Desilets, Susan J	Paraprofessional	\$12,843.05
Desilets, Susan J	Clerk	\$14,579.24
Desilets, Susan J	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Desilets, Susan J	Bus Monitor	\$2,804.46
Desjardins, Kim C	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$78,655.02
Dewolf, Mark A	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$83,171.42
Dewolf, Mark A	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Dextraze, Michelle D	Science Teacher	\$76,513.52
DiCecco, Dawn M	Occupational Therapist	\$79,471.82
DiCecco, Dawn M	Longevity	\$2,000.00
DiCecco, Kristie J	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$82,254.59
DiCecco, Kristie J	Longevity	\$5,000.00
DiFabio, Amy D	Substitute Teacher	\$9,405.00
Dill, Maryann N	Substitute Teacher	\$450.00
Diogo, Jacquelyn M	Administrative Assistant	\$45,891.01
Doyle, Cecilia C	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$82,255.19
Doyle, Cecilia C	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Drackett, Dina	ABA Technician	\$26,166.27
Dubois, Katharine E	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$83,171.42
Ducharme, Jared M	Permanent Sub	\$3,213.00
Ducharme, Keith A	Assistant Principal	\$109,729.69
Ducharme, Keith A	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Ducharme, Tracey L	High School Teacher	\$85,246.00
Ducharme, Tracey L	Longevity	\$5,000.00

Dullea-Juliano, Tracy F	Nurse MVL	\$41,585.72
Durand, Gerard R	High School Teacher	\$78,655.02
Egan, Dianne M	LPN Hourly	\$39,027.21
Egan, Meghan C	Paraprofessional	\$22,022.05
Eisenhauer, Elisha L	Substitute Teacher	\$4,455.00
Euglow, Joshua M	High School Teacher	\$77,779.89
Farrell-Welch, Deirdre M	Business Manager	\$34,200.00
Faulkner, Edie A	JFK Elementary School Teacher	\$13,898.80
Feliciano, Damaris	Van Driver	\$28,473.04
Ferris, Meghan E	Special Education Teacher	\$46,776.71
Finnegan, Kathryn E	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$87,578.08
Finnegan, Kathryn E	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Folster, Colleen J	SLPA	\$34,343.73
Foulis, Jill A	Principal	\$126,175.00
Francisco, Jack	Paraprofessional	\$22,230.00
Franzosa, Tara K	Physical Therapist	\$79,471.82
Franzosa, Tara K	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Gallagher, Amy L	High School Teacher	\$76,513.52
Gaskill, Emma L	STEM Teacher	\$56,134.74
Gaudet, Damien W	High School Teacher	\$68,590.04
Gervais, Lisa J	Substitute Nurse	\$1,200.00
Giacin, Grace S	Grade 1 Teacher	\$52,619.14
Giguere, Maureen A	Cafeteria Substitute	\$6,892.50
Giroux, Brittany L	Permanent Sub	\$14,407.50
Gloddy, Xandria R	Paraprofessional	\$7,336.53
Gomez, Madeline	Paraprofessional	\$6,821.77
Gonsalves, Maureen	Food Service Director	\$82,164.05
Grace, Caroline Ann	Science Teacher	\$83,429.00
Grace, Sheila M	ESL Teacher	\$47,089.67
Grautski, Arissa M	Grade 2 Teacher	\$51,230.96
Grube, Lynnell	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$80,032.00
Guevremont, Ethan P	Technology Teacher	\$52,714.70
Guido, Elizabeth C	PTL Coach	\$60,403.20
Guilbeault, Holly B	Paraprofessional	\$391.50
Hadfield, Lindsay M	Art Teacher	\$52,619.14
Haggas, Lory J	Paraprofessional	\$27,250.50
Haggas, Lory J	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Haggas, Lory J	Bus Monitor	\$7,022.04
Halloran, Katelyn E	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$37,441.60
Halloran, Meghan R	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$49,624.08
Hardenbergh, Kate L	Paraprofessional	\$13,747.50
Harpin, Rebecca E	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$84,982.69
Harpin, Rebecca E	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Hauer, Melanie L	School Psychologist	\$76,539.19
Healy, Brendan M	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$66,120.62
Hebert, Debra A	Cafeteria Worker	\$25,577.21
Hebert, Debra A	Longevity	\$1,150.00

Hebert, Ethan J	Custodian	\$51,422.19
Hebert, Ethan J	Longevity	\$550.00
Hebert, Scott A	Facilities Manager	\$75,000.00
Hernandez, Jennifer R	Financial Assistant	\$63,993.78
Hernandez, Jennifer R	Grants Management	\$6,500.00
Highcove, Dawn	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$84,982.69
Highcove, Dawn	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Highcove, Madison M	Substitute Teacher	\$5,130.00
Holihen, Amy M	JFK Elementary School Teacher	\$84,982.69
Holihen, Amy M	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Howard, Hannah C	Art Teacher	\$51,989.40
Isenberg, David	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$87,949.00
Isenberg, David	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Jackson, Lynnea D	Kindergarten Aide	\$23,692.51
Jackson, Lynnea D	Longevity	\$550.00
Jackson, Rebecca P	Paraprofessional	\$22,776.00
Jennings, Erica N	ABA Technician	\$11,601.16
Johnson, Richard W	Network Operation	\$49,172.71
Jones, Kathleen M	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$82,255.19
Jones, Kathleen M	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Juba, Mark P	High School Teacher	\$86,796.08
Juba, Mark P	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Kasof, Sarah N	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$16,249.52
Keane, Danielle F	Grade 4/5 Teacher	\$60,004.00
Keefe, Jack R	High School Teacher	\$45,923.32
Keefe, Jack R	Permanent Sub	\$4,588.40
Kelley, Shannon	High School Teacher	\$46,245.26
Kiely, Kevin P	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$86,591.78
Kiely, Kevin P	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Kirwan, Christopher	Middle School Teacher	\$46,532.64
Kotsianas, Constantine	Permanent Sub	\$204.00
L'Esperance, Cassandra J	ELA Interventionist	\$65,479.52
Labrie, Lauri A	Paraprofessional	\$24,406.43
Labrie, Lauri A	Longevity	\$550.00
Labrie, Lauri A	Bus Monitor	\$7,152.46
Lacroix, Tina M	Accounts Payable Specialist	\$64,397.40
Lacroix, Tina M	Longevity	\$1,750.00
Lanctot, Melissa L	Special Education Teacher - JFK	\$61,987.40
Landry, Richard N	Custodian	\$53,726.75
Landry, Richard N	Longevity	\$900.00
Landry, Susan A	Paraprofessional	\$26,503.20
Landry, Susan A	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Landry, Susan A	Bus Monitor	\$7,326.38
Langone, Kerri	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$84,982.69
Langone, Kerri	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Laporte, Janis H	Assistant Principal	\$106,623.06
Laporte, Janis H	Longevity	\$3,700.00

Laquerre, Julia M	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$41,232.81
Laren, Norma C	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$79,471.82
Laren, Norma C	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Laskowski, Cynthia L	Paraprofessional	\$23,565.75
Laudon, Ashley E	LPN Hourly	\$36,368.20
Lawrence, Sabrina	Math Interventionist	\$54,984.25
Le-Gagne, Thien- Phuong T	Cafeteria Worker	\$20,907.21
LeBallister-Dudka, Jill L	PTL Coach	\$78,655.02
LeBlanc, Kelly E	Paraprofessional	\$22,562.50
Legendre, Luke W	Special Education Teacher - AFM	\$26,349.71
Leonard-Waterman, Kathleen C	Spanish Teacher	\$87,677.33
Leonard-Waterman, Kathleen C	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Lussier, Julie L	Cafeteria Worker	\$13,713.48
Marcotte, Nicholas N	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$66,201.53
Markle, Shawn T	Substitute Worker	\$851.25
Markle, Van V	Substitute Worker	\$2,688.75
Marlborough, Carrie A	Administrative Assistant	\$47,210.95
Marlborough, Carrie A	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Marques, Suriya	Paraprofessional	\$12,504.38
Marsh, Lori E	Cafeteria Worker	\$19,603.96
Marszalkowski, Daniel A	ABA Technician	\$7,176.63
Martin, Claudia L	Reading Teacher	\$82,992.61
Martineau, Erin R	Guidance Counselor	\$63,047.70
Martinelli, Christine J	Paraprofessional	\$27,020.25
Martinelli, Christine J	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Martinelli, Traci L	Paraprofessional	\$8,171.73
Martinelli, Traci L	Cafeteria Worker	\$2,177.00
Martino-Harms, Andrea J	High School Teacher	\$78,909.23
Martufi, Caitlin P	Special Education Teacher - MES	\$83,171.42
Martufi, Caitlin P	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Masse, Carly	Math Interventionist	\$54,160.48
Maurice, Jamie A	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$86,591.78
Maurice, Jamie A	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Maxwell, Emily A	Paraprofessional	\$18,826.29
Maxwell-Rounds, Lisa A	High School Teacher	\$78,655.02
Mayer, Thomas E	Custodian	\$46,100.40
McCormick, W John	High School Teacher	\$84,982.69
McCormick, W John	Longevity	\$5,000.00
McCourt, Kevin M	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$83,171.42
McCourt, Kevin M	Longevity	\$3,700.00
McCrum, Kelly A	High School Teacher	\$64,888.57
McGee, Tim M	High School Teacher	\$64,251.17
McGrath, Meryl	Speech MVL	\$61,526.54
McHugh, Phillip	Substitute Teacher	\$7,965.00
McKiel, Sarah M	Teacher of the Deaf	\$60,329.84
McLaughlin, Kerry L	Substitute Nurse	\$720.00
Medeiros, Jessica S	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$20,229.82

Melanson, Mary-Beth	Special Education Teacher - BMR	\$78,303.29
Menard, Megan L	Teamchair Elementary	\$76,513.52
Mercure, Kyle R	Custodian - Part-time	\$1,866.75
Merten, Grace A	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$56,304.52
Metro, Karla F	Cafeteria Substitute	\$1,972.50
Michael, Leesa	Science Teacher	\$41,025.36
Mignanelli, Barbara	Guidance Counselor	\$83,171.42
Mignanelli, Barbara	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Minihane, Emily C	Guidance Counselor	\$55,998.62
Moniz, Stephanie A	Superintendents Admin. Assistant	\$67,500.00
Moreau, Linda A	Guidance Counselor	\$73,802.62
Moreau, Linda A	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Mullaly, Joseph C	Custodian	\$54,251.93
Munns, William J	Custodian	\$48,097.93
Murphy, Eileen S	Paraprofessional	\$23,556.00
Murray, Meghan M	Special Education Teacher - JFK	\$59,618.14
Najarian, Robin A	Special Education Teacher - AFM	\$83,429.00
Najarian, Robin A	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Nowak, Andrew D	High School Teacher	\$7,628.36
O'Neil, Gabriela C	PLC Coach	\$52,115.62
Oliveira, Rachel R	Cafeteria Manager	\$32,383.90
Oliveira, Rachel R	Longevity	\$900.00
Orosco, Amy	Substitute Nurse	\$600.00
Ostrowski, Callie L	Paraprofessional	\$17,049.06
Ostrowski, Callie L	Long-Term Sub	\$4,650.00
Ostrowski, Maureen	Substitute Teacher	\$2,880.00
Pacheco, Taralee R	Substitute Teacher	\$7,155.00
Paradis, Jennifer L	Administrative Assistant	\$16,460.05
Parenteau, Jennifer M	Special Education Teacher - BMR	\$65,236.60
Parrott, Heather	High School Teacher	\$19,878.61
Parrott, Heather	Long-Term Sub	\$7,420.00
Pedorella, Maria	ABA Technician	\$25,841.48
Pelland, Michaela R	High School Teacher	\$61,619.31
Peloquin, Stephanie A	Cafeteria Worker	\$19,956.10
Penso, Maria L	Custodian	\$44,108.11
Philbrook, Kayli E	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$55,973.79
Pilibosian, Carol A	Long-Term Sub	\$5,990.00
Pilibosian, Carol A	Substitute Teacher	\$7,290.00
Pilla-Gallerani, Jill M	Director of Learner Support Services	\$125,000.00
Poirier, Tina M	Administrative Assistant	\$49,512.00
Poirier, Tina M	Longevity	\$1,300.00
Power, Melissa A	ABA Technician	\$24,677.52
Poznanski, Melissa A	Substitute Teacher	\$8,145.00
Racicot, Kevin L	Custodian	\$48,909.56
Ragno, Mary Katherine C	Behavior Analyst/BCBA	\$69,578.49
Rayos, Lora J	Administrative Assistant	\$18,259.95
Rayos, Lora J	Longevity	\$1,150.00

Recore, Colleen	Cafeteria Worker	\$11,562.77
Riedel, Jean L	Spanish Teacher	\$62,212.00
Rielly, Lily N	Paraprofessional	\$7,497.75
Rielly, Susan S	Guidance Counselor	\$84,682.69
Rielly, Susan S	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Roberge, Hillary J	English Teacher	\$72,132.11
Robertson, Christine R	High School Teacher	\$84,982.69
Robertson, Christine R	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Robinson, Katherine A	Paraprofessional	\$5,400.00
Robinson, Lynn A	Van Driver	\$56,996.59
Robinson, Lynn A	Longevity	\$550.00
Rockwell, Katrina A	Substitute Teacher	\$2,250.00
Rodrigues, Sara R	Social Worker	\$58,828.86
Roe, Ethan	High School Teacher	\$84,982.69
Roe, Isaac P	Substitute Teacher	\$1,170.00
Romanelli, Holly A	Behavior Analyst/BCBA	\$64,231.89
Romanelli, Holly A	Bus Monitor	\$217.40
Rose, Maureen	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$83,429.00
Rose, Maureen	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Rose-Falconer, Jennifer L	Permanent Sub	\$8,364.00
Rosenbaum, Katherine M	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$70,872.42
Rosenbaum, Katherine M	Longevity	\$1,700.00
Rosendale, Patrick C	Middle School Teacher	\$49,624.08
Ryan, Paula M	Music Teacher	\$82,264.58
Ryan, Paula M	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Sacco, Nicole L	High School Teacher	\$68,590.04
Salome, Linda A	Administrative Assistant	\$59,394.90
Salome, Linda A	Longevity	\$1,150.00
Santoro, Dorothy P	Substitute Nurse	\$2,880.00
Savage, Lauren L	Nurse JFK/AFM	\$50,749.40
Scoggins, Christine S	Cafeteria Worker	\$4,872.93
Scott, Lynne S	Math Teacher	\$83,171.42
Scott, Lynne S	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Shafer, Christina M	Principal	\$106,922.81
Shafer, Todd L	Music Teacher	\$83,171.42
Shafer, Todd L	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Shanahan, Kristine J	Guidance Counselor	\$71,502.54
Sharma, Dimple	High School Teacher	\$58,217.00
Simard, Monique F	Payroll Specialist	\$62,319.90
Simard, Monique F	Longevity	\$1,300.00
Smith, Ashley	Cafeteria Worker	\$10,823.25
Smith, Marie G	Library Paraprofessional	\$10,945.79
Smith-Lizotte, Shyanne B	JFK Elementary School Teacher	\$52,619.14
Solari, Jennifer A	FWH Middle School Teacher	\$83,171.42
Solari, Jennifer A	Longevity	\$3,700.00
Solomon, LeeAnn M	Van Driver	\$4,257.67
Spear, Jenna L	Special Education Teacher	\$46,532.64

St. Gelais, Andrew J	ABA Technician	\$23,633.34
Staples, Janet D	Cafeteria Worker	\$9,774.77
Stearman, Kathy L	Administrative Assistant	\$48,252.89
Stefanik, Karen M	Paraprofessional	\$24,076.80
Stefanik, Karen M	Longevity	\$550.00
Sullivan, Allison K	Occupational Therapist	\$66,537.13
Sullivan, Sean M	ELA Interventionist	\$46,532.64
Sullivan, Timothy J	High School Teacher	\$72,132.11
Swerdlow, Samantha M	Grade 2 Teacher	\$52,619.44
Sylvia, Jon P	ABA Technician	\$25,245.23
Sylvia, Jon P	Bus Monitor	\$7,609.00
Tasick, Lori A	Reading Teacher	\$83,429.00
Tasick, Lori A	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Tasker, Sara E	Library Paraprofessional	\$27,495.46
Tavares, Kaylee	English Teacher	\$52,619.14
Teixeira, Taylor M	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$74,605.00
Thompson, Karen P	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$82,254.59
Thompson, Karen P	Longevity	\$4,423.12
Toomey, Carrie E	ELL Specialist	\$70,355.55
Trottier, Lisa A	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$86,796.08
Trottier, Lisa A	Longevity	\$5,000.00
Trudeau, Kimberley N	Psychologist	\$68,391.88
Turgeon, Emily E	Special Education Team Chair	\$79,471.82
Turgeon, Emily E	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Turner, Brynna	Special Education Teacher	\$46,532.64
Vaughan, Maryalice	PTL Coach	\$68,589.93
Vazquez, Martha	Human Resource Specialist	\$58,349.50
Vierck, Logan	AFM Elementary School Teacher	\$46,532.64
Villandry, Kattryna M	Paraprofessional	\$22,093.05
Villandry, Kattryna M	Bus Monitor	\$1,239.18
Vondras, Abigail N	ABA Technician	\$21,552.96
Walker, Matthew B	Custodian	\$56,388.89
Walker, Matthew B	Longevity	\$550.00
Wassung, Lindsey I	Millville Elementary School Teacher	\$46,532.64
Watson, Paris-Kyle G	Paraprofessional	\$9,087.00
Whitney, Jessica L	Cafeteria Substitute	\$1,143.75
Wiegers, Sue A	Nurse MS	\$79,471.82
Wiegers, Sue A	Longevity	\$2,000.00
Wilson, Shana	English Teacher	\$49,624.08
Winn, Jacqueline	Sped Teacher - FWH	\$68,590.04
Wolfgang, Lea D	Cafeteria Manager	\$25,551.96
Wolfgang, Lea D	Longevity	\$900.00
Wolford, Julianne C	Administrative Assistant	\$50,237.52
Wolford, Julianne C	Longevity	\$550.00
Wolford, Torianne M	Bus Monitor	\$7,261.16
Yoder, Samuel D	High School Teacher	\$54,486.96
Yoder, Samuel D	Athletic Director	\$5,351.28

Young, Karen M	Nurse HS	\$78,998.55
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Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District
Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, Condensed
(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Thanks to our community, during the Fiscal Year 2023 (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*), our students received an outstanding vocational-technical education.

Always mindful of your investment in your regional vocational-technical school system, we carry out our mission with care and consideration of cost. We enhance our vocational, academic, and community offerings with grants that strengthen our ability to serve our students and the greater community.

While there is no single recipe for success at BVT, passion is one essential ingredient that ignites our school community and creates a happy, healthy, and positive learning environment for our students and staff. Therefore, our 2023 Annual Report titled *Recipe for Success* takes a look at our operations and accomplishments over the last year, which include:

- An Alumni Profile: *Recipe for Success*
- New Equipment, New Opportunities
- Career & Life Ready
- And much more...



Demonstrating what is achievable with their high-quality education, our students and alums are our best ambassadors for vocational-technical education. They shape our future workforce with an open mind and skilled hands.

I encourage you to read our 2023 Annual Report, which includes a profile of Sarah Arnold, a 2018 graduate of our Culinary Arts program. Discover how this graduate found her true calling and channeled her creativity into a passion for cakes, leading to incredible new connections and sweet experiences. This and so much more is in the annual report.

Kindly note that we provide this condensed report at the request of municipal authorities. Please visit our school website at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/annualreport or contact my office at (508) 529-7758 x3037 to obtain the full-length version.

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick
Superintendent-Director

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District
Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report
(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Message from our Superintendent Director:

Thanks to your continued support, our students received an exceptional education during FY23. Always mindful of your investment in your regional vocational-technical school system, we carry out our mission with care and consideration to cost. We enhance our vocational, academic, and community offerings with grants that strengthen our ability to serve our students and the greater community.

With a \$225,000 FY22 MA Skills Capital Grant received in FY22, our highly-popular Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC&R) shop received numerous equipment upgrades that our students enjoyed in FY23. Building partnerships with MiltonCAT, PulteGroup, and others led to learning opportunities for our skilled students. We embraced the arts and culture within our community with our Drama Club's production of "Murder's in the Heir," our Multicultural Festival, Paint Night: Kindness Matters event, and Spring Art Show. And we secured nearly \$3 million in grants that support your regional vocational-technical school.

We are proud to see our students balance athletics and extra-curricular activities, excel on MCAS exams, and earn certifications. Taking part in our Co-op program, they further their vocational-technical training alongside industry experts and gain hands-on experience to help launch their careers. While there is no single recipe for success at BVT, passion is one essential ingredient that ignites our school community and creates a happy, healthy, and positive learning environment for our students and staff.

We invite you to turn the page to discover how pastry artist Sarah Arnold found her true calling in our Culinary Arts program; and channeled her creativity into a passion for cakes that look beautiful and taste amazing by sharing photos, stories, and videos of her creations with friends and followers on Instagram, which led to incredible new connections and sweet experiences.

At BVT, we take pride in the passion and accomplishments of our students. We share their success as evidence of a positive return on your investment.



Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick
Superintendent-Director

Alumni Profile: Sarah Arnold (*Culinary Arts, Class of 2018*)

Recipe for Success

If you flip open the 2018 yearbook, you will find this quote under Sarah Arnold's name, "Dessert makes everything better." It's a motto she takes to heart. Pastry artist Sarah Arnold (*Culinary Arts, Class of 2018*) designs exquisite custom wedding cakes that look beautiful and taste amazing. Learn how Sarah found her true calling in our Culinary Arts program; and channeled her creativity into a passion for cakes by sharing photos, stories, and videos of her creations with friends and followers on Instagram, which has led to incredible new connections and sweet experiences.

"I always knew I wanted a creative career, but I needed to figure out what to pursue."

My mother is an artist, and I've always loved drawing and painting. I loved the idea of going to school for cosmetology, so I decided to apply to BVT," said Sarah. "Little did I know that the kitchen would intrigue me more after the exploratory process, making the Culinary Arts program my first choice."

Sarah participated in extracurricular activities earning many accolades in the SkillsUSA Commercial Baking competition. As a junior, she won the gold medal at the district and state levels and placed 7th at nationals. As a senior, she won a gold medal at the district and state levels and a silver medal at nationals.

While in our Culinary Arts program, Sarah worked in the kitchen, dining room, and bake shop. She had a well-balanced understanding of the fundamentals. However, in the pastry industry, so much skill goes into the tempering of chocolate, the lamination of viennoiserie doughs, and the intricate temperatures for poured, pulled, and blown sugar. These techniques and training are part of the Johnson & Wales University (JWU) Baking & Pastry Arts program. She said, "While I could have easily worked at a bakery or restaurant after BVT, I wanted to work at a high-end resort or boutique wedding cake shop, so I knew JWU was my next step."

"After high school, I wanted to become a highly skilled pastry artist, designing wedding cakes like Ron Ben-Israel," said Sarah. "So, I decided to attend JWU to further the foundational skills I had learned at BVT and master more advanced wedding cake design and gum-paste floral arrangements techniques to help elevate my work."

"BVT helped shape my career path and taught me the essential skills that gave me an advantage over my classmates," said Sarah. "In JWU's introductory classes that taught baking principles, knife cuts, and different cooking methods, I found the classes easier, so the chef gave me a few side projects. While the other students practiced julienne knife cuts, I learned how to pipe chocolate filigrees. BVT set me up for success, teaching me to be productive and efficient in my work."

Sarah graduated (*summa cum laude*) from JWU in December 2021 with a Bachelor's degree in Baking & Pastry Arts.

Lights, Camera, Action!

During an internship at a specialty cake shop, Sarah received a phone call from a casting associate who had seen her Instagram account and loved it. They invited her to apply for the Food Network's *Holiday Wars*, a pastry competition hosted by Jeff Mauro with judges Aarti Sequeira and Shinmin Li. They oversee groups of ho-ho-holiday baking enthusiasts who face off for a chance at the very merry prize of \$25,000! Sarah had several rounds of interviews before

the producers welcomed her as a contestant.

"I grew up watching the Food Network but never imagined I would one day be on it," said Sarah. "It was such a whirlwind. I was unaware of how much preparation goes into an episode. I was allowed to pack one suitcase and had to decide which sugar tools to bring. Could I take a blowtorch on a flight? What specialty molds, spatulas, and bowls would be on set? Fortunately, a culinary team ensured their giant pantry was stocked with everything we needed."

Sarah flew to Park City, Utah, to film at their production studio for Episode 3: Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. In this final qualifying round, three teams battle it out with a down-on-the-farm theme with Thanksgiving-inspired creations. Sarah, on Team Red Velvet Vixens, alongside teammates Michelle Scurio, owner of Cake Monstah in Boston, and Sharon White, a bakery owner in Maryland, competed against the best cake and sugar artists from across the country.

"Filming an episode was a twelve-plus hour day," said Sarah. "The actual competition was a complete adrenaline rush. I'm used to an extended schedule due to my training and the SkillsUSA competitions. I used to be painfully shy. I opened up at BVT and became more comfortable having the chefs, other students, and, eventually, SkillsUSA judges watch me work. I appreciate how those experiences prepared me for this on-camera pastry competition. Our producer requested that we speak directly to them when prompted to describe our work and ignore the camera. I was already comfortable sharing what I was doing and why because I learned and practiced the skill at BVT."

"Teamwork was a big challenge, especially when working with different personalities. The experience was like asking three artists to work together on a painting. Creatively, there are bound to be different ideas, designs, and approaches," said Sarah. "Communication is crucial in knowing what components others plan to make so you can create your pieces to the proper scale and color. One person may think something is too easy, while another might think it's complicated. Someone has to be willing to adapt."

"The competition was challenging due to the higher elevation of Utah," said Sarah. "The higher the altitude, the lower the air pressure. So temperatures or bake times had to be altered to come out correctly. I had to adapt and lower the temperature when working on my sugar art components."

Sugar art uses different techniques to manipulate sugar into confectionery sculptures, like flowers and animals, which are decorative and edible. "My favorite part of our piece was the sugar mice made out of blown sugar," said Sarah. "It was a fun challenge making whimsical and playful mice. In the episode, I used thin strips of sugar pulled fast to form pointed noses with tapered ends, curly, irregularly shaped tails, and delicate, fragile whiskers. It was a fun TV moment showing what you can do with sugar."

"I was blown away by the amount of talent on set. I had been following some of the contestants on Instagram and couldn't believe I was meeting them in person. Chris Teixeira, a contestant on another team, was the chef who ran the national commercial baking competition for SkillsUSA when I competed in 2018. I couldn't believe I was competing against him," said Sarah. "Still, it was a great confidence booster that the network recognized my talent and selected me to compete with all these other industry professionals."

"I learned so much about collaborating and navigating disagreements," said Sarah. "I'm proud of what we accomplished. I pushed myself far out of my comfort zone, but I'm happy I did. I'm

confident in my abilities and ready for the next challenge!"

Dessert Makes Everything Better!

"My favorite thing to make is cakes. It's a blank canvas. I enjoy the possibilities that come with cake decorating, said Sarah. "I also enjoy sculpting with chocolate and sugar because it allows for more artistic ability and design."

Sarah is an Assistant Pastry Chef at Wequassett Resort & Golf Club in Harwich, MA, where she handles all specialty cake orders for the five-star resort. She has created a wedding cake program offering impressive show-stopping cakes. "My education, training, and work experience have prepared me for this new role. I enjoy the precision and skill in creating high-end pieces and producing an incredible experience for our guests."

"Someday, I want to have my own business and put my name behind my work. I would love to have a pastry shop that produces the highest quality cakes, cookies, chocolates, and pastries for the public," said Sarah. "But, for now, I love my job at the resort, and the management experience I'm getting is invaluable."

If there's a simple recipe for success, Sarah would say, "work toward your goals, do what truly brings you joy, and practice, practice, practice!" She would also point out that her work five years ago looks nothing like it does today. "Don't be discouraged if you think you're not good at something. It just means you need to practice more," said Sarah. "Follow those who inspire you on Instagram and see what they're creating. Get inspired! And use that excitement to fuel your creativity."

Visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/alumnispotlights to see how other alums benefit from BVT's career and life-ready education.

New Equipment, New Opportunities

Our highly-popular Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC&R) shop received an impressive renovation. A \$225,000 FY22 Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant allowed the District to keep pace with technological advancements by acquiring new equipment.

The District acquired and installed industry-grade equipment like air purification systems, boilers, furnaces, building automation workstations, and line sets. The numerous upgrades increased the vocational-technical training for our day students and adult learners. In FY23, we expanded our Moonlight Programs, offering a new Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration course to help increase the number of skilled workers entering the trades.

The shop renovation occurred over the 2022 summer break with the help of students, staff, retirees, and the Facilities department, which manages numerous preventative maintenance projects. It was an impressive undertaking:

- All furniture and equipment were removed.
- Shop ceiling, walls, and trim were cleaned and painted.
- Interior and exterior shop doors were replaced.
- Installation included a new epoxy floor, LED lighting, moveable wood workstations, a sink, student lockers, a heating/AC unit, and standard safety signage.

In-house resources were used to clean, paint, and install equipment and workstations. Vocational instructors helped with plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and painting projects. Additionally, HVAC&R Instructor Matthew LaJoie, had students Travis Cook and Robert Poirier work in the shop over the summer, as did Painting & Design Instructor Tim Buono, who worked with students Maddison Moore and Emma Fiore.

The District will make nearly a half-million dollars of enhancements parlaying the grant from the state with a \$200,000 match from its certified excess and deficiency fund with the added value of student project designers and laborers to renovate without financially impacting local tax dollars or municipal assessment requests.

If you're ready to take that next step toward a new and exciting career, one of our adult [Moonlight Programs](#) might be for you.

Hands-On Skills

"It is nice to work on clean, new equipment," said Victoria Russo of Milford. "But the reality is, we will not only be working on and installing brand-new systems. So having access to the older equipment for training and knowing how it works is helpful as we will encounter them when working in the field."

Victoria recently attended the Massachusetts Girls in Trades Conference and Career Fair. She said, "It was an excellent opportunity to meet other strong women with insight into the benefits of the trade union. I want to continue to advance my vocational training."

In the meantime, as a skilled young woman, Victoria recognizes that she is in a unique position to inspire other young women to pursue their passion and find their confidence in the skilled trades. How amazing is that?!?!

Celebrating Our Seniors

Spring can be a bittersweet time for our seniors as they prepare to graduate and complete their high school careers. The Class of 2023 appreciated every last moment they had together leading up to commencement. See how we celebrated our seniors and their accomplishments:

Senior Class Day

This ceremony included Academic and Vocational Awards, Attendance Awards, Yearbook Dedication, Class Officer, and Commendation recognition for the Class of 2023.

Full Steam Ahead!

Our Cooperative Education Program (Co-op) held its 3rd annual Career Signing Day on May 12th. The ceremony celebrated our senior Co-op and career placement students who announced their career plans and signed a commitment letter to work with their employer after graduation. They've proven to their employers that they're ready to go, full steam ahead, directly from high school into high-skill, high-wage employment.

www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/careersigningday2023

Class of 2023 Scholarship Night

The generous donation of scholarships and awards makes a difference in the lives of our graduates. At Scholarship Night on May 23rd, we thanked our donors for their generosity and continued partnership in support of our future graduates, and we distributed Community, Memorial, and Military awards. Check out the awarded scholarships that will help propel our graduates toward a bright future: www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/scholarshiprecipients2023.

Marking a Milestone

We celebrated our graduates and said farewell as they left for their next great adventure. The Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony was held at The Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Worcester on May 25th. To view the ceremony, visit:

www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/classof2023.

"Few know the obstacles you have overcome to be where you are today. You, the Class of 2023, are part of our legacy and forever a part of our collective voyage. As you set your sights on your future goals, do not give up on your dreams, because real magic happens when you take a leap of faith and believe in yourself. We look forward to celebrating your continued success. Congratulations!"

- Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director

Career & Life Ready!

College is a continuation of learning. Many of our students simultaneously pursue a post-secondary education while working in their vocations.

Class of 2023 - 294 Graduates:

Workforce/Apprenticeship Program: 15.65% (46 students)
4 Year College/Tech College: 73.47% (216 students)
2 Year College/Certificate Program: 5.10% (15 students)
Military: 2.04% (6 students)
Gap or Service Year: 3.74% (11 students)

Class of 2022 - 297 Graduates:

Workforce/Apprenticeship Program: 20.20% (60 students)
4 Year College/Tech College: 70.37% (209 students)
2 Year College/Certificate Program: 6.73% (20 students)
Military: 0% (0 students)
Gap or Service Year: 2.69% (8 students)

Class of 2021- 300 Graduates:

Workforce/Apprenticeship Program: 13.33% (40 students)
4 Year College/Tech College: 72.67% (218 students)
2 Year College/Certificate Program: 9.67% (29 students)
Military: 1.67% (5 students)
Gap or Service Year: 2.67% (8 students)

Off to work they go, building credentials, pursuing industry licenses, certifications, and degrees.

Air Force, Assumption University, Army National Guard, Barrows Contracting Inc., Bryant University, Centerline Mechanical LLC, Concord Electrical Supply, Clark University, Dean College, Dileo Gas Inc., Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach, Emmanuel College, Frank I. Rounds Company, G&C Plumbing & Heating, Georgia Institute of Technology, Grieco Electric, Griffin Electric Inc., Grillo Plumbing, JB Sawmill, JJ Mechanical Services, Johnson & Wales University, Jordao's Design & Construction, Louisiana State University, Marine Corps, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Medway Oil and Propane, Inc., MiltonCAT, Navy, New England Institute of Technology, New York University, Nichols College, Nicolopoulos Plumbing and Heating, Northeastern University, Primetals Technologies, Quinnipiac University, Quinsigamond Community College, R Harris Plumbing and Heating, Renaud Electric, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Roger Williams University, Spa Tech Institute, Suffolk University, TJ's Plumbing & Heating, United States Postal Service, University of Massachusetts-Amherst-Boston-Dartmouth-Lowell, University of New England, University of the Arts London, Vanderzicht Towing, Victory HVAC, Wayne J. Griffin Electric Inc., Wentworth Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester State University, and Worldband.

FY23: An Amazing Year of Achievements

Our students continually demonstrate mastery of rigorous academic studies and industry-validated vocational-technical competencies.

Members of the Class of 2023 earned more than 320 scholarships and awards with a collective renewable value nearly exceeding \$7 million.

PSAT/NMST

A total of 268 juniors and sophomores participated in the fall PSAT/NMSQT and early spring PSAT-10 test administrations during the 2022-23 school year. The tests designed by the College Board are an early indicator of potential student success on the SATs and in the Advanced Placement program.

AP Course Exams

In May 2023, all Advanced Placement students took their AP College Board Exams in person. These traditional and difficult exams are designed for students to earn college credit for an AP class. Spring 2023, 373 AP course exams were given to 345 students in English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, U.S. History, Biology, Chemistry, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Human Geography, Psychology, Physics 1, Physics C: Mechanics, and Spanish Language & Culture. Our English Literature & Composition students also participated in the College Board's pilot study by taking their exams online.

MCAS: The Results Are In!

For the past 24 years, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams have played a role in determining a student's readiness for career and college. Students are required to achieve a Competency Determination on these exams. It's a graduation requirement.

Positive Outcomes ...

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released the 2022 MCAS results on September 29, 2022, providing the state with its second overview of statewide learning since the start of the pandemic. The latest results were "mixed," said DESE, and state education officials said the learning loss due to the pandemic and its shift towards remote schooling for more than two years was still showing up in standardized test results.

However, as educators across the state reviewed their results, some districts, including ours, have shown improvement. The data reflected the scores of the Class of 2024, who took the MCAS exam as sophomores. It is worth noting that this class began their BVT careers remotely during the pandemic and, due to an altered testing schedule, had not taken an MCAS since the 7th grade.

The results were impressive despite the pandemic-related challenges. 79% of students in English Language Arts were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. In Mathematics, 75% of students were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. In Science (Biology and Physics combined), 72% of students were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. All were well above the reported state averages.

After examining the MCAS data and reflecting on the results, it was apparent to Mr. Evans that the positive outcomes were no accident. Instead, he credits the improvements to hard-working students and dedicated teachers. "We strive to do everything possible to keep our kids engaged and focused on learning. This was especially true during the pandemic," said Mr. Evans. "We put in the effort and worked with an all-hands-on-deck approach to make school happen, no matter what that looked like. We were quick to adapt to an unorthodox model during the pandemic because we have an unorthodox model operating within a longer school year."

BVT is proud to have an enviable history of high student growth and achievement well above the state averages.

Partnerships: A Win-Win!

With the recent shortage of people entering the construction industry, combined with the hiring challenges all companies are facing, building a professional association that can be mutually beneficial is a win-win. Partnerships can foster innovation, communication, and connection.

We are proud to have partnered with Milton CAT and its sister companies, SITECH Northeast,

Milton Rents, and Tri-Point Construction Layout, which offers valuable industry insight through guest speakers, on-site demonstrations, mentorships, and co-op opportunities.

"Through our partnership with BVT, we are supporting our industry's future. An industry on which our country's infrastructure depends," Mark Biron, Milton CAT's Vice President of Service, explained. "We hope to help set the students up for success in their trade and show them, through first-hand experiences, how rewarding their careers can be."

With their headquarters in Milford, MA, Milton CAT offers accessible co-op opportunities. Recently, two of our students worked in their service and parts departments. They helped rebuild machine components such as hammer attachments and hydraulic cylinders in service. Where as in parts, the students experienced the entire parts lifecycle, from maintaining inventory integrity to fulfilling customer orders.

"The partnership with Milton CAT has created new learning opportunities for our skilled students to delve deeper into their career options," said Superintendent-Director Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "While there are many paths to success, we are proud to see our students further their vocational-technical training alongside industry experts and gain experience that will help launch their careers."

This relationship has the potential to set a new threshold for cost-effective community collaboration with more on-campus events that support our students in their career pursuits. It's nice to have Milton CAT by our side, offering our students numerous career opportunities as they prepare to enter the workforce.

Generous Donation Supports Career Education

We are honored to have a partner like the PulteGroup, who is supporting vocational-technical education.

PulteGroup, Inc., one of America's largest homebuilders, has announced its New England division recently contributed \$10,000 to the Blackstone Valley Tech Educational Foundation, Inc. The donation will enhance our students' learning experiences in our Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication, Construction Technology, Electrical, HVAC&R, and Plumbing programs.

"Giving back to the communities we serve is an important part of our culture at PulteGroup," said Brian Lupien, vice president of operations for PulteGroup's New England division. "At BVT, incredible work happens every day to prepare tomorrow's leaders for the many family-sustaining career possibilities in the homebuilding trades. We are proud to do our part to support their efforts and help more students get a head start on their future."

"On behalf of our school community, I want to thank PulteGroup for their generous donation," said Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director. "Thanks to partners like PulteGroup, we can provide our students with the highest quality vocational-technical education central to the careers of today and tomorrow."

Activities & Clubs

Our Students Shine at SkillsUSA

The annual SkillsUSA competition series is a showcase for vocational technical education where students test their competency by competing with each other in hands-on technical exams designed and judged by industry leaders and experts. In 2023, our students proved their technical skills are among the best in the country by earning 173 medals at the district, state,

and national levels.

Massachusetts District V Conference: 37 Gold, 37 Silver, 30 Bronze

Massachusetts State Leadership & Skills Conference: 25 Gold, 19 Silver, 18 Bronze

National Leadership & Skills Conference: 1 Gold, 3 Silver, 3 Bronze

1 GOLD

- Caitlin Brown, Health Occupations Professional Portfolio

3 SILVER

- Riley Driver, Industrial Motor Control
- Daniel Cardone, Web Design
- Natalia Vazquez, Web Design

3 BRONZE

- Lucien Stenehjem, Robotics & Automation Technology
- Jacob Giancola, Robotics & Automation Technology
- Emily Wildfeuer, Architectural Drafting

5th PLACE

- Naomi Tsuda, Commercial Baking
- Grant Purcell, Grace Mathieu, and Ava Mills: Career Pathways Showcase/Industry & Engineering

7th PLACE

- Skyler Robinson, Restaurant Service
- Carolyn Powers, Collision Damage Appraisal

NATIONAL VOTING DELEGATES

- Kallie Allen of Hopedale, Ella Foster of Hopedale, and Allison Garden of Millbury

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN

- Hunter Claflin of Douglas

STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE ELECT

- Kallie Allen of Hopedale

All contestants who medaled or met a threshold contest score were awarded a Skill Point Certificate.

Drama Club Presents Murder's in the Heir

Many were intrigued, hungry, and joined us for our Drama Club's production of "Murder's in the Heir" on May 4th and 5th.

This interactive dinner mystery theatre by American playwright, Billy St. John is where you, the

audience, must follow the clues to determine who did it. Each of the heirs to the tyrannical billionaire is a suspect, and almost every character in this hilarious mystery has the motive, means, and opportunity to commit the unseen crime.

Drama advisors Chelsea Swan and Alicia Winske directed the show, which featured many vocational department contributions. Culinary Arts students prepared and catered a delicious dinner for guests to enjoy while taking in the production's impressive set made by our Construction Technology students. Multimedia Communications created tickets and advertising materials, and many of the props were sourced from those shops and with the help of Health Services and Automotive Technology.

5 Years in a Row!

For their exemplary record of leadership, service, and activities that assist the school and community, our Student Council has once again been recognized as a 2023 National Gold Council of Excellence by the National Student Council. It is the fifth consecutive year our Student Council has earned this top award.

To meet the National Council of Excellence Award requirements, a student council must meet various criteria, such as crafting a written constitution, conducting regular meetings, and adopting a democratic election process. Additionally, demonstrate successful sponsorship and participation in leadership development and activities that serve its school and community.

It has been an exceptional year for the Council: named a Gold Council by the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC), and Megan Potenti, earning the 2023 Henry Sullivan MASC Advisor of the Year Award.

Accolades & Awards: Celebrating Excellence

The accomplishments of our students and staff included numerous awards and recognitions in FY23.

The FIRST Impact Award

Our Robotics Team, Team 61, The Intimidators, competed against the top robotics teams across New England and won the FIRST Impact Award (formerly the Chairman's Award). It is the most

prestigious award at FIRST, it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the mission of FIRST. It was created to keep the central focus of FIRST Robotics Competition on the ultimate goal of transforming the culture in ways that will inspire greater levels of respect and honor for science and technology, as well as encouraging more of today's youth to become science and technology leaders.

Project Lead the Way Distinguished School

The nationally recognized nonprofit organization Project Lead the Way (PLTW) has named BVT a 2022-23 PLTW Distinguished School. It is the sixth consecutive year that we have earned this national recognition.

MAVA/MVA Outstanding Vocational Student of the Year

Each year, this award is presented by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA) to one student from each vocational-technical high school in Massachusetts. The award recognizes students who have made significant contributions to their local school district and the statewide vocational education system. Recipients must have excellent attendance, a minimum of a 3.5 GPA, and vocational-related work experience. In addition, the students must demonstrate leadership qualities, technical competence, involvement in the community, and extracurricular activities. Katelyn Steele of Upton, a well-rounded and dedicated senior in our Engineering & Robotics program, earned the 2023 MAVA/MVA Outstanding Vocational Student of the Year award.

BVT Earns NEASC Accreditation!

A globally recognized standard of excellence, NEASC Accreditation attests to a school's high quality and integrity. The Committee on Technical and Career Institutions, at its June 25, 2023 meeting, reviewed the Decennial Accreditation report from the March 21-24, 2023 visit to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and voted to award the school continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools & Colleges.

Community Investments

Our students participate in community projects each year, which provide a tangible return on investment for District residents and provide our students with invaluable hands-on, real-world experience. Whether it's reconstructing a playground, creating a sign for your business, or remodeling a public building or local landmark, we believe in giving back by using our vocational training and skills to enhance the communities that support our students. BVT's work on capital improvement projects throughout our 13-town District is a welcome source of financial relief for local budgets by utilizing in-house talent and resources. We're proud to provide additional savings to District residents by welcoming our stakeholders to enjoy discounted services in our student-run restaurant, salon, and design and print center. A few examples of the FY23 community projects include:

Lions Club Dropbox

The eyeglass collection box for the Lions Club was a multi-shop project involving skilled students in our Drafting & Design Technology, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication, Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing, and Painting & Design Technology working together to complete this project. Matthew Mooney of Douglas, a senior in Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing, used body filler and sanding techniques to repair dents, ensuring a smooth surface was prepared before a paint was applied to the metal box.

A Café with a Whole Lotta 'Soul'!

When the Soul Fuel Community Cafe in the United Parish of Upton, located on the Town Common, needed a sign, our students were proud to respond. The cafe is a great spot to gather with friends for a coffee, work remotely with free Wi-Fi, read a book, or practice an act of kindness by purchasing a \$2.50 coin for someone else without cash to buy a coffee. All proceeds support the ministries and missions of the parish, including the food pantry, early learning center, community Supper, and much more. The Church appreciated the detailed custom sign work our skilled students put into producing the sign. So the next time you're in Upton, drop by for a meaningful cup of java.

Eagle Scout Project

Our Painting & Design Technology students helped Nicholas Coppolino (Troop #1 Blackstone) complete his Eagle Scout project. The students applied a patriotic vinyl wrap to a collection box. The box is intended to collect worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled American flags. When a flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed, in a dignified way, preferably by burning. The flags collected in this box will be properly disposed of in a flag retirement ceremony.

A Badge of Honor

A team of our Multimedia Communications students worked on a logo redesign project for the Municipal Police Institute (MPI). Based in Grafton, MA, this non-profit organization provides cutting-edge training for Massachusetts law enforcement officers. Ultimately, the team at MPI chose the design created by Avery Herrick, a junior from Uxbridge. After a few iterations, the logo was ready. Avery also put the logo on t-shirt renderings to give MPI a more accurate idea of how it would look when used on clothing.

"We really love this design and have decided to use it as our new logo. I am grateful to you and the team for your work on this graphic design project."

- David OLaughlin, MPI Director of Training

Return on Investment

Maximizing Our Budget, Reducing Costs & Enhancing Education

As a regional school district, we take many steps to create a mindful and sustainable operational budget that compliments local assessments. Our proposed annual budget for the fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) was advanced and unanimously approved by its 13-member town district. With the assistance of gifts, grants, private funding, and a minor increase in state aid, the District kept the budget to a 4.9% increase. Also, to help offset the state-mandated escalation of our member town's minimum contributions (4.6% in FY23), the District applied \$225,000 of its available reserve funds to reduce the assessment impact on its municipal partners.

Our Excess & Deficiency (E&D) Funds are generated by maximizing federal, state, and local grant opportunities and donations through individual and business partnerships. The District realized cost savings through investments in utility efficiencies, identifying and securing rebates, sound purchasing practices, and providing technical services via on-campus trade specialists and students. Our Facilities Department, vocational instructors, and students in HVAC&R and Construction Technology programs often collaborate and use their training and skill to maintain our facility during the school year. These identified sources provide savings that directly contribute to E&D and reflect our commitment to fiscal austerity.

The FY23 operating budget of \$27,690,140 was funded primarily by \$9,877,063 in Chapter 70 & 71 State Aid and \$17,228,077 in Total Member Assessments. BVT is a fiscally responsible partner in seeing our District towns through fiscal management, austerity, and planning by presenting a consolidated annual request to operate within the dollars requested regardless of any unforeseen variables within anticipated revenue streams.

Quote for sidebar:

"The Skills Capital Grant Program awards grants for the purchase and installation of equipment to support vocational and technical training. These equipment upgrades aim to expand career technical education and training programs that are aligned to regional economic and workforce development priorities for in-demand industries, providing students training for career opportunities in high-skill, high-demand industry sectors."

- James Poplasky, Skills Capital Grant Manager for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education.

Budgeted Revenue Required to Support Operational Expenditures

Revenue Category	FY2021	% Increase	FY2022	%Increase	FY2023	% Increase
Member Town Assessments						
Minimum Contribution	\$12,576,061	5.59%	\$13,031,695	3.62%	\$13,631,634	4.60 %
Non Net School Spending Items*	\$1,676,735		\$1,698,994		\$2,020,867	
Member Credits/Charges**	\$1,045,617		\$1,278,241		\$1,167,276	
Debt Service	\$446,550		\$429,850		\$408,300	
Total Member Assessments	\$15,744,963	5.23%	\$16,438,780	4.41%	\$17,228,077	4.80%

State Aid						
Chapter 70 – Regional Aid	\$8,211,324		\$8,228,565		\$8,564,738	
Transportation Reimbursement	\$1,204,663		\$1,271,357		\$1,312,325	
Total State Aid	\$9,415,987	1.73%	\$9,499,922	0.89%	\$9,877,063	3.97%

Other Revenue Sources						
Miscellaneous Income	\$217,000		\$233,000		\$360,000	
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$225,000		\$225,000		\$225,000	
Total Other Revenue	\$442,000	4.25%	\$458,000	3.62%	\$585,000	27.73%

Grand Totals	\$25,602,950	3.90%	\$26,396,702	3.10%	\$27,690,140	4.90%
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*Non NSS Items Include: Transportation (over state aid), Capital Equipment, and Retiree Medical.

**Additional assessments constitute contributions over and above the Massachusetts Department of Revenue established absolute minimum obligation (AMO) levels. The Commonwealth has acknowledged the AMO does not include all costs nor address actual inflationary expenses. Additional assessments are calculated under equalized per-student charges for all member communities.

Complementing Community Support

As part of our mission to transform education, we complement community support by seeking non-taxpayer resources and aggressively pursuing available public and private grants or donations to enhance learning and support programs and services for our students. In FY23, local assessments were complemented by nearly \$3 million in grants, private-sector support, and efficiencies.

We're proud to enhance our academic, vocational, and community offerings with grants that strengthen our ability to serve our students and the greater community. Thanks to the MA Skills Capital Grant program, BVT has received over \$4 million in grants from the Baker-Polito and the Healey-Driscoll Administrations. The District has historically used grants to complete numerous enhancements and upgrades without financially impacting our sending towns.

In FY23, the MA Skills Capital Grant program awarded BVT a \$1.25 million grant for new industry-grade equipment in our Construction Technology, Electrical, Electronics & Engineering Technology programs and a \$150,000 grant for equipment in our Health Services and Dental Assisting program. The new equipment will allow for enhanced training.

"Finding skilled talent for in-demand roles is among the greatest challenges impacting Massachusetts' economy. We need to harness the full potential of our community colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs and untapped talent to train the next generation of workers who will drive our economy, and we need to make sure those workers' rights are protected each step of the way."

- Lauren Jones to be Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

In addition to grants, \$133,523 in generous donations from business and industry partners were secured. For example, a \$60,000 donation from Milton CAT will allow the District to purchase a heavy equipment simulator for our Construction Pathways. Our students can access advanced, in-depth scenarios necessary to enhance training and assist in the Hoisting Engineer licensure exam preparation. A \$10,000 donation from PulteGroup, Inc., will enhance student learning in our Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication, Construction Technology, Electrical, HVAC&R, and Plumbing programs. Our student transportation vans, used for community projects and educational field trips, are maintained with the support of several local banks.

Thanks to these competitive grants, learning opportunities were made possible by:

- Bayer Fund supported the entry fees for our robotics team to participate in the FIRST® Robotics competitions, enhancing their skills in science and engineering.
- Blackstone Valley Education Foundation funded 3D Printers and graphing calculators used by our Engineering & Robotics students.
- Member Town Cultural Councils supported our Multicultural Festival and Paint Night: Kindness Matters event.

FY23 Grants

Grants	Amount
Competitive Grants	
Anonymous Donor (Machining, Welding, Plumbing Equip.)	\$400,000
Fuel Up to Play 60 (Picnic Tables & VITA Fitness Equip.)	\$4,000
Bayer Fund (FIRST Robotics Team 61 Competition Entry Fees)	\$3,000
Member Town Cultural Councils (Multicultural Festival)	\$3,000
MA Cultural Council (Multicultural Festival & Paint Night)	\$2,500
BVEF (Engineering - 3D Printer)	\$2,000
MA Dental Society Foundation (Project SMILE - Oral Hygiene Kits)	\$2,000
Member Town Cultural Councils (Paint Night)	\$1,400
BVEF (Engineering - Graphing Calculators)	\$1,000
Competitive Grants Subtotal	\$418,900

State Entitlement Grants	
MA Skills Capital Grant (Construction, Electrical, Electronics - Equip.)	\$1,250,000
Dept. of Public Health (School Based Health Center/Milford Reg. Medical Center)	\$150,000
MA Skills Capital Grant (Health Services, Dental Assisting - Equip.)	\$150,000
MA Life Sciences Center (Biotech Cell Culture Equip./Professional Develop.)	\$73,268
Career Tech Ed. Perkins Program Improvement (Engineering - Equip.)	\$39,610
Career Tech Ed. Equitable Access (Students w/Disabilities & EL Recruitment)	\$21,200
MA State Funded Legislative Special Support (Student Wellness Center Equip.)	\$20,000
Career Tech Ed. Programs - Perkins Reserve (PN Program)	\$11,895
Grade 10 Math Accel. Academy, Summer 2022 (Fed. COVID Relief Prog. - ESSER)	\$11,250
State Entitlement Grants Subtotal	\$1,727,223

Federal Entitlement Grants	
Special Education 94-142 (IDEA)	\$335,577
Perkins	\$182,623
Title I	\$43,029
Title IIA	\$17,225
Title IV	\$10,000
Perkins Post-Secondary (PN Program)	\$4,138
Federal Entitlement Grants Subtotal	\$592,592

FY23 Grand Total	\$2,738,715
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Note: The District also secured substantial donations in the form of cash, tools, raw materials, and technology.

Our School Committee

Our School Committee is comprised of 13 dedicated individuals, elected district-wide, with representation from each of our member towns. With many years of experience in fields ranging from business and industry to law and education, they provide invaluable expertise in overseeing operations and setting District policy.

Chair: Joseph M. Hall, Bellingham

Vice Chair: Gerald M. Finn, Millville

Assistant Treasurer: Chester P. Hanratty, Jr., Millbury

Secretary: Anthony M. Yitts, Grafton

Joseph A. Broderick, Blackstone

Mark J. Potter, Douglas

Mitchell A. Intinarelli, Hopedale

Edward D. Cray, III, Mendon

Paul J. Braza, Milford

Jeff T. Koopman, Northbridge

Julie H. Mitchell, Sutton*

David R. Bartlett, Upton*

James H. Ebbeling, Uxbridge

Superintendent-Director: Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal: Anthony E. Steele, II

Business Manager: Lorna M. Mangano

District Treasurer: Christopher C. Pilla

Recognition of Retirement & Welcoming New Members*

With sincere appreciation, we thank Mr. David R. Bartlett and Mrs. Julie H. Mitchell for their years of service and dedication as District School Committee members. We offer warm wishes and congratulations as they conclude their term of office. On January 19, 2023, the School Committee appointed and welcomed two new members: James M. Mitchell, Sutton, and Tyler D. Bartlett, Upton.

Thank You for Your Support

The success of our mission wouldn't be possible without the ongoing support of the residents and business partners of our District. Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, based in Upton, Massachusetts, proudly serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge.

Thanks to support from District towns, advisory committees, business partners, and local stakeholders, Blackstone Valley Tech offers expert training in the following vocational programs:

- Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication
- Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing
- Automotive Technology
- Biotechnology
- Construction Technology
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Assisting
- Drafting & Design Technology (2-year program for Juniors and Seniors only)
- Electrical
- Electronics & Engineering Technology
- Engineering & Robotics
- Health Services
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- Information Technology
- Multimedia Communications
- Painting & Design Technology
- Plumbing

We also offer Moonlight Programs for adult learners:

- Advanced Manufacturing Foundational Skills
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- Practical Nursing (Post-Secondary)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS FOR 2023

Fiscal Year 2024 begins July 1, 2023, and continues to June 30, 2024. The values for Fiscal 2024 have been certified by the Department of Revenue and the actual bills were mailed January 1, 2024.

Fiscal 2024 was an “Interim” year and so the Board of Assessors together with Vision Government Solutions and the Department of Revenue went through a series of studies reviewing the methodology of all property valuations in the Town of Blackstone. This process began January 1, 2023. We received notification of approval of the Tax Rate and level of Assessment on December 07, 2023. The FISCAL 2024 Tax Rate is 16.33, approved by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services. Fiscal 2024 is an “Interim” year requiring valuation studies but not as extensive as a “Revaluation Year”. The next full “Revaluation Year” is scheduled for Fiscal 2026, beginning July 1, 2025.

The Blackstone Board of Assessors is composed of three members:

Franscena Schandelmayer-Davis is continuing to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Assessors. She has served on the Board since July 2002.

Jeremiah Carey was elected in April 2018 and has served on the BOA to date. Jeremiah was voted as Vice-Chairman.

Lyn Robinson resigned on 5/5/2023, prior to the end of her term. Jessika Andreas was appointed on 7/18/2023 to complete Lynn’s term. Jessika formerly served on the BOA and we so appreciate that she has returned to serve.

All three of the Board of Assessors have completed the educational requirements of the Department of Revenue and all are certified to sign related DOR forms. The Office of the Assessors’ employees wish to thank the Board of Assessors for their dedication and diligent work for the Town of Blackstone. It is greatly appreciated.

Assisting the Board of Assessors as Assistant Assessor is Patricia J. Salamone. Pat was a professional appraiser for over 20 years prior to joining our staff. During those years Pat was a licensed appraiser and maintained her Certified Appraisal License until 2017. Pat is a Massachusetts Accredited Assessor with a MAA designation. Pat has held the position of Assistant Assessor for 17+ years.

The Administrative Assistant Assessor position was held by Miriah Gilbert part-time from September 2020 to July 2021, when she accepted the full-time position as Administrative Assistant Assessor. Miriah was working towards her MAAO designation and had completed 5 of the 8 required courses. She vacated the position on December 8, 2023. She was a valuable asset to our office and she will be missed. We are currently interviewing new prospects for the position.

This year a new part-time position was added to the Assessors' office. The new position is the "Data Collector" position. This position was formerly outsourced to independent contractors and is now "in house".

This position was filled by Rocco Micciche who does the DLS required cyclical inspections, both interior and exterior. This process is further described later in this report.

The Board of Assessors, the Assistant Assessor and Administrative Assistant Assessor, and Data Collector are all committed to serving the Town of Blackstone residents and hope to keep the residents informed of the assessment process. Please feel free to contact the Board of Assessors or the staff with any questions or concerns.

In 2008 the Board of Assessors voted to readjust the exemption amount for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under general Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C. They voted to increase the exemption from \$750 to \$1,000, the maximum allowed by law. Applicants must be 65 years or older. This recommendation was placed on the agenda for the 2008 Blackstone Town Meeting and passed. If you have any questions about this exemption, the Senior Tax Work-off program, or any other exemptions, please contact our office. Exemption forms are available online. Our website address is www.townofblackstone.org.

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 26, 2015 upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town of Blackstone vote pursuant to Clause 56 of Section 5 of General Laws Chapter 59, to extend the authority of the Assessors to grant abatements to members of the Massachusetts National Guard or Military Reservists who are on active duty in foreign countries with respect to all or part of their real and personal property taxes for the fiscal year in which they performed such service, subject to eligibility criteria to be established by the Board of Assessors, effective fiscal year 2015. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Also at the Annual Town Meeting held on May 26, 2015 upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town of Blackstone vote to accept the provision of G.L. c.60A, Section 1 that allows cities and towns to exempt from excise taxation motor vehicles owned by and registered to Massachusetts residents who are on active and fulltime military service as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, army or air, of any state, deployed or stationed outside the territorial boundaries of the United States for a period of at least 45 days in the calendar year of exemption. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 25, 2021, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town change and reduce the Residency Requirement for Veterans seeking local property tax exemptions under M.G.L. c.59, Section 5, Clauses 22,22A,22B,22C, 22D, 22E, and 22F to one year.

Also at the same Town Meeting held on May 25, 2021 upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town accept M.G.L. c. 59, Section 5, Clause 22H, a local

option, granting full property tax exemption to surviving parents or guardians of (1) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) who went missing in action during active duty and are presumed to have died, or (2) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) or veterans who dies as a proximate result of injuries sustained or illnesses contracted during active duty service.

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 31, 2022, upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town change Clause 37 to Clause 37A regarding local property tax exemptions for Legally Blind Persons under M.G.L. c.59, Section 5 Clauses 37 and 37A. The current Legally Blind Exemption is Clause 37 which allows an exemption amount of \$437.50, to individuals who meet specific occupancy and ownership requirements. With the Legally Blind Persons exemption being changed to 37A, the exemption amount will be raised to \$500.00. This warrant is a request, under local option, to change Clause 37 to Clause 37A. This Article was passed at town meeting.

Fiscal year 2024 began on July 1, 2023, and continues to June 30, 2024. Adjustments have been made to the assessments to reflect the changing market. These adjustments are based on the market value of property as of January 1, 2023. Valuations were developed based on calendar year 2022 market sales, as well as expanded sales from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, for classifications with a limited number of sales. Valuations were also developed from information in Marshall Swift Cost Publications, and with information extracted from income and expense reports received from local commercial and industrial property owners. The Bureau of Local Assessment of the Department of Revenue for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides detailed guidelines to assist assessors to plan and perform “revaluation” year and “interim” year adjustments to property values to achieve full and fair cash value assessments, in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56 and Chapter 58, Sections 1, 1A, and 3.

The residential, commercial, industrial, and personal property values are typically reviewed “in house” and then are sub-contracted to experts in the field for further review. Fiscal 2024 property values were reviewed by the Assessors’ Office and then sub-contracted to Vision Government Solutions. To ensure the property record card information regarding sales to be analyzed from Fiscal 2022 is accurate, the Assistant Assessor has inspected all the sales. After the inspections, the information is reviewed, and corrections that influence assessment levels is applied to the data bases. To determine the proper assessment, the Assessment to Sales Price Ratio is studied on all sales to insure they are within acceptable Department of Revenue standards. The Department of Revenue requires our department to do multiple stratification studies of the appropriate sales prior to any changes and adjustments to land values, cost factors, and depreciation tables. The changes made after these studies are made will bring the assessment of the general population of residences in line with the sales. The “actual” tax bills” that were mailed on January 1, 2024, reflect these new assessments. The total valuation of the

Town of Blackstone in Fiscal 2024 is 1,385,688,347.00. This reflects a positive 3.55% change from Fiscal 2023.

The average single family residential home in Blackstone for Fiscal 2024 is 393,808. This is a 3.96% increase from Fiscal 2023 when the average single family residential property was 378,798.

The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessors held a Classification Hearing at the Blackstone Municipal Center on November 21, 2023. The Hearing was advertised and opened to the public. The Assessors presented information on how a split tax rate would impact the Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Personal Property. The Board of Selectmen voted on maintaining a single tax rate.

The Fiscal 2024 tax rate is \$16.33 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Abatement forms are accepted by the Board of Assessors up to 30 days from the billing date of the “actual” tax bill. Applications for abatement may be picked up at the Assessors’ Office during regularly scheduled office hours and they are also available online at the Town of Blackstone website, “townofblackstone.org”, Assessors page.

Inspection of the property in the Town of Blackstone is an ongoing project. The Bureau of Local Assessment requires that a periodic data inspection program be provided for the inspection of each parcel in the town at least once every 10 years. The Data Collector/measure & list inspector, Rocco Micciche, will knock on your door and request both an exterior and an interior inspection of your home. The inspector will have Town of Blackstone identification on him. If it is not convenient for the resident at that time for an interior inspection, a later appointment may be made, at the resident’s convenience. If the resident is not at home, an exterior inspection is completed, and a door hanger is left with instructions on how to schedule an interior appointment.

These property inspections will ensure current and accurate data in our files. The goal of the Assessors’ Office is to appraise every parcel of real estate in the community at its Market Value, resulting in an equitable ad valorem distribution of the tax burden. As a property owner in the town, your cooperation with these ongoing inspections will allow the Assessors Department to do our job with fairness and equity to all concerned.

Assessors’ property record card information has been available online for the past 17 years and this is the 16th year that the Assessors’ office has made the Assessors’ Map Data available online. Assessors’ Maps and Property Assessment Data Information is available on the Town of Blackstone Website by clicking on the links located on the Assessors’ page. The information currently available online is updated annually. If you need more current information, you are invited to call the Assessors’ Office.

The Board of Assessors would like to thank the residents of Blackstone for their cooperation during the inspection process. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions or concerns about your property assessment.

Respectfully submitted, Blackstone Board of Assessors

Franscena Schandelmayer-Davis, Chairman
Jeremiah Carey, Vice-Chairman
Jessika Andreas, Member
Patricia J. Salamone, Assistant-Assessor
Rocco Micciche, Data Collector

Inspectional Services End of Year Report

Permit Type	End of year total		
	Cost of Work	Permit Fee	
Departments			
Building 2023	\$7,422,766.51	\$80,079.05	
Electrical 2023	\$1,860,128.38	\$45,079.89	
Gas 2023	N/A	\$3,600.00	
Plumbing 2023	N/A	\$7,040.00	
OpenGov Building	\$3,920,854.62	\$41,900.00	
OpenGov Electrical	\$896,107.47	\$18,830.02	
OpenGov Gas/Plumbing	\$443,460.34	\$4,825.00	
Building EOY Total	\$11,343,621.13	\$121,979.05	

REPORT OF THE TOWN COLLECTOR/TREASURER

To the Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Blackstone:

Fiscal Year 2023

Real Estate billed = \$18,295,448.86 – Collected \$17,916,440.49

Collection Rate = 97.92%

Tax Lien = \$120,794.06 – Collected \$8,279.64

Collection Rate = 6.85%

Personal Property billed = \$3,187,732.02 – Collected \$3,166,684.31

Collection Rate = 99.33%

Motor Vehicle Excise = \$1,128,520.04 – Collected \$1,006,278.95

Collection Rate = 89.16%

Water Sewer Bills = \$2,331,072.00 – Collected \$1,819,673.45

Collection Rate = 78.00% (1)

Total billed \$24,229,322.66 – Total Collected \$23,756,344.78

Total Collection Rate = 97.68%

Bond Rating continues to be AA+

(1)- A portion of the water/sewer billing was collected in fiscal year 2024

REPORT OF THE TOWN TREASURER

Treasurer's cash balances as of June 30th, 2023

NON-INTEREST-BEARING ACCOUNTS	\$ 975.00
INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNTS	\$ 8,952,713.40
STABILIZATION	\$ 3,507,726.26
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 7,139,459.70
TRUST FUNDS	\$13,438,585.37
TOTAL: Cash and Investments	\$33,038,484.73

Message From The Collector Treasurer

Staff

My staff Erin Pelletier and Lori Charbonneau and I continue to provide the best service possible to our community. The training and experience they have gained since my last report is exceptional. Their stability, professionalism and dedication to my office and to the residents of the town is a direct reflection on their characters. With the continued training and experience I believe the best is yet to come for this office.

Residents

Thank you for electing me as your Collector/Treasurer. I have put together a staff that is delivering the honesty, integrity and the professionalism it takes to serve local government and its people. We stand committed to working with all department heads, staff and other agencies to best serve the Town of Blackstone. Since my election many changes for the positive have occurred in this office, from beginning the sale of foreclosed properties (6 to date), to moving to a new payment platform, (Unipay by Unibank) for better tax payer experience.

This office will continue to look for ways to improve our efficiency, quality of work and overall customer service to enhance the Town of Blackstone's residents.

Matthew Ryan
Collector | Treasurer
Town of Blackstone

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
MUNICIPAL CENTER
SALARY LISTING
CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

**Please note that total earnings include non-base pay wages such as stipends, longevity, and clothing allowances.*

SELECTMEN

		Total Earnings
Bulso, Mary	SELECTMEN	\$ 1,500.00
Chamberland, Ryan	SELECTMEN, CHAIRMAN	\$ 1,800.00
Keefe, Daniel	SELECTMEN	\$ 1,125.00
Polak, Tonya	SELECTMEN	\$ 1,500.00
Scanlon, Brian	SELECTMEN	\$ 1,500.00

ADMINISTRATION

		Total Earnings
Vechio, Dori	TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 39,231.65
Astupena, Ross	INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 68,760.00
Lovett, Chad	TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 8,538.45
Nadeau-Lemoine, Sandra	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	\$ 6,720.29
Moxam, Katie	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	\$ 46,807.79
Hernandez, Sherlene	SECRETARY	\$ 16,301.80
McGeough, Elizabeth	RECORDING SECRETARY	\$ 1,080.00

DPW

		Contracted Wages	Wages From Overtime & Details	Total Earnings
Sullivan, James	DPW DIRECTOR	\$11,397.81	\$ -	\$113,397.81
Bibbo, Gary	ASSISTANT DPW DIRECTOR	\$23,250.01		\$23,250.01
Paterson, Kelly	DPW SECRETARY, WATER/SEWER	\$53,426.77	\$ -	\$53,426.77
Dubois, Patricia	DPW SECRETARY, WATER/SEWER	\$26,336.70	\$ -	\$26,336.70
Varieur, Robert	LEADMAN	\$77,863.53	\$ 23,729.62	\$101,593.15
Marchand, Thomas	LIGHT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	\$79,456.62	\$ 8,483.78	\$87,940.40
Faneuf, Randall	LABORER	\$49,582.67	\$ 737.89	\$50,320.56
Holmes, Colin	LABORER	\$23,643.12	\$ 890.60	\$24,533.72
Martello, Dominic	LABORER	\$48,052.00	\$ 8,183.95	\$56,235.95
Mowry, Beau	LABORER	\$60,237.00	\$ 8,273.10	\$68,510.10
Motto, Steven	LABORER	\$23,777.20	\$ 2,129.88	\$25,907.08
Robeau, Caleb	LABORER	\$17,747.22	\$ 2,579.22	\$20,326.44
Robidoux, Adam	LABORER	\$53,092.59	\$ 4,941.39	\$58,033.98
Staples, Joshua	LABORER	\$8,350.16	\$ 1,134.25	\$9,484.41
Paterson, Donald	MECHANIC	\$72,938.16	\$ 5,474.60	\$78,412.76
Valastro, Paul	TRUCK DRIVER	\$10,255.60	\$ 1,710.72	\$11,966.32

PARKS & RECREATION

		Total Earnings
Bissonnette, Debra	PARKS SECRETARY	\$ 1,260.00
Powers, Carolyn	SEASONAL LABORER	\$ 4,500.00

FINANCE

		Total Earnings
Taylor, Lauren	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	\$ 108,363.04
Lemoine, Kelsey	ASSISTANT TOWN ACCOUNTANT	\$ 50,309.75
Ryan, Matthew	COLLECTOR / TREASURER	\$ 65,433.35
Pelletier, Erin	ASSISTANT TREASURER	\$ 36,809.94
Charbonneau, Lori	ASSISTANT COLLECTOR	\$ 35,726.65
Salamone, Patricia	ASSISTANT ASSESSOR	\$ 78,149.18
Gilbert, Miriah	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ASSESSORS'	\$ 48,850.10

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
MUNICIPAL CENTER
SALARY LISTING
CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

		Contracted Wages	Wages From Overtime & Details	Total Earnings
Gilmore, Gregory	POLICE CHIEF	\$141,042.45	\$ 2,998.56	\$144,041.01
Brodeur, Shawn	POLICE LIEUTENANT	\$122,072.43	\$ 6,326.26	\$128,398.69
Loether, Travis	DETECTIVE	\$86,469.73	\$ 6,008.10	\$92,477.83
Hurwitz, Maxwell	POLICE SERGEANT	\$111,082.85	\$ 60,287.75	\$171,370.60
Luis, Kevin	POLICE SERGEANT	\$106,019.54	\$ 10,631.74	\$116,651.28
Mantoni, Matthew	POLICE SERGEANT	\$112,666.40	\$ 28,118.54	\$140,784.94
Blanchette, David	POLICE OFFICER	\$76,505.65	\$ 16,564.68	\$93,070.33
Cervantes, Harry	POLICE OFFICER	\$62,475.96	\$ 25,616.97	\$88,092.93
Daigle, Patrick	POLICE OFFICER	\$84,788.43	\$ 20,512.33	\$105,300.76
Hanson, Taylor	POLICE OFFICER	\$48,510.05	\$ 7,364.43	\$55,874.48
Haynes, Gregory	POLICE OFFICER	\$91,519.94	\$ 16,208.97	\$107,728.91
Johnson, Christopher	POLICE OFFICER	\$81,173.57	\$ 37,871.02	\$119,044.59
Laudon, David	POLICE OFFICER	\$81,946.04	\$ 20,027.12	\$101,973.16
Lungarini, Anthony	POLICE OFFICER	\$89,194.46	\$ 35,344.46	\$124,538.92
Metz, Craig	POLICE OFFICER	\$79,395.93	\$ 25,790.00	\$105,185.93
Niemczyk, Joseph	POLICE OFFICER	\$86,934.04	\$ 3,713.12	\$90,647.16
Pavone, Michael	POLICE OFFICER	\$81,481.65	\$ 1,567.61	\$83,049.26
Savoie, Jonathan	POLICE OFFICER	\$82,495.50	\$ 31,632.55	\$114,128.05
Tappan, Gregory	POLICE OFFICER			\$6,310.00
Dugas, Albert	POLICE DISPATCHER	\$59,597.98	\$ 16,592.91	\$76,190.89
Gill, Amy	POLICE DISPATCHER	\$22,684.98	\$ 7,527.66	\$30,212.64
Gill, Ryan	POLICE DISPATCHER	\$53,996.12	\$ 17,739.41	\$71,735.53
Lafond, Rhoda	POLICE DISPATCHER	\$50,621.14	\$ 16,016.47	\$66,637.61
Trowbridge, Kyle	POLICE DISPATCHER	\$29,794.14	\$ 10,376.56	\$40,170.70
Weber, Bettina	POLICE DISPATCHER	\$11,396.00	\$ -	\$11,396.00
			Total Earnings	
Sullivan, Kevin	ANIMAL CONTROL		\$ 2,733.00	
Coupe, William	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 442.50	
Cusack II, James	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 708.00	
Dean, Jeffrey	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 5,060.00	
Dirosa, Michael	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 944.00	
Gasparri, John	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 944.00	
Gavin, Daniel	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 615.00	
Giguere, Corey	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 2,352.00	
Giovanella, Mark	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 630.00	
Gould Jr, Michael	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 3,481.00	
Hole, Steven	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 472.00	
Lacava, Steven	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 944.00	
Landry, Craig	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 3,652.00	
Laporta, Stephen	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 472.00	
Lima, Ricardo	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 8,600.50	
Minichiello	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 960.00	
Murphy, Myles	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 1,032.50	
Ryan, Richard	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 33,569.25	
Souza Jr, Mario	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 720.00	
Sullivan, Kevin	POLICE DETAIL		\$ 2,733.00	

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
MUNICIPAL CENTER
SALARY LISTING
CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

FIRE DEPARTMENT

		Contracted Wages	Wages From Overtime, Details & Misc.	Total Earnings
Roy, Kevin	DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	\$81,606.92	\$ 30,056.06	\$111,662.96
Cotnoir, Kenneth	LIEUTENANT	\$68,199.61	\$ 15,257.02	\$83,456.63
Frade, Paul	LIEUTENANT	\$68,199.61	\$ 94,209.61	\$162,409.22
Iannetti, Anthony	LIEUTENANT	\$62,945.80	\$ 66,761.29	\$129,707.09
Blake, Samuel	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC	\$62,378.11	\$ 86,047.69	\$148,425.80
Calbo, Gregory	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC	\$61,807.74	\$ 22,326.91	\$84,134.65
Crenshaw, Tyler	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC	\$36,401.14	\$ 13,503.82	\$49,904.96
Dumican, Michael	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC	\$60,204.22	\$ 23,925.75	\$84,129.97
Gilmore, Mary	FIREFIGHTER	\$58,244.60	\$ 66,186.06	\$124,430.66
Hagerty, Evan	FIREFIGHTER	\$44,655.85	\$ 22,976.81	\$67,632.63
Hole, David	FIREFIGHTER	\$36,390.17	\$ 14,968.29	\$51,358.46
Peck, Andrew	FIREFIGHTER	\$49,780.25	\$ 1,650.74	\$57,430.99
Veins, Connor	FIREFIGHTER			

		Total Earnings
Beaulieu, Gregory	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 1,513.00
Beaulieu, Kaitlin	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 17.00
Billings, Michael	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 340.00
Blake, Griffin	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 15,096.00
Delgado, Alexander	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 2,303.50
Dunayeski, Thomas	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 1,870.00
Foster, James	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 1,020.00
Lanctot, Christopher	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 1,513.00
Putnam, Benjamin	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 1,071.00
Sweeney, Michael Jr	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ -
Troila-Kelliher, Nicholas	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 1,649.00
Turcotte, Brian	CALL FIREFIGHTER	\$ 7,148.50

LIBRARY

		Total Earnings
Cheever, Lisa	LIBRARY DIRECTOR	\$ 75,443.21
Collier, Tressy	ASST. DIRECTOR / CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN	\$ 49,783.15
Godreau, Ellen	SENIOR LIBRARY TECHNICIAN / HEAD CIRCULATION	\$ 40,425.02
Ansell, Donna	SENIOR LIBRARY TECHNICIAN / HEAD CIRCULATION	\$ 4,931.91
Beech, Miranda	LIBRARY AID	\$ 6,087.15
Burden, Ryan	LIBRARY AID	\$ 557.25
Foster, Donna	LIBRARY AID	\$ 7,578.45
Guzinski, Katarina	LIBRARY AID	\$ 12,914.74
Listoria, Lisa	LIBRARY AID	\$ 11,111.12
Marchand, Matthew	LIBRARY AID	\$ 5,373.08
Marino-Page Cheryl	LIBRARY AID	\$ 2,523.72
Marvelle, Samantha	LIBRARY AID	\$ 45.15
McGeough, Elizabeth	LIBRARY AID	\$ 9,576.74
McKinnon, Haley	LIBRARY AID	\$ 270.00
Milliken, Rene	LIBRARY AID	\$ 25,079.84
Pavlis, Courtney	LIBRARY AID	\$ 14,141.81
Piechoki, Jean	LIBRARY AID	\$ 11,573.73
Rowanheart Bethany	LIBRARY AID	\$ 14,539.07
Tibbets, Denise	LIBRARY AID	\$ 10,372.41
Whipple, Mandi	LIBRARY AID	\$ 26,455.22
Marvelle Sr, Roger	SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN	\$ 4,003.31
Marvelle, Russell	LIBRARY CUSTODIAN	\$ 42,059.56

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
MUNICIPAL CENTER
SALARY LISTING
CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

TOWN CLERK

		Total Earnings
Sullivan, Tara	TOWN CLERK	\$ 64,637.99
Vaillancourt, Alison	ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK	\$ 42,180.57
Stafford, Sheila	TOWN CLERK OFFICE ASSISTANT	\$ 25,232.93
Germain, Mellisa	TOWN CLERK OFFICE ASSISTANT	\$ 23,852.25
Doyle, Daniel	BOARD OF REGISTRARS	\$ 300.00
Greenwald, Marc	BOARD OF REGISTRARS	\$ 225.00

COUNCIL ON AGING

		Total Earnings
Testa, Karen	COA DIRECTOR	\$ 58,834.19
Cardin, Kayla	OUTREACH COORDINATOR	\$ 20,798.89
Takessian, Brenda	NUTRITION/FITNESS COORDINATOR	\$ 36,234.45
Piments, Dennis	TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR	\$ 39,863.10
Collette, Joseph	VAN DRIVER	\$ 15,094.84
Flynn, Timothy	VAN DRIVER	\$ 15,000.26
Jilson, Joel	VAN DRIVER	\$ 13,320.88
Perreault, Robert	VAN DRIVER	\$ 15,768.78
Kanz, Walter	VAN DRIVER	\$ -

BUILDING

		Total Earnings
Eldridge, Brittany	BUILDING SECRETARY	\$ 27,569.97
Tirone, Vonzenco	BUILDING COMMISSIONER	\$ 41,325.00
Vater, Earl	BUILDING INSPECTOR	\$ 9,935.82
Casavant, Craig	ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	\$ 15,765.00
Paige, James	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR	\$ 15,765.00
Paterson, Kurtis	ASSISTANT PULMUBING/GAS INSPECTOR	\$ 1,236.00

RECYCLING

		Total Earnings
Ryan, Kevin	RECYCLING FOREMAN	\$ 57,500.16
Segal, James	RECYCLING LABORER	\$ 41,263.04
Guillemette, Gerard	RECYCLING	\$ 36,072.67

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

		Total Earnings
Broderick, Joseph	BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL BOARD	\$ 1,500.00
Robinson, Jaquelyn	BOARD OF ASSESSORS	\$ 150.00
Carey, Jeremiah	BOARD OF ASSESSORS	\$ 900.00
Schandelmayer-Davis, Franscena	BOARD OF ASSESSORS	\$ 1,000.00
Strapponi, Colleen	HEALTH AGENT	\$ 14,843.08
Ryan, Joshua	BOARD OF HEALTH	\$ 900.00
Ryan, Kevin	BOARD OF HEALTH	\$ 1,000.00
Ryan, Peter	BOARD OF HEALTH	\$ 900.00
	BOARD SECRETARY, CONSERVATION	\$ -
	BOARD SECRETARY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ -
Villemarie, Michelle	BOARD SECRETARY, PARADE COMMITTEE	\$ 1,241.25
	BOARD SECRETARY, PLANNING / ZONING	\$ -
Doyle, Daniel	MODERATOR	\$ 300.00
Belrose, Joseph	PLANNING BOARD	\$ 1,000.00
Bibeau, Owen	PLANNING BOARD	\$ 1,000.00
Catalano, Anthony	PLANNING BOARD	\$ 83.33
Marville, Paul	PLANNING BOARD	\$ 1,200.00
Van Dike, Kirk	PLANNING BOARD	\$ 1,000.00
Marcotte, Kenneth	TREE WARDEN	\$ 2,800.00

The Annual Report for the Blackstone Council on Aging

The Annual Report for the Blackstone Council on Aging for the period of January 1 through December 30, 2023 is hereby respectfully submitted.

The purpose of the Blackstone Council on Aging (BCOA) is to advocate, plan, coordinate, and provide comprehensive day-to-day services for Blackstone residents 60 years of age and older and to provide services to residents under 60 years of age with disabilities. The BCOA is responsible for the daily operations of the Blackstone Senior Center, which is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.; Tuesday 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM and Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Senior Center acts as a resource center for individuals seeking information and/or referrals on all aspects of senior services. The BCOA strives to achieve this mission through a combination of direct services, information and referral, social, educational, and recreational activities as well as volunteer programs for seniors and other members of the community offered through the Senior Center and throughout the larger community. We pride ourselves on offering in-person assistance to seniors.

The BCOA strives to meet the needs and desires of the greatest number of senior citizens by implementing and offering a variety of activities, services, and programs. According to the 2020 Federal Census, Blackstone is home to 1,596 seniors over the age of 60. As of July, 2022 the population of persons 65 and older in Blackstone was 17.7%. We anticipate that this percentage will increase significantly in the next few years.

The BCOA continues to identify the needs of our senior residents and link them with the services/programs that enable them to live independently and stay connected to the community. The BCOA works closely with Tri-Valley Services, VNA's, Tufts Medical Center, Harvard University, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Mass College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Mass Attorney General's Office, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Dean Bank, Unibank, Board of Health, Town Nurse, Veterans Office, Housing Authority, Police, Fire and Rescue Departments, Salvation Army, Library, Parks & Recreation, and other local Council on Aging/Senior Centers.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS:

The Council on Aging received Formula Grant funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs in the amount of \$31,556.00 for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. The formula used to determine the amount received is \$14.00 per person 60 and older. The number of people 60 and older living in Blackstone is 2,254 according to the 2020 Census.

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Special thanks to our Council on Aging Board for their support of our programs, activities, and events and for advocating for the best interest of the Senior Center. The BCOA Board consists of: Jay Dilibero, Chair; Julie Wingate, Vice Chair; Ed Colette, Secretary; Members: Linda McGilvray, and Mary Connor. As of this writing, a vacancy has occurred on this board, due to the unexpected death of Jill Anderson. We anticipate this vacancy to be filled within the next 1-2 months.

COUNCIL ON AGING STAFF:

The COA staff consists of the following:

<i>POSITION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>FULL/PART TIME</i>	<i>LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT</i>
Director	Karen Testa	Full-time	2 years
Outreach Coordinator	Kayla Cardin	Full-time	7 months
Nutrition/Activities Coordinator	Brenda Takessian	Full-time	1 year, 7 months
Transportation Coord.	Dennis Pimenta	Part-time	16 years
5 Van Drivers	E. Collette T. Flynn J. Jillson R. Masse R. Perrault	Part-time	(varies)

FRIENDS OF THE BLACKSTONE COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.:

Friends of The Blackstone Council on Aging, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation whose intent is to conduct fundraising events to assist in providing social and recreational activities and programs to the seniors and disabled adults in the Town of Blackstone and to supplement the Senior Center’s needs.

The current officers of the Friends of BCOA are Judith Decasse, President; Linda McGilvray, Treasurer; Pamela Grant, Secretary. Special thanks to the officers and members for their gift of time and ongoing commitment to raise money to supplement the Senior Center’s budget.

Thank you to our participants and members of the community for supporting the Friends Group’s many fundraisers. Fundraisers sponsored by the Friends Group included: Annual Red Sox Game raffle, Patriots tickets raffle, November calendar raffle, candy sale, Good Stuff & Chelo’s

fundraisers, holiday bingo, Cabaret Show, trips, sale of handmade knitted items, co-sponsoring special lunches and several raffles. The Friends Group members are grateful for the support of area businesses for their generous donations of both raffle items and monetary donations.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

We offer a wide spectrum of Volunteer Services for our volunteers assisting with assembling the monthly newsletter, weekly Bingo games, review healthcare options, serving in the dining room; assist in the kitchen, clerical, decorations, classes, senior center programs, fundraisers and activities. The Senior Center's volunteers performed over 1,260 hours of service during 2023.

Our volunteers are a part of a collaborative effort to enable persons over the age of 60 or who are disabled to live independently and with dignity within our community. All volunteers must submit to a CORI check (Criminal Offender Record Information – criminal background check) before they may begin volunteer service at the Senior Center.

EMHOT:

The Elder Mental Health Outreach Team (EMHOT) is a community based elder mental health intervention program administered through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The EMHOT is a collaboration of six (6) Councils on Aging (Bellingham, Blackstone, Mendon, Medway, Milford, and Franklin). This is a home-based model that includes therapy, case management, education, and information and referral. This year there has been a significant increase in the need for mental health services and we continue to advocate for the availability of additional services in our community.

SENIOR TAX WORK OFF PROGRAM:

During 2023, twenty-three (23) applicants participated in the Senior Tax Work Off Program and all were placed in various Town departments to assist with departmental needs.

OUTREACH SUPPORT SERVICES/OUTREACH COORDINATOR:

The BCOA continues to identify the needs of our senior residents and link them with the services/programs that enable them to live independently and stay connected to the community. The BCOA works closely with various agencies, including Tri-Valley Elder Services, Milford Regional Physician Group, Milford Regional Medical Center, Visiting Nursing

Associations, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Board of Health, Veteran Office, Blackstone Housing Authority, Salvation Army, Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Department of Transitional Assistance, South Middlesex Opportunity Council, RCAP Solutions, Blackstone Public Library, and other local Council on Aging/Senior Centers.

The BCOA hired an Outreach Coordinator in June 2023. The Outreach Worker aids all seniors and disabled members in the community via telephone, appointments, emails and walk ins. Some of the assistance services provided by the Outreach Coordinator are as follows: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Fuel Assistance through the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC), Legal Assistance, Rental Assistance (RAFT), CHAMP for the local housing authority and Section 8 vouchers, state Medicaid (MassHealth), among others.

Medical insurance information is available with a certified SHINE counselor. SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Everyone) is a state program. The Outreach Coordinator connects seniors who are eligible for Medicare to a SHINE counselor to address the senior's health information needs.

The BCOA Director and Outreach Coordinator are mandated reported by state law. They call in to report any suspected physical or financial abuse to Tri-Valley Elder Services who send out a trained Protective Case Worker to complete an investigation. The BCOA staff works closely with the Blackstone Police and Fire Departments as well as the Board of Health on these specific client cases.

Outreach Worker Services:

Telephone Calls	1950
Office Visits	245
Home Visits	34
SMOC Applications	81
SHINE clients	52

NUTRITION PROGRAM:

The Nutrition/Activities Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the dining room and kitchen, as well as assisting with the planning and execution of all special luncheons, social events, trips, and activities and updating the social media page.

BCOA recently partnered with Encore catering to cater lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays at an affordable price for participants. Some of the special luncheons offered at the Senior Center included: Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Summer Cookout, Ice Cream Social, Halloween, bring a friend to lunch, Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer, Thanksgiving, Tea-riffic Tea Party. Various special lunches are held off site to accommodate the overwhelming response of attendees. A Christmas luncheon was held at Savini's Pomodoro Restaurant and Mystery lunches are offered at area restaurants on a monthly basis.

PROGRAMS, CLASSES, & EVENTS:

A high concentration was given towards offering new wellness and exercise classes, which included: Strength Training, Chair Yoga, Beginners and Advanced Tai Chi, Line Dancing, Strength Equipment Class, Walking Club and Meditation & Mindfulness.

Other programs offered on a weekly and monthly basis were knitting, blood pressure screenings, arts & crafts, book club, card games, board games, painting classes, Aging Gracefully & Gratefully and Grief & Loss support group.

Special events included: Riverfront Golf Cart Tours, A tribute to Elvis with Robert Black, Evening by the Campfire, Community Shred event, Fire Safety in the home, strength & balance workshop, Grandparents raising grandchildren, Caregiver burnout, how to protect yourself from identity theft, scams & robocalls; Real I.D. Disaster Preparedness, Elder Care planning, and National Wear Red Day, Spring has Sprung Breakfast.

We have partnered with The Blackstone Vocational Tech to offer monthly one-on-one training to teach seniors how to use their I-phone, I-pad, and other technical devices; Blackstone-Millville Garden Club to clean up and assist us with maintaining the flower pots and planting areas at the rear entrance of the Senior Center; YMCA to offer a "Pop Up Pantry" each month to allow seniors to receive a FREE bag of groceries and Blackstone Library to offer FREE craft classes each month.

The BCOA has a *Snow Angels Program* which is a voluntary snow removal service for senior citizens and persons with physical disabilities. The program's goal is to help bring together residents who want to keep their sidewalks clear, but are physically unable to do so, with volunteers who want to help out their community.

A Facebook page was developed on social media, *Blackstone MA Senior Center* to keep participants and the community informed and up to date on programs and activities.

TRANSPORTATION:

The COA's Transportation Department provides transportation services for medical and non-medical appointments to Blackstone residents 60 years of age and older and certified disabled residents who have no other means of transportation. Transportation is provided to doctor's offices, the pharmacy, library, hairdresser, the Senior Center to participate in classes and activities, nursing homes, polling places to vote, Worcester Sheriff's Office annual picnic, special Town events and Annual and special Town meetings. In addition, transportation services are provided to Walmart twice a month and Market Basket once a month for seniors to do their food shopping.

In 2023, the Transportation Department serviced 6,357 passengers, an 18% increase over 2022. These passengers were serviced as follows:

2,677 medical transports 3,680 non-medical transports

In addition to the five (5) per diem drivers, the COA has three (3) volunteer drivers. These volunteer drivers assist with providing transportation services by using their own personal vehicle to drive seniors to their long-distance medical appointments and are reimbursed for mileage.

The COA's transportation department has five (5) vehicles in its fleet:

VEHICLE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	MILEAGE AS OF 12.31.22
Van #1	2021	Ford	48,140
Mini Van	2017	Dodge/Caravan	65,013
Mini Van	2017	Dodge/Grand Caravan	49,033
Van #3	2016	Ford/E450	54,749
Van #2	2012	Ford	67,531
Car/SUV	2011	Ford/Escape	108,457

MARKETING & NEWSLETTER:

The Director develops and sends out monthly press releases to The Enlightener and local cable access to announce all programs, services, and activities available at the Senior Center. A newly-designed newsletter was developed in 2023 and is printed in-house. The newsletter is mailed and distributed to over 250 seniors and a handful of local businesses. If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive the newsletter, please call 508-876-5134 for details. The monthly newsletter and updates are located on the Town of Blackstone's website under COA and the *Blackstone MA Senior Center* Facebook page.

DURABLE EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM:

The Equipment Loan program operates solely through donations of good quality durable medical equipment. Equipment is loaned to residents of the Town of Blackstone on an as needed basis. We accept items in good to excellent condition. Call 508-876-5134 to arrange an appointment to pick up or deliver a donation to the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen A. Testa
Director



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SMOKE
DETECTORS
SAVE
LIVES

15 SAINT PAUL STREET
BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS 01504
PHONE: (508) 883-1030 / FAX: (508) 883-7923

2023 REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to present the annual report of the activities in the Blackstone Fire Department for the 2023 calendar year.

The Blackstone Fire Department is a combination department with a full-time Fire Chief, a full-time Deputy Chief position, twelve (12) budgeted full-time Firefighter/Paramedic positions, and twelve (12) Call Firefighters. The department utilizes two stations in town. Headquarters is located at 15 Saint Paul Street which is staffed with full-time Firefighter/Paramedics around the clock. Currently, we have four shifts with three positions, each working a 24-hour rotating shift schedule. We have Call Firefighters and EMTs that respond out of the Saint Paul Street station. Station 2 is located at 666 Rathbun Street. Station 2 is an unmanned station and has Call Firefighters that respond out of the station. The department has three pumpers, a ladder truck, one forestry truck for brush fires, and two paramedic level ambulances. The full-time members handle all fire and emergency medical (EMS) calls and are complemented by the on-call department members as needed. The full-time staff handle inspections and other various daily activities.

In 2023, there were several changes in the department as Chief Kessler, who was hired as a shared Chief with the Town of Mendon, retired in December of 2023. Chief Kessler had several years of experience as a Chief in Uxbridge and Mendon prior to managing the Blackstone Fire Department. Upon retirement, Deputy Chief Kevin Roy was promoted to Fire Chief of the Blackstone Fire Department in December of 2023 after an assessment process. Chief Kevin Roy has been a member of the fire department since 1998, starting as an on-call firefighter. Chief Roy was hired as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic back in 2010 and has risen through the ranks. He was promoted in 2020 to Fire Lieutenant and Captain in 2022.

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

During the May 2023 Annual Town Meeting, several articles were approved by the town voters and funding was made possible by the residents to purchase new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs), an E-One Spartan rescue engine, EMS equipment such as a new Lucas CPR machine, firefighting gear, brush gear, and a command vehicle. The purchased firefighter gear, equipment and apparatus will help provide service to the community and protect our staff. The Blackstone Fire Department staff truly appreciate the funding needed for the necessary equipment and gear which will help them better serve our community.

Fire education programs were taught in our community once again due to the generosity of our town. The Blackstone Fire Department applies for and has been awarded a S.A.F.E. grant every year (student awareness of fire education). Lieutenant Paul Frade heads the entire S.A.F.E. program and teaches fire safety education and manages the Senior SAFE program with firefighter Mary Gilmore and they work closely with the elderly community within Blackstone.

The Blackstone Fire Department has a town webpage that has several links for important information such as open-air burning guidelines, the Code Red alerting system, and permit applications. By registering with the Code Red program, you will be able to receive emergency notifications issued by the town of Blackstone. Please visit www.townofblackstone.org where you will find the Code Red link to sign up for community emergency notifications.

The Blackstone Fire Department has applied for and received funds from grants:

S.A.F.E. Grant	\$ 3,781.00
Senior S.A.F.E.	\$ 2077.00
EMPG	\$2,900.00

**The following is a break-down
of the ambulance calls in 2023**

- Total calls - 1068
- Transports - 783
- No Service - 22
- Refusals- 122
- Cancelled - 18
- Assists - 113
- Treated, not transported - 10

The following is the break-down of hospitals where patients were transported in 2023.

Milford Regional Medical Center – 378
Landmark Medical Center – 343
Our Lady of Fatima Hospital – 3
Rhode Island Hospital – 30
Hasbro Children's Hospital – 21
Women and Infants Hospital – 3
Mirian Hospital – 5
UMass University- 4
UMass Memorial -1
Providence Veterans Affairs Hospital - 1

The following is a list of departmental activity for the year 2023.

Emergency Medical Services	1068
Fire Incident calls.....	1520
Dispatched / Cancelled.....	73
Building, vehicle and Other Fires (Excluding Brush Fires).....	22
Electrical wiring / Equipment Incidents.....	6
Brush Fire.....	8
Chimney Fire Incidents.....	5
Fire and Smoke Alarms.....	171
Co Alarms / Incidents.....	25
Motor Vehicle Crashes.....	30
Gas Leaks.....	5
Water Leak Emergencies.....	31
Station Coverage.....	5
EMS Assists.....	83
Department Trainings.....	24
Burning Permits.....	182
Smoke Detector/ Carbon Monoxide Permits	109
Install / Removal Fuel Burning Equipment.....	47
General Permits.....	33

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin L. Roy, Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

After the April 2023 election, the Board re-organized and voted Josh J. Ryan as Chairman and Kevin J. Ryan as Vice-Chairman.

We pledge to continue with our public service and commitment to the public health and welfare of our residents and community by keeping our community informed with the progress and impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and other health matters that may impact our community, through Board meetings, clinics, public health presentations and advisories, the town website and outreach to our residents and business establishments. We also pledge to keep our community healthy through flu, covid and blood pressure clinics, public education, and presentations, and assisting our residents with their individual needs.

The residents and community continue to benefit from the Board's collaboration with the grant funded Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health. The Partnership provides the Board of Health and the Town with additional professional public health staff, grant opportunities and resources that enhance the Board of Health with their pledge of public service to the health and safety of our residents and community.

We are very thankful for the assistance of Patricia Parent, RN, the Police, Fire Departments and Council on Aging Offices and all the municipal departments who assist the Board of Health throughout the year. The collaboration with these departments enables the Board of Health to maintain the level of service and commitment to our residents and the community.

The Board of Health would like to thank our health agent Colleen M. Strapponi for her continued devotion and dedication to serving the residents of Blackstone and the Board of Health.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh J. Ryan, Chairman

Kevin J. Ryan, Vice-Chairman

Peter C. Ryan, Sr., Member

2023 Annual Report

Blackstone Historical Commission

Members of the Historical continue our mission to preserve Blackstone's past. The museum building is open to the public every Thursday and the first and third Saturdays of the month. Tours are given on all three floors may be explored at visitors' own pace. Besides town and local visitors, there were visitors from many other states, as well as from Germany and Great Britain who toured the museum this year.

Various displays and events took place during 2023 to encourage museum attendance:

In February, antique Valentines dating back to the 1900's were on display throughout the month,

William Blackstone was born on March 5, 1595. A commemoration of his birth included articles and items concerning him on display and cake & coffee provided to visitors as a small celebration of our town's namesake.

In celebration of spring, hats made by the late Mrs. Claire Perrault, a Blackstone milliner, were on display throughout the museum in April.

Military reenactor Michael LePage presented a well-attended program about Blackstone soldiers and the Civil War before Memorial Day.

On June 17th a celebration was held at the unveiling of a plaque on the grist stones donated by the family of the late "Tussy" Kimball.

More than 65 members of the BMR high school marching band, along with their instructors, toured the museum in September. On display were plaques, pictures, yearbooks and tee-shirts from the many events the marching band has participated in through the years.

Also in the fall, a new and inclusive list of all Blackstone cemeteries was produced by member Liz Belairs-Roy. This is now available to researchers who come to the museum searching for information.

Former ranger Chuck Arning spoke about the Blackstone Canal, past & present, to a large and interested gathering in September.

The traditional Christmas open house at the museum again welcomed visitors who were entertained by the Very Merry Dickens Carolers and shared in holiday treats and refreshments.

Special mention should be made of the tireless efforts of former town resident Debbie Boxold Gauthier. Though no longer a town resident, she faithfully donates her time every week to converting museum files to thumb drive for historic preservation.

We are also grateful to former member, museum curator, and now honorary member, Dick Ryan.

Dick is always happy to assist in our search for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Wingate, Chairwoman

Helen Murray, Vice-chair

Richard Guilbeault Carolyn

Jack Lodge

Powers Michael Buckley

Liz Belairs Roy

Susan Tenerowicz (alternate)

Marc Gregoire

FENTON, EWALD & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

280 HILLSIDE AVENUE
NEEDHAM, MA 02494-1365

OFFICE: (781) 444-6630
(800) 369-7660
FAX: (781) 444-6836
E-MAIL: office@feacpa.com

November 21, 2023

Hayley Fetrow, Esquire
Executive Director
Blackstone Housing Authority
15 Fox Brook Manor
Blackstone, MA 01504

Dear Ms. Fetrow:

Attached are the reports for the Blackstone Housing Authority's 4001 Program as of September 30, 2023:

Page 1 of 5 Quarterly Operating Statement
Page 2 of 5 Balance Sheet
Page 3 of 5 Schedule I thru VI
Page 5 of 5 Calculation of Operating Subsidy Earned

A Certification form for Year-end Operating Statements is attached and this form needs to be sent to EOHLIC (**sign, date and forward to EOHLIC**).

- 1. Please, go online to your Housing Authority Application (HAFIS), select Operating Statements and select each program that is applicable to your HA (4001, 689, MRVP) and submit.**
- 2. New Tenant Accounts Receivable reporting requirement for the 4001 Program: The housing authority must now enter the Tenants Accounts Receivable information in HAFIS on a quarterly basis.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

FENTON, EWALD & ASSOCIATES, P.C.



Teresa A. Ewald, CPA

FENTON, EWALD & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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Teresa A. Ewald, CPA

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To the Board of Commissioners
Blackstone Housing Authority
15 Fox Brook Manor
Blackstone, MA 01504

We have compiled the accompanying balance sheets of the Blackstone Housing Authority as of **September 30, 2023**, and the related statements of Revenues and Expenses for the **twelve** month(s) then ended. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or provide any assurance about whether the financial statements are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The information included in the accompanying Agency Wide Revenue and Expenses and Analysis of Non-routine Expenditures and Credits are presented only for supplementary analysis purposes. Such information has been compiled from information that is the representation of management, without audit or review, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on such data.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.

Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist management in presenting financial information in the form of financial statements without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures and the statement of cash flows required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. If the omitted disclosures were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusion about the authority's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

Fenton, Ewald & Associates, P.C.

Needham, Massachusetts
Dated: November 21, 2023

Fiscal Year End Certification of Preparer and Executive Director

Housing Authority: Blackstone LHA Fiscal Year End: 9/30/2023

Financial Statements and applicable supporting pages are submitted to the Blackstone Housing Authority.

Jessica A. Ewald Free Accountant 11/21/2023
Prepared By Name/Title Date

I declare that all facts and information contained in this Financial Statements are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and that the above statement fairly and accurately represents the financial position of the developments for this period. This report has been provided to and presented to the Blackstone Housing Authority Board of Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of Section 6A of Chapter 268 of the Massachusetts General Law.

Name Executive Director/Title Date

LHA NAME: Blackstone Housing Authority
 FISCAL YEAR ENDING: 9/30/2023

Prog. No. 4001

No of Units 56
 Months 12
 Unit Mos 672

QUARTERS COVERED: 1 1 thru 2 1 thru 3 1 thru 4

LINE NO.	ACCT. NO.	CLASSIFICATION	APPROVED BUDGET		ACTUAL TO DATE	
			ANNUAL AMOUNT	PUM	PUM	AMOUNT
REVENUE						
1	3110	Shelter Rent - Tenants	294,814	438.71	456.70	306,902.00
2	3115	Shelter Rent - Federal Section 8	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	3190	Nondwelling Rentals	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	3400	Administrative Fees - MRVP	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	3610	Interest on Investments - Unrestricted	200	0.30	1.64	1,104.92
6	3611	Interest on Investments - Restricted	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	3690	Other Revenue	3,000	4.46	0.00	0.00
8	3691	Other Revenue - Retained	7,440	11.07	43.69	29,362.55
9	3692	Other Revenue - Operating Reserve	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	3693	Other Revenue - Net Metering	0			0.00
11	3801	Operating Subsidy - 4001	111,128	165.37	142.67	95,873.85
12	3802	Operating Subsidy - MRVP Landlords		0.00	0.00	0.00
13	3803	Restricted Grants Received		0.00	0.00	0.00
14	3920	Gain/Loss From Sale/Disp.of Prop.		0.00	0.00	0.00
15	3000	TOTAL REVENUE	416,582	619.91	644.71	433,243.32
EXPENSES						
16	4110	Administrative Salaries	10,010	14.90	0.26	177.65
17	4120	Compensated Absences	0	0.00	(3.24)	(2,179.07)
18	4130	Legal	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	4140	Members Compensation	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	4150	Travel & Related Expenses	522	0.78	0.00	0.00
21	4170	Accounting Services	6,864	10.21	10.21	6,864.00
22	4171	Audit Costs	4,500	6.70	6.70	4,500.00
23	4180	Penalties & Interest	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	4190	Administrative Other	54,795	81.54	92.50	62,161.34
25	4191	Tenant Organization	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	4100	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	76,691	114.12	106.43	71,523.92
27	4310	Water & Sewer	7,768	11.56	16.95	11,389.39
28	4320	Electricity	116,666	173.61	160.03	107,539.21
29	4330	Gas	0	0.00	0.55	370.17
30	4340	Fuel	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	4360	Energy Conservation	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	4390	Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	4391	Solar Operator Costs	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	4392	Net Meter Utility Credit (Negative Number)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	4300	TOTAL UTILITIES	124,434	185.17	177.53	119,298.77
36	4410	Maintenance Labor	62,884	93.58	86.07	57,840.89
37	4420	Materials & Supplies	5,000	7.44	13.33	8,960.86
38	4430	Contract Costs	16,355	24.34	38.06	25,579.08
39	4400	TOTAL MAINTENANCE	84,239	125.36	137.47	92,380.83
40	4510	Insurance	17,543	26.11	23.91	16,066.56
41	4520	Payment In Lieu of Taxes	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
42	4540	Employee Benefits	41,945	62.42	60.18	40,439.84
43	4541	Employee Benefits - GASB 75	0	0.00	(33.53)	(22,532.00)
44	4542	Pension Expense - GASB 68	0	0.00	(8.28)	(5,567.00)
45	4570	Collection Loss	0	0.00	6.08	4,087.00
46	4580	Interest Expense		0.00	0.00	0.00
47	4590	Other General Expense	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
48	4500	TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	59,488	88.52	48.35	32,494.40
49	4610	NonCapitalized NonRoutine	18,200	27.08	26.00	17,473.47
50	4611	NonCapitalized Equipment	8,490	12.63	9.60	6,453.74
51	4612	Restricted Reserve Expenditures	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
52	4715	Housing Assistance Payments	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
53	4801	Depreciation Expense	0	0.00	33.61	22,586.67
54	4600	TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	26,690	39.72	69.22	46,513.88
55	4000	TOTAL EXPENSES	371,542	552.89	539.01	362,211.80
56	2700	NET INCOME/(DEFICIT)	45,040	67.02	105.70	71,031.52
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES "MEMO"						
57	7520	Replacement of Equipment-Capitalized	59,395	88.39	88.39	59,395.00
58	7540	Betterments & Additions - Capitalized	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
59	7500	Total Capital Expenditures	59,395	88.39	88.39	59,395.00
60	7600	EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(14,355)	(21.36)	17.32	11,636.52

See Accountants' Compilation Report

LHA NAME: Blackstone Housing Authority
 FISCAL YEAR ENDING: 9/30/2023

Prog. No. 667

No of Units 56
 Months 12
 Unit Mos 672

QUARTERS COVERED: 1 1 thru 2 1 thru 3 1 thru 4

LINE NO.	ACCT. NO.	CLASSIFICATION	APPROVED BUDGET		ACTUAL TO DATE	
			ANNUAL AMOUNT	PUM	PUM	AMOUNT
REVENUE						
1	3110	Shelter Rent - Tenants			456.70	306,902.00
2	3115	Shelter Rent - Federal Section 8			0.00	0.00
3	3190	Nondwelling Rentals			0.00	0.00
4	3400	Administrative Fees - MRVP			0.00	0.00
5	3610	Interest on Investments - Unrestricted			1.64	1,104.92
6	3611	Interest on Investments - Restricted			0.00	0.00
7	3690	Other Revenue			0.00	0.00
8	3691	Other Revenue - Retained			43.69	29,362.55
9	3691	Other Revenue - Retained			0.00	0.00
10	3691	Other Revenue - Retained			0.00	0.00
11	3801	Operating Subsidy - Pro Rata			142.67	95,873.85
12	3802	Operating Subsidy - MRVP Landlords				
13	3803	Restricted Grants Received			0.00	0.00
14	3920	Gain/Loss From Sale/Disp.of Prop.			0.00	0.00
15	3000	TOTAL REVENUE			644.71	433,243.32
EXPENSES						
16	4110	Administrative Salaries			0.26	177.65
17	4120	Compensated Absences			(3.24)	(2,179.07)
18	4130	Legal			0.00	0.00
19	4140	Members Compensation			0.00	0.00
20	4150	Travel & Related Expenses			0.00	0.00
21	4170	Accounting Services			10.21	6,864.00
22	4171	Audit Costs			6.70	4,500.00
23	4180	Penalties & Interest			0.00	0.00
24	4190	Administrative Other			92.50	62,161.34
25	4191	Tenant Organization			0.00	0.00
26	4100	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION			106.43	71,523.92
27	4310	Water & Sewer			16.95	11,389.39
28	4320	Electricity			160.03	107,539.21
29	4330	Gas			0.55	370.17
30	4340	Fuel			0.00	0.00
31	4360	Energy Conservation			0.00	0.00
32	4390	Other			0.00	0.00
33	4391	Solar Operator Costs				
34	4392	Net Meter Utility Credit (Negative Number)				
35	4300	TOTAL UTILITIES			177.53	119,298.77
36	4410	Maintenance Labor			86.07	57,840.89
37	4420	Materials & Supplies			13.33	8,960.86
38	4430	Contract Costs			38.06	25,579.08
39	4400	TOTAL MAINTENANCE			137.47	92,380.83
40	4510	Insurance			23.91	16,066.56
41	4520	Payment In Lieu of Taxes			0.00	0.00
42	4540	Employee Benefits			60.18	40,439.84
43	4541	Employee Benefits - GASB 75			(33.53)	(22,532.00)
44	4541	Employee Benefits - GASB 68			(8.28)	(5,567.00)
45	4570	Collection Loss			6.08	4,087.00
46	4580	Interest Expense			0.00	0.00
47	4590	Other General Expense			0.00	0.00
48	4500	TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES			48.35	32,494.40
49	4610	NonCapitalized NonRoutine			26.00	17,473.47
50	4611	NonCapitalized Equipment			9.60	6,453.74
51	4612	Restricted Reserve Expenditures			0.00	0.00
52	4715	Housing Assistance Payments			0.00	0.00
53	4801	Depreciation Expense			33.61	22,586.67
54	4600	TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES			69.22	46,513.88
55	4000	TOTAL EXPENSES			539.01	362,211.80
56	INCOME/(DEFICIT)				105.70	71,031.52
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES "MEMO"						
57	7520	Replacement of Equipment-Capitalized			88.39	59,395.00
58	7540	Betterments & Additions - Capitalized			0.00	0.00
59	7500	Total Capital Expenditures			88.39	59,395.00
60	7600	EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES			17.32	11,636.52

See Accountants' Compilation Report

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		Blackstone Housing Authority	
BALANCE SHEET		September 30, 2023	Period Ended
ASSETS		4001	Program Number
ACCOUNT NUMBER			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Modernization <input type="checkbox"/> Development
CASH			
1111	Cash Development or Modernization fund - Unrestricted	0.00	
1111.1	Cash Development or Modernization fund - Restricted	0.00	
1112	Cash Administration Fund - Unrestricted	36,049.43	
1112.1	Cash Administration Fund - Restricted	0.00	
1113	Cash - Escrow	96.04	
1114	Security Deposit	0.00	
1114.1	Pet Deposit	2,410.72	
1117	Petty Cash	200.00	
1118	Change Fund	0.00	38,756.19
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE			
1121	Federal and DHCD--Section 8 Subsidy-Shelter Rent	0.00	
1122	Tenants Accounts Receivable	9,068.57	
1122.1	Tenants Accounts Receivable - Repayment (Contra)	0.00	
1123	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts - Dwelling Rents	(4,469.50)	
1125	Accounts Receivable Subsidy	15,873.26	
1129	Accounts Receivable - Other	0.00	
1130	Interprogram Due From	16,931.88	
1131	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts - Other	0.00	
1145	Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	37,404.21
INVESTMENTS			
1162	Investments - Unrestricted		21,226.29
DEFERRED CHARGES			
1211	Prepaid Expenses	4,359.64	
1212/1213	Inventory/Net - Supplies and Fuel	0.00	
1290	Deferred Charges - Other	4,115.49	
1291	Deferred Outflow of Resources (GASB 68 related)	64,883.00	73,358.13
FIXED ASSETS			
1400.2	Cost Control Account - Development/Modernization	0.00	
1401	Land	112,000.00	
1402	Building and Building Improvements	1,453,593.37	
1403	Furniture, Equipment and Machinery - Dwellings	0.00	
1404	Other Equipment - Administration/Maintenance	69,295.00	
1405	Leasehold Improvements	0.00	
1406	Accumulated Depreciation	(1,276,781.83)	
1407	Infrastructure	10,500.00	
1408	Capital Leases	0.00	368,606.54
TOTAL ASSETS			539,351.36
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			
2106	Bank Overdraft	0.00	
2111	Accounts Payable <=90 Days	7,548.81	
2111.1	Accounts Payable >90 Days Past Due	0.00	
2112	Contract Costs	0.00	
2114	Tenants Security Deposits	0.00	
2114.1	Tenants Pet Deposits	1,608.55	
2115	Bid Deposits	0.00	
2117	Employee 's Payroll Deductions	455.82	
2118	Accounts Payable - Subsidy Overpayment	0.00	
2119	Accounts Payable - Interfund	0.00	
2120	Accounts Payable - Other	96.04	9,709.22
ACCRUED LIABILITIES			
2130.2	Accrued Contingent Liability	0.00	
2135	Accrued Compensated Absences - Current Portion	513.24	
2137	Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	0.00	
2138	Accrued Payroll	2,447.60	
2139	Accrued Liabilities - Other	0.00	
2140	Accrued Pension Liability (GASB 68 related)	0.00	2,960.84
DEFERRED CREDITS			
2240	Tenants Prepaid Rents	781.82	
2290	Undistributed Credits	0.00	
2291	Deferred Revenue - Subsidy	0.00	
2292	Deferred Revenue - Other	0.00	
2293	Deferred Inflows of Resources	127,434.00	128,215.82
NOTES PAYABLE			
2299	Notes Payable Capital Borrowings - Current Portion	0.00	
2299.1	Notes Payable Operating Borrowings - Current Portion	0.00	0.00
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
2301	Notes Payable Capital Borrowings - Non-Current Portion	0.00	
2301.1	Notes Payable Operating Borrowings - Non-Current Portion	0.00	
2335.01	Accrued Compensated Absences - Non-Current Portion	155.84	
2339	Other Non-Current Liabilities	0.00	
2339.1	Accrued OPEB Liability	241,614.00	
2339.2	Accrued Pension Liability	212,955.00	454,724.84
EQUITY (NET ASSETS)			
2700	Net Income (Deficit)		
2802	Invested in Capital Assets, net of Related Debt	368,606.54	
2805	Net Assets - Restricted	0.00	
2806	Net Assets - Unrestricted	Max % 49.66%	92,254.10
2806.1	Net Assets - Unrestricted for OPEB		(247,403.00)
2806.2	Net Assets - Unrestricted for Pension Liability		(56,259.36)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			539,351.36

See Accountants' Compilation Report

Blackstone Housing Authority

Program No.

051 -3 (07-04)
280024001

SCHEDULE I
INVESTMENTS - ACCOUNT 1162

<u>BANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>INVESTED</u>
MMDT			21,226.29

TOTAL AS PER BALANCE SHEET 21,226.29

SCHEDULE II
DEFERRED CHARGES - OTHER - ACCOUNT 1290

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Retirement	4,115.49

TOTAL AS PER BALANCE SHEET 4,115.49

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A/P Vendors	7,548.81

TOTAL AS PER BALANCE SHEET 7,548.81

SCHEDULE IV
SCHEDULE OF NONROUTINE EXPENDITURES

	<u>AMOUNT</u>
EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE	
See attached schedule	17,473.47
Total - Account 4610	<u>17,473.47</u>

	<u>AMOUNT</u>
EQUIPMENT PURCHASE - NON-CAPITIALIZED	
See attached schedule	6,453.74
Total - Account 4611	<u>6,453.74</u>

	<u>AMOUNT</u>
RESTRICTED RESERVE EXPENDITURES	
See attached schedule	0.00
Total - Account 4612	<u>0.00</u>

	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PROPERTY OF EQUIPMENT - CAPITALIZED	
See attached schedule	59,395.00
Total - Account 7520	<u>59,395.00</u>

	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PROPERTY BETTERMENTS AND ADDITIONS - CAPITALIZED	
See attached schedule	0.00
Total - Account 7540	<u>0.00</u>

* Total Amounts Should Agree With Page 051-1 (Attach Schedule if Needed)
See Accountants' Compilation Report

21-Nov-23 051-3 (7-04)

LHA Name: **Blackstone Housing Authority**
 Program No.: **280024001**

Quarter Ending: **9/30/2023**
 Fiscal Year Ending: **9/30/2023**

ACTUAL AMOUNT (\$)

2802 Computation of Invested in Fixed Assets Net

of Depreciation and Related Debt

	Fixed Assets at End of Current Year	
(1)	(A/C 1400.2 thru 1404, 1406(not), 1407)	1,645,388.37
(2)	Less: Accumulated Depreciation End Of Current Year (A/C 1406)	1,276,781.83
(3)	Less: Capital Debt End of Current Year (A/C 2299 & 2301)	0.00
(4)	Sub Total (invested in Capital Assets End of Year)((1)-(2)-(3))	368,606.54
(5)	Balance in Account 2802 End of Prior Year	331,798.21
(6)	Prior Period Adjustments Capital Before Closing (A/C 2803 01)	0.00
(7)	Equity Transfers Capital Before Closing (A/C 2803 02)	0.00
(8)	Balance in Account 2802 Before Provision (Reduction) Invested in Capital Assets ((5)+(6)+(7))	331,798.21
(9)	Provision for (or Reduction of) Invested in Capital Assets ((4)-(8))	36,808.33

2805 Net Assets Restricted

(10)	Restricted Net Assets End of Prior Year (A/C 2805)	0.00
(11)	Restricted Grants Received (A/C 3803)	0.00
(12)	Net Assets Released From Restriction (A/C 4612)	0.00
(13)	Restricted Net Assets at End of Current Year ((10)+(11)+(12))	0.00

2806 Net Assets Unrestricted (Operating Reserve)

(14)	Unrestricted Net Assets At End of Prior Year (A/C 2806)	86,129.91								
(15)	Prior Year Adjustments Operating Before Closing (A/C 2807 01)									
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Description	Amount		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Description	Amount									
	0.00									
	0.00									
	0.00									
(16)	Equity Transfers Operating Before Closing (A/C 2807 02)									
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Description	Amount		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Description	Amount									
	0.00									
	0.00									
	0.00									
(17)	Net Income (Loss) (Line 50 of Operating Statement)	71,031.52								
(18)	Less: Provision for (or Reduction of) Invested Capital Assets (Line 9)	(36,808.33)								
(19)	Restricted Grants Received Included in Net Income (Line 11)	0.00								
(20)	Net Assets Released From Restriction (Line 12)	0.00								
(21)	GASB 45 & GASB 68 Current Year Expense (A/C 4541, 4542)	(28,099.00)								
(22)	Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year ((14)+(15)+(16)+(17)+(18)+(19)+(20)+(21))	92,254.10								

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

APPENDIX B
(TO 050-1
AND 051-1)

OPERATING SUBSIDY CALCULATION "ANUEL"
(ALLOWABLE NONUTILITY EXPENSE LEVEL)
BUDGET AND ACTUAL (ACTUAL USED AT YEAR END ONLY)

LHA Name: Blackstone Housing Authority
Fiscal Year Ending 9/30/2023

Program No. 4001

Quarter	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
				X

	050-1		051-1	
	1	2	3	4
	BUDGETED AMOUNT	DHCD MODIFIC.	ACTUAL AMOUNT	DHCD MODIFIC.
1. REVENUE (050-1/051-1 LINES 1 + 2 + 3 + 5 + 7)	298,014		308,007	
2. NON-UTILITY COST (ANUEL - PR. YR. APPROV. PER LINE 3 ON APPENDIX B)	202,218		202,218	
3. ALLOWABLE INCREASE (LINE 2 X 109.00%)	220,418		220,418	
3A. APPROPRIATE % OF LINE 3 (COLUMN 3 ONLY)				
4. DHCD APPROVED OPERATING COSTS EXEMPTIONS				
Retiree Benefits	25,892		25,892	
			0	
			0	
			0	
5. UTILITIES (Line 29 050-1 for Budget) (Line 29 051-1 for Actual)	124,434		119,299	
6. OPERATING SUBSIDY PRIOR TO APPROVED EXEMPTIONS (1 MINUS 3 MINUS 4 MINUS 5) (IF RESULTS ARE A POSITIVE NUMBER USE ZERO)	(72,730) (72,730)		(57,602) (57,602)	
7. LINE 6 (IF -0- ENTER -0- OR CONVERT NEGATIVE AMOUNT TO BE POSITIVE)	72,730		57,602	
8. DHCD APPROVED EXEMPTIONS DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT				
Air Source Heat Pump Maintenance	8,700		8,700	
50% of New Ford F250	29,698		29,698	
REDUCE ACTUAL SUBSIDY BY COST OVERRUNS				
9. 4110	10,010	178	0	
10. 4150	522	0	0	
11. Total			0	
12. TOTAL SUBSIDY (LINE 7 + 8 - 11) (050-1 OR 051-1)	111,128		96,000	
13. VACANCY PENALTY			126	
14. REDUCE ACTUAL SUBSIDY BY THE AMOUNT THAT WOULD CAUSE THE OPERATING RESERVE BALANCE TO BE IN EXCESS OF 50% OF LINE 46 ON FORM 050-1 (SEE APPENDIX C LINE 8)			0	
15. ACTUAL OPERATING SUBSIDY EARNED (LINE 12 MINUS 13) (NO LESS THAN LINE 8)			95,874	
16. ACTUAL OPERATING SUBSIDY RECEIVED			80,001	
17. DEBIT ACCOUNT 1125 UNDERPAYMENT DUE FROM DHCD			15,873	
18. CREDIT ACCOUNT 2118 OVERPAYMENT DUE TO DHCD			0	

See Accountants' Compilation Report

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 BLACKSTONE HOUSING AUTHORITY FYE 9/30/2023
 CALCULATION TO DETERMINE IF CURRENT YEAR OPERATING SUBSIDY
 WILL CAUSE THE OPERATING RESERVE TO EXCEED MAXIMUM AMOUNT ALLOWED

APPENDIX C

1. FULL OPERATING RESERVE 50% OF LINE 49 050-1 (BUDGET COLUMN 3) CURRENT FISCAL YEAR		<u>185,771.00</u>
2. OPERATING RESERVE BALANCE (ACCOUNT 2806) END OF LAST LAST FISCAL YEAR		<u>86,129.91</u>
3. ADJUSTED NET INCOME		
Note: NET INCOME (LINE 56 051-1)	71,031.52	
Note: SUBTRACT OPERATING SUBSIDY (LINE 09 051-1)	<u>(95,999.85)</u>	
		(24,968.33)
Note: ADD RESTRICTED RESERVE EXPENDITURES		<u>0.00</u>
ADD DEPRECIATION (LINE 47 051-1)		<u>22,586.67</u>
ADD OPEB (GASB 45) & RETIREMENT (GASB 68)		<u>(28,099.00)</u>
SUBTRACT REPLACEMENTS (LINE 51 051-1)		<u>(59,395.00)</u>
SUBTRACT BETTERMENTS (LINE 52 051-1)		<u>0.00</u>
Note: SUBTRACT PRINCIPAL PORTION OF DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS		<u>0.00</u>
ADD OR SUBTRACT PRIOR YEAR ADJ. ACCT. 2807 PER 051-6		<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL ADJUSTED NET INCOME		<u>(89,875.66)</u>
4. LINE 2 PLUS 3 OPERATING RESERVE BALANCE BEFORE SUBSIDY		<u>(3,745.75)</u>
5. SUBSIDY ALLOWED TO AUGMENT THE OPERATING RESERVE TO BE NOT MORE THAN 100% FULL RESERVE (LINE 1 MINUS 4)		<u>189,516.75</u>
6. OPERATING SUBSIDY ALLOWED LINE 5 (IF LINE 5 IS NEGATIVE USE - 0 -)		<u>189,516.75</u>
7. BRING OVER SUBSIDY LINE 12, COLUMN 3, APPENDIX B		<u>95,999.85</u>
8. IF LINE 6 MINUS 7 IS POSITIVE USE ZERO ON THIS LINE (LINE 8) IF RESULTS IS NEGATIVE PUT AS A NEGATIVE AMOUNT ON THIS LINE (LINE 8)		<u>0.00</u>
9. REDUCTION OF OPERATING SUBSIDY - LINE 8 (IF - 0 - ENTER - 0 - OR CONVERT NEGATIVE AMOUNT TO BE POSITIVE. BRING THIS AMOUNT TO APPENDIX B, LINE 13)		<u>0.00</u>

See Accountants' Compilation Report

2023 Annual Town Report of the Blackstone Public Library

Honorable Selectmen:

The Blackstone Public Library had a busy 2023. Over 39,000 people visited the Library to borrow materials, attend programs, use a study room, research, attend meetings, visit the adult, teen and children's spaces, use a computer, print, scan, fax, copy, and to socialize. The Library is an accessible hub for community members.

The Library has 71,999 items available for borrowing in its collection. This includes books, DVDs, audiobooks, laptops, iPads, HotSpots, yard games, a ping pong table, laminators, Cricut machines, projectors, movie screens, Launchpads, STEM toys and puzzles, as well as other unique items.

The Home Delivery Program remains active for those patrons who cannot physically get to the library. Deliveries are once a week by appointment. The Library's collection of online tools offers classes, movies, concerts, eBooks, eAudio books, tutoring, and more, all accessible from the comfort of home.

With the increase in book challenges across the country, the Library Board of Trustees and Director remain committed to intellectual freedom, and the idea that libraries serve all people. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core components of library service. This enables the library to bridge the technological divide so residents do not get left behind in the digital world.

The Library is fully compliant in the requirements for State Aid, and is certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Certified libraries are eligible to receive State Aid grant funds from the MBLC, and are eligible to apply for other state grants.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Cheever, Library Director

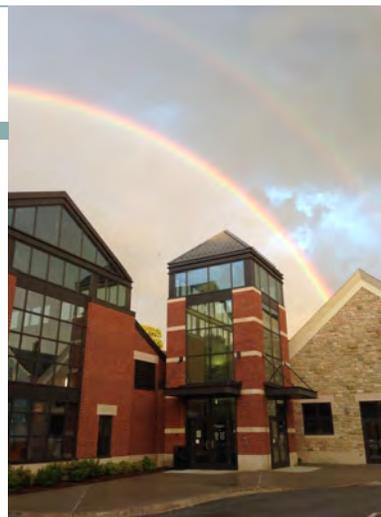


Photo by Dianne Buehler

Blackstone Public Library Board of Trustees

Jean Alexandrowicz
Mary Lou Branchaud
Maryann Dobeck
Kelly Gillis
Patricia Guzinski
Kate Renaud

Hours

Monday
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday
12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday
12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Staff Members

Director: Lisa Cheever

**Assistant Director
& Children's Librarian:**
Tressy Collier

**Head of Circulation &
Technical Services:**
Ellen Goudreau

Young Adult Librarian:
Mandi Whipple

Adult Services:
Renee Milliken

**Shift Supervisor/Repair
Lead:** Donna Foster

Shift Supervisors:
Bethany Rowanheart
Cheryl Marino-Page
Denise Tibbetts

Display Coordinator:
Courtney Pavlis

Library Aide/Outreach
Jean Piechocki

Library Aides:
Miranda Beech
Katarina Guzinski
Lisa Lastoria
Matthew Marchand
Elizabeth McGeough

Custodians:
Russell Marvelle

The Blackstone Public Library has a collection of 71,999 items. As a member of the Massachusetts Library System (MLS), the Library benefits from sharing among member libraries. The Blackstone Public Library supports an annual membership to Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing, Inc. (CW MARS). This online library consortium allows patrons access to thousands of materials from libraries throughout Massachusetts.

CIRCULATION

General 2023 Statistics

There are 5,247 registered borrowers.

Interlibrary loans (ILLs) in the 2023 calendar year

ILLs received = 3,734

ILLs sent = 10,973

Circulation in the 2023 calendar year

44,133

Overdrive Statistics 2023

Total number of items in the shared collection:
200,339

eBooks borrowed 2,438

eAudio borrowed 3,071

Hoopla
1,750 circulations

Brainfuse Tutoring
112 total usage

Public Computer Use
1,062 sessions

Online Tools
2,397 uses

**Wireless HotSpots
Connections (Building & Grounds)**
3,076

Grant and donation funds are used to provide programming, materials, and staffing not covered by the operating budget.

Grants/Gifts 2023	
District Attorney Joseph D. Early - Young Adult Program	\$ 1,000.00
Local Cultural Council Grants - Blackstone	\$ 5,193.00
Small Libraries in Network Grant	\$ 2,500.00
State Aid to Public Libraries	\$ 21,824.83
Cookie Walk Fundraiser	\$ 3,427.00
Friends of the Blackstone Public Library	\$ 1,500.00
Law Office of Daniel T. Doyle	\$ 250.00
Memorial Funds	\$ 0
Patron Donations	\$ 225.00
UniBank	\$ 2,500.00
Dean Bank	\$ 1,200.00
Community Foundation of North Central MA	\$ 500.00
Other Donations	
Bears Tree Farm	Greens
BZ Leaf Lifters LLC	Landscaping
Dionne Electric	Supplies
Dunkin Donuts—Blackstone	Coffee
Great Scapes LLC	Landscaping
Patron Donations	Craft supplies
The Tole Booth	Decorations
YMCA Family & Community Partnership	STEM Program
Blackstone Millville Garden Club	Seed Library



ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Access the resources below, 24 hours a day, without ever leaving home by visiting the Library's web page:
<https://www.blackstonepubliclibrary.org>

- ◆ A to Z World Culture, World Travel, Maps
- ◆ A to Z the USA - State information
- ◆ A to Z Food - recipes
- ◆ ArtistWorks - learn to play an instrument
- ◆ Brainfuse Homework help
- ◆ Chilton Library - automobile repair
- ◆ Craftsy
- ◆ Cypress Resume
- ◆ Digital Newspapers
- ◆ eBooks, eAudio, & eVideo
- ◆ Great Courses
- ◆ Hoopla
- ◆ Infobase Learning Cloud
- ◆ Just for Kids Access Video
- ◆ Kanopy
- ◆ Learn It Live
- ◆ Legal Forms Library
- ◆ Mango Languages
- ◆ MA Statewide databases
- ◆ Price It! - Antiques
- ◆ Qello Concerts
- ◆ Testing & Education Reference Center
- ◆ Udemy
- ◆ Universal Class - free online classes
- ◆ Valueline
- ◆ World Almanac & World Religions
- ◆ Writer's Reference Center



OUTREACH

The Library continues to offer Outreach Services in several forms:

- Homebound Delivery
- Story-times on location
- Mobile Book Clubs
- Application to the Talking Books Library in Worcester
- School visits
- Library tours for schools and community groups
- Monthly craft class at the Senior Center
- Monthly book group at the Senior Center



Thank you to the Friends of the Blackstone Public Library for their ongoing support and fundraising efforts. We love our volunteers!



*There's a **LOT** to l♥ve!*

<https://www.blackstonepubliclibrary.org>

PROGRAMMING

In 2023, Library programming consisted of a combination of in-person and virtual events. Library staff conducted & organized book groups, lectures, classes, and entertainers.

Book Groups:

Evening Book Group, Horror Book Club, Afternoon Book Club

Programs 2023

Age Group	In-Person Programs	In-Person Total Attendance	Live Virtual	Live Virtual Total Attendance	Hybrid (In-person & Zoom)	Hybrid Total Attendance
Children	166	859	0	0	0	0
Young Adults	37	230	0	0	0	0
Adults	78	688	0	0	7	35

The Library received a grant from UniBank for its *What's For Dinner Series*, which addressed food insecurity in the community. This included teaching the basics of health, nutrition, cooking, growing vegetables, and preserving food.

The Library received a donation from Dean Bank for the *Santa Claus is Real* program with Dustin Pari & *The Dickens You Say* with Delvena Theatre.

The library was the recipient of a Library Services and Technology Act grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This two year grant in the amount of \$12,000, will focus on collecting the stories of Blackstone residents. The director will kick off programming for *Voices: A Common Thread* in January 2024.



2023 Summer Reading Program for Children, Young Adults and Adults



Thank you to the town departments, businesses, non-profit groups, and individuals that participated in the Library's *Touch the Trucks* and the *Connect with Your Community* events!



2023 Summer Reading Statistics

Children	94 children registered	38 children completed the program
Young Adults	27 young adults registered	22 young adults completed the program
Adults	56 adults registered	49 adults completed the program



Another fun filled year of amazing events!!

Annual Yearly Events

March - Tags N Tout - sponsored with The Lions and PACC

April - Connect with Your Community – Town Departments at the Blackstone Library

Earth Day

Easter Egg Hunt

Eggstravaganza

May - Memorial Day

June - Community Fun Day -sponsored with Pack 3144 and Devine Mercy Parish

July - Fourth on the Farm- sponsored with Daniels Farmstead

August - Water balloon wars

October - Fall Festival

Trick or Treating at the Town Hall

November - Veteran's Day Celebration

December - Tree lighting Ceremony

Selfie Elfie

Bling up Blackstone

Hometown Celebration

NEW Events

August -Scavenger Hunt – Partner with the Blackstone Historical Museum

Create Ziggy with us

September - Town wide Yard sale



Exciting News !!

With the help of many volunteers, sponsorships from Blackstone businesses, parents, kids, we were able to bring back T-Ball in 2023. We are excited to continue those efforts in 2024.



50th Anniversary of Turbesi Park located at 667 Rathbun Street

Special Recognition



Adam Robidoux who has been a constant groundskeeper for Parks and Recreation for the past 25 years!!!!



Dan Keefe for always volunteering/voluntolding



Acknowledges

Many heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers throughout the year. We couldn't do this without your support.

Lady Anemoia and Norris the Terrible, two excellent bands, celebrating Earth Day.

The local Junior and National Honor Society Students from BMR, BVT, North Smithfield, Nipmuc, and Hartnett Middle School are always a great help as well as the many residents too!

Some businesses\organizations that continue to help us without hesitation are the Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club, ADC Septic, Betty's Donuts, the Lions Club, the High School Music Department, and of course the Friends of Blackstone Parks and Recreation. There are too many volunteers to mention individually but please know how much we appreciate you!

Help always wanted!

We struggle every year trying to hire summer help, 2023 was no different. Always in need of summer helpers so if you are interested, fill out an application at the Town Administrator's office.

The Blackstone Parks and Recreation Commission meeting schedule is posted on the **NEW** Town Website as well as in the Town Hall. Our meetings are usually held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Selectmen's meeting room unless there is a holiday. Meetings are shown live on the public cable channel and recorded for playback on the town website under Government On-Demand.

Visit us on:

Town Website: townofblackstone.org

Facebook: Blackstone-Parks-and-Recreation

Website: BlackstoneParksRec.com

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Briggs, Commissioner on behalf of the Blackstone Parks and Recreation Commission

Celeste Langlois, Chairperson

Bob Gilbert, Vice Chairperson

Don Cox, Treasurer

Kim Briggs, Commissioner

Sara Peters, Commissioner

Deb Bissonnette, Secretary



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE 2022 REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

Members:

In 2022, the Chairman of the Planning Board was Paul Marvelle. He was ably assisted by Owen Bebeau who served as Vice Chairman. Other members included Joseph Belrose, Kirk VanDyke and Joseph Emidy, who was jointly appointed by the Board of Selectmen following the resignation of Tony Catalano. Robert Ring served as alternate member. Stacia Lariviere resigned as the Board's Planning Coordinator in September, and the position remained vacant for the remainder of the year. The Board thanks Sheila Stafford for her assistance during this time.

The Planning Board continues to work with Consultant Gino Carlucci from PGC Associates of Franklin, Massachusetts, funded through the Planning Board's Professional and Technical budget.

Meetings:

The Planning Board generally meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Center. In 2022, due to continuing COVID-19 concerns, the meetings were mostly held in person but some participants joined remotely. All meetings are recorded and accessible on the Blackstone Cable Access Channel and available through the Government Access on Demand web page on the Town website.

Memberships: The Town of Blackstone is a member of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and is represented by Joseph Belrose. Joseph Emidy and Robert Ring serve on the Town's Capital Outlay Committee.

Projects:

Accomplishments of the Blackstone Planning Board in 2022 are as follows:

- Endorsed several Approval Not Required Plans.
- Reviewed/approved a special permit for a Flexible Residential Development on Blackstone Street.
- Reviewed and approved a special permit for a back lot division on Farm Street.
- Conducted a site plan review for a property in the Village Overlay District on Butler Street.
- Approved a 5-lot subdivision off Pickering Road.
- Reviewed a proposed earth removal project on property adjacent to the Polish National Church Cemetery, and recommended approval with conditions to the Board of Selectmen.
- Continued to monitor progress at The Meadows at Harris Pond and partially released a bond for it.
- Approved an amendment to a special permit for a solar facility on Blackstone Street.
- Continued review of the Town's solar photovoltaic facilities, including responding to recent drainage issues in the area of the construction sites.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Marvelle, Chairman

Blackstone Police Department

2023 Annual Report

I would like to begin by taking a moment to thank all the men and women of the Blackstone Police department for their efforts in 2023. Our department will continue in our efforts to be a powerful source of good within the community. We will continue to evaluate our operations, including trends in police services that we offer the residents of Blackstone while improving trust and accountability. I'm happy to report our department continues to move forward with offering quality police services to the town of Blackstone. I want to thank all those officers and dispatchers that dutifully came to work every day in 2023. I'd like to thank the members of the Board of Selectmen and the town administrator's office for all their support during the 2023 calendar year. On behalf of myself and all the men and women of the Blackstone Police department, good luck and be safe in 2024.

With that in mind, I hereby submit the Blackstone Police Department annual report for the year ending December 31, 2023.

The Blackstone Police Department is currently staffed with 18 full-time police officers, 4 full-time dispatchers and 1 part-time dispatchers. Our command structure consists of the chief of police, a lieutenant, 3 sergeants, a detective, a school resource officer, and 11 patrolmen. Our department's staffing remained steady, adding only 1 officer in 2023 as a replacement for staffing shortage.

During 2023, the Blackstone Police Department applied for and received the following grants. The funding from these grants enables us to provide better services for the town and the residents of Blackstone. Grants often allow us to promote and provide safety programs. These grants included:

1.	State 911 Support Grant	\$36,175.00
2.	State 911 Training Grant	\$ 1,196.00
3.	Bullet Proof Vest Replacement Grant	\$ 4,816.00
4.	MED-Project Medicine Collection Grant	\$ 1,300.00

The State 911 Support Grant assists our department with the purchase of various types of equipment which supports the 911 system. This year it supported the purchase of new dispatch computers. The State 911 Training Grant provides funding for training of full and part time dispatchers. The Bullet Proof Vest Grant provides rolling funds to the department for the purchase of body armor for officers every 5 years. This is a revolving, open access grant. The state also provides reimbursement to minimize the cost to the town. The MED grants provide funding for safety programs as well as safety equipment for the town.

The following is a breakdown of our calls for service over the past year:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	
Total Calls Received by Dispatch:	11955	12773	+7%
Arrests:	82	96	+17%
Protective Custody	4	0	0%
Criminal Complaint Applications:	158	126	-20%
These are subjects that were not arrested but criminal complaints were filed against them in adult or juvenile court.			
Emergency Restraining Orders Issued:	50	32	-36%
Domestic Violence Calls:	34	40	+18%
Incident Reports Investigated:	368	443	+20%
Stolen/Recovered Motor Vehicles:	1	2	stolen
	4	1	recovered
Field Interviews:	41	37	-10%
Missing/Runaways:	0	0	0%
Accidents Investigated:	114	123	+8%
Total Motor Vehicle/Traffic Citations Issued:	1770	1306	-26%
- Civil	90	54	-40%
- Complaint App	270	232	-14%
- Warnings	239	127	-112%
- Arrests	40	88	+120%
- Verbal Warnings	1131	805	-29%
Parking Tickets Issued:	87	66	-24%
Pistol Permits Issued/Renewed:	177	179	+1%
- License to Carry	175	175	0%
- FID Card	2	4	-100%

SOCIAL MEDIA: The police department website continues to provide the public with valuable information about the department and includes links to such things as accident reports, sex offender lists, child safety and internet safety pages. Our anonymous tip program has helped us solve crimes in Blackstone and we hope people continue to utilize this important feature. You can email or text anonymous tips to our department in an effort to help us solve crimes in the area. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts also have helped us not only notify the community about important matters but have also helped us solve some serious crimes. We encourage this continued assistance from the community. Please follow us on social media.

DRUG INTERDICTION: We continue our long-time relationship with the Blackstone Valley Drug and Counter Crimes Task Force. Lieutenant Shawn Brodeur and Detective Travis Loether, along with newly selected officers Harry Cervates and Johnathan Savoie, continue to work with our local, state and federal partners in investigating drug cases in the area.

PROMOTIONS: We saw stability in our ranks this year, with no new promotions to announce. Our newest officer, Taylor Hanson, was appointed in April of 2023 and will end his probationary period in early 2024. He has performed well early on and we anticipate good things going forward.

CAR SEAT INSTALLATION: Officer Niemczyk continues to be active as a child car seat safety technician. He is available during the week or on weekends. Officer Niemczyk works the day shift as well as by appointment so this allows a wide range of days and times to get a car seat checked for proper installation. If there are any residents that are having problems getting a certified child car seat, please contact Officer Niemczyk and he will be able to assist you as long as we have some available.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER: School Resource Officer Joseph Niemczyk has been working closely with the schools in 2023. He interacts with the school administration on a daily basis, assisting in all matters related to not only law enforcement but diversion, counseling, athletics, etc. And in an effort to increase school safety above and beyond the SRO program, our officers have been conducting random checks at all the local schools at random times to help bolster officer presence.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Our department enjoyed working closely with members of the town hall to assist in community outreach to our citizens, most notably the seniors and members of the Blackstone Senior Center. Several members of the department helped with Thanksgiving and Christmas events and we look forward to expanding our presence in these wonderful events.

JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM: In 2023, our department collaborated with the Advocates Jail Diversion Program to work with mental health clinicians that are assigned to our department to assist with police calls involving mental health issues, domestic violence, juvenile diversion and other areas that in the past the officers were handling without clinical assistance

THANK YOU: As I present my department's town report as Chief of Police, in addition to the officers mentioned above, I would be remiss if I did not thank and acknowledge each and every member of this Department for their dedication and true professionalism. I feel fortunate to be surrounded by hard working individuals who work tirelessly to serve the people of our community on a daily basis. I sincerely believe the men and women of this department offer the citizens of Blackstone the most excellent police services in the Blackstone Valley. On behalf of the Department, I say thank you to all our residents and business owners for your continued support throughout the year. It is our pleasure to serve you and we will continue to provide you with the most professional and dedicated Police services possible.

Gregory Gilmore - Chief of Police

2023 Annual Report

Department of Public Works

Highway Division:

In 2023, the streets were swept, catch basins were cleaned, repaired and/or rebuilt. The town's highway division repaved a portion of Blackstone Street. Roadwork was complete on Reilly Avenue, Kimberly Lane, Nancy Court, Mark Drive, and Bridge Street, which included replacement of sidewalks. Brush was cut at resident's requests and/or to eliminate any safety issues. In April, MassDOT released WRAP funds to all cities and towns. Drainage work was completed on Federal Street and Blackstone Street. The year 5 MS4 annual report was submitted to the EPA and Mass DEP. We would like to thank the DOC work crew for their assistance throughout the year. We appreciate their service to the Town. We thank the residents for their patience while we clear and clean the streets during snowstorms.

Water Division:

The Department of Public Works personnel continue to operate and maintain six pumping stations that pump water from seven wells. The water is treated at the corrosion control facility before it is distributed to customers/residents. The meters in all wells were calibrated. The water distribution system includes four water storage standpipes and approximately forty miles of water main providing drinking water and fire protection to 90% of our population. All water storage tanks were inspected. Well 9 pump was cleaned and repaired. The water department completed the annual water main flushing program. Water testing is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations. Once a month we collect samples from twenty-one sites (including all wells) throughout the water distribution system to test for total coliform. During the year, we also sampled for contaminants such as: Carbon based products called Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), Disinfectant Byproducts such as Trihalomethane and Haloacetic Acids and others such as Nitrate, PFAS, Tetrachloroethylene, Arsenic, Iron, Manganese and asbestos. Lead and Copper samples were taken from 40 sampling sites in 2023. The Blackstone Water Dept. issues a Consumer Confidence Report each year. This report offers information on the source and quality of the drinking water and compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations. This report is available on the town website. The Town worked with Toomey Water Services to inspect the backflow devices throughout town. The town's fire hydrants were winterized in the fall to protect them from freezing. The Water Treatment Plant is nearing its final leg of completion and is expected to have a pre start up in the beginning months of 2024, prior to going on line. There are several wells in the process of getting electrical and communication upgrades, with Well 4 near completion.

Sewer Division:

The Department of Public Works currently operates and maintains fifteen (15) wastewater pump stations throughout the town. These pump stations were checked daily by DPW employees. The pump motor was replaced at the Main Lift station. The flow meter at the Main lift station was calibrated. Sewer pumps were rebuilt, and many electronic components replaced at various sewer stations. Residents are reminded not to put "flushable" wipes in the toilet, they belong in the trash. These so-called flushable wipes are not flushable and can clog sewer pipes and pumps.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners and all other boards or departments that assisted us in any way this past year. In the fall, we welcomed Gary Bibbo, Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent. To the residents of Blackstone, we ask for your patience and support as we continue to strive to improve our level of service and our water, wastewater, and highway infrastructure.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Sullivan
Superintendent of Public Works

Gary Bibbo
Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Board was established on January 26, 1966, in accordance with the Zoning Enabling Act, Chapter 40A and Section 14 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals is currently led by Chairman Mark Sinibaldi and ably assisted by Vice Chair Lori Poirier. Other members include Anita Robertson and Paul DiCenso with alternate members Robert Holmes and Darrell True. During 2023, the Zoning Board of Appeals had several public hearings on special permits, as well as on variances regarding various dimensional requirements such as setbacks, frontage, and area. The applications were reviewed, and decisions rendered pursuant to the Blackstone Zoning Bylaws, and Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws. The current application fee remains at \$300, which became effective in September 2001. All meetings are open to the public, and we cordially invite residents of the Town to attend. Meetings are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Center. All meetings are recorded and accessible on the Blackstone Cable Access Channel and available through the Government Access on Demand web page on the Town website. The Zoning Board of Appeals will continue to review current By-laws with an eye towards improving and updating outdated By-Laws for presentation to residents at Town Meeting for consideration and approval. The Zoning Board of Appeals would like to thank Town residents, Town officials and the Board of Selectmen for their support and assistance. The Board will dutifully move forward to work with all members of the public and the Town to uphold the principles set out in the Master Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sinibaldi, Chairman

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK
YEAR ENDING 2023

I am pleased to submit the 2023 Annual Report for the Town Clerk's Office. I am happy to share some of what the Town Clerk's Office has accomplished this year.

As a result of the 2023 Annual Town Census, the population of Blackstone is 9,490. I would like to thank everybody who returned their census this year, and continue to do so faithfully, year after year. The town's population numbers are essential to the town when applying for various grants for town projects such as road improvements, police, and fire safety projects. Returning the Annual Town Census also ensures that resident's voter statuses remain active. We are required by state law to inactivate voters who do not respond to the census.

Since Blackstone's incorporation in 1845, our vital records total the following: Births, 19,162; Marriages, 10,456; and Deaths, 11,762. The Town Clerk's office receives birth and death information via the state's computerized software database program. This year, the Town processed 96 Birth Records, 73 Death Records, and 45 Marriage Records.

There was one Election in 2023. The first was the Annual Town Election on April 3, 2023. There were 15 positions available; 1,201 voters participated in this Election.

The Town held a Special Town Meeting on April 25, 2023, there were 354 voters in attendance voting on 4 Articles. The Special and Annual Town Meetings were held on May 30, 2023. The Meetings were held at the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. There were 308 voters in attendance, acting on 43 Articles. There were 10 Articles voted on that same evening at the Special Town Meeting. A Special Town Meeting was held on November 6, 2024, there were 161 voters in attendance, acting on 1 Article.

The Town Clerk's office works closely with the Animal Control Officer regarding the dog-licensing in town. The state mandates that dogs six months of age or older be licensed with the town and have current rabies vaccinations. Blackstone offers one, two, and three year licenses, depending on the expiration of the dog's rabies vaccination. In 2023, the Town Clerk's Office registered 370 dogs.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the volunteers from the Senior Work-Off Program who volunteered in the Town Clerk's Office this year. I would like thank the Assistant Town Clerk, Alison Vaillancourt, the Office Assistant, Melissa Germain for all of their hard work this year.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tara C. Sullivan
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
APRIL 3, 2023**

WORCESTER SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Blackstone

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in elections to meet at the following places on Monday, the 3rd day of April, 2023.

- Precinct #1—Senior Center (Lower Level), Municipal Center, 15 St. Paul Street
- Precinct #2— at Blackstone Fire Station #2, 666 Rathbun Street
- Precinct #3—Main Conference Room (Upper Level), Municipal Center, 15 St. Paul Street

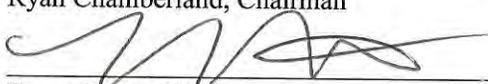
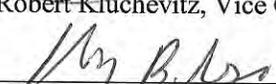
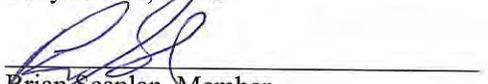
The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

To cast their votes in the Annual Town Election for the following:

- One member of the Board of Assessors for a 3-Year Term
- One member of the Board of Assessors for an Unexpired 3-Year Term to expire ATE 2025
- One member of the BMR District School Committee for a 4-Year Term (Blackstone Representative)
- One member of the BMR District School Committee for a 4-Year Term (Millville Representative)
- One member of the BMR District School Committee for an Unexpired 4-Year Term to expire ATE 2025 (Millville Representative)
- One member of the BMR District School Committee for an Unexpired 4-Year Term to expire ATE 2026 (Millville Representative)
- One position for Constable to fill an Unexpired 3-Year Term to expire ATE 2025
- One member of the Board of Health for a 3-Year Term
- One position for Moderator for a 3-Year Term
- Two members of the Blackstone Housing Authority for a 5-Year Term and a 4-Year Term
- Two members of the Parks & Recreation Commission for 3-Year Terms
- One member of the Planning Board for a 5-Year Term
- One member of the Planning Board for an Unexpired 5-Year Term to expire ATE 2026
- Two members of the Board of Selectmen for 3-Year Terms

Hereof, fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting:

Given under our hands this day of March, 2023.

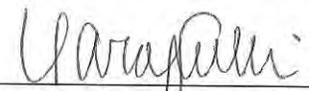
 _____ Ryan Chamberland, Chairman	 _____ Robert Kluchevitz, Vice Chairman
 _____ Tanya Polak, Clerk	 _____ Mary Bulso, Member
 _____ Brian Scanlan, Member	

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, I have this 8th day of March, 2023, notified the inhabitants of the Town of Blackstone by posting up true and attested copies at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street; at the Fire Station on Rathbun Street and at the A.F. Maloney School on Lincoln Street.



Constable of Blackstone

A True Copy of Notice and Return:



Tara C. Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone

Town of Blackstone
Annual Town Election
Monday, April 3, 2023

*******OFFICIAL RESULTS*******

The polls were declared open at 7am and closed at 8pm.

The votes were recorded as follows:

	<i>*denotes winner</i>			
Precinct	1	2	3	Total
Board of Assessors				
Jeremiah J. Carey*	241	316	258	815
Dan Keefe	1	0	0	1
Bob Dubois	1	0	0	1
John Eldridge	1	0	0	1
Kasey Bik	1	0	0	1
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Joseph Collette	0	1	0	1
Joe Niemczyk	0	0	1	1
John Wozniak	0	0	0	0
Blanks	110	135	134	379
Total	355	453	393	1201

Board of Assessors (unexpired 3-year term to expire ATE 2025)

Jacquelyn Marie Robinson *	231	300	246	777
Bob Kluchevitz	1	0	0	1
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Blanks	123	152	147	422
Total	355	453	393	1201

BMR District School Committee (Blackstone Representative)

Tara Schouboe*	246	312	272	830
Kevin Piette	1	0	0	1
Ryan Barry	1	0	0	1
John Ambacher	1	0	0	1
Jeff Highcove	0	1	0	1
Jordan Ambacher	0	1	0	1
Tara Larkin	0	1	0	1
Blanks	106	138	121	365
Total	355	453	393	1201

BMR District School Committee (Millville Representative)

Tara Larkin*	7	10	18	35
Josh Ryan	1	0	0	1
Matthew Catalano	3	0	0	3
Mike Devlin	1	0	0	1
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Edward Novio	0	1	1	2
Daniel Tober	0	1	0	1
John Wozniak	0	1	0	1
Keith Ducharme	0	1	0	1

Blanks	343	438	374	1155
Total	355	453	393	1201

BMR District School Committee (unexpired 4-year term to expire ATE 2025)

Edward Novio*	3	0	8	11
Matthew Catalano	6	1	0	7
Tara Larkin	4	1	0	5
Josh Ryan	1	0	0	1
Mike Devlin	1	0	0	1
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Daniel Tober	0	1	0	1
John Wozniak	0	1	0	1
Sarah Kudirke	0	1	0	1
Jen Wing	0	0	1	1
Blanks	340	447	384	1171
Total	355	453	393	1201

BMR District School Committee (unexpired 4-year term to expire ATE 2026)

Edward S. Novio	97	108	79	284
Matthew Catalano*	162	226	198	586
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Blanks	96	118	116	330
Total	355	453	393	1201

Constable (unexpired 3-year term to expire ATE 2025)

Benjamin Putnam*	1	5	0	6
Warren Pisani	1	0	0	1
William Ryan	1	0	0	1
Mike Devlin	1	0	0	1
Zack Zielinski	1	0	0	1
Bob Dubois	1	3	0	4
Daniel Tober	0	1	0	1
Jeff Highcove	0	1	1	2
Jennifer Lavallee	0	1	0	1
Kara Castonguay	0	1	0	1
Michael Houle	0	1	0	1
Jacob Forget	0	1	0	1
Richard Ryan	0	1	0	1
Gerry Lapierre	0	1	0	1
Bob Andrade	0	1	0	1
Fred Gremza	0	0	1	1
Darren Germain	0	0	1	1
Blanks	349	436	390	1175
Total	355	453	393	1201

Board of Health

Joshua Jamie Ryan*	249	317	254	820
Anita Robertson	1	0	0	1
Dan Keefe	1	0	0	1

Jackie Miner	1	0	0	1
Ryan Sornberger	0	1	0	1
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
TJ Polak	0	1	0	1
Blanks	103	133	139	375
Total	355	453	393	1201

Moderator

Michael J. Buckley	133	174	142	449
Daniel T. Doyle*	184	228	215	627
Robert Laren	1	0	0	1
Jordan Andrade	1	1	0	2
Blanks	36	50	36	122
Total	355	453	393	1201

Blackstone Housing Authority

Lori A. Poirier*	216	296	243	755
Jacquelyn Marie Robinson*	192	251	190	633
Jim Watson	1	0	0	1
Tom Devlin	1	0	0	1
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Edward Pelletier	0	1	0	1
Blanks	300	357	353	1010
Total	710	906	786	2402

Parks & Recreation Commission

Kimberly Ann Briggs*	200	252	202	654
Kevin M. Hart	138	163	147	448
Sara Grace Peters*	166	242	175	583
Celeste Langlois	1	0	0	1
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Blanks	205	248	262	715
Total	710	906	786	2402

Planning Board

Paul E. Marvelle*	251	331	280	862
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Lori Poirier	0	1	0	1
Jim Scanlan	0	1	0	1
Joe Emidy	0	1	0	1
Blanks	104	118	113	335
Total	355	453	393	1201

Planning Board (unexpired 5-year term to expire ATE 2026)

Michael Savard*	227	290	240	757
Nicholas Burnham	1	0	0	1
Jordan Andrade	0	1	0	1
Ryan Barry	0	1	0	1
Blanks	127	161	153	441

Total	355	453	393	1201
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Board of Selectmen

Mary E. Bulso*	185	223	204	612
Robert J. Kluchevtiz	119	148	145	412
Ryan James Barry	53	62	51	166
Joseph P. Emidy	111	205	119	435
Daniel Patrick Keefe*	171	178	191	540
Jordan Andrade	1	0	0	1
John Ambacher	1	0	0	1
Margo Bik	1	0	0	1
Jacob Forget	0	2	0	2
Thomas Greene	0	1	0	1
Blanks	68	87	76	231
Total	710	906	786	2402

Total Registered Voters	7178
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Total Voters	1201	17%
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Tara C. Sullivan
Town Clerk

*****OFFICIAL RESULTS*****



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
April 25, 2023
7:00 PM

Worcester, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Blackstone in the County of Worcester.

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone, qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium in said Town of Blackstone on Tuesday April 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. then and there to act upon the articles of the warrant.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain the land and buildings thereon known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146) for general municipal purposes on such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town; and to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of \$1,370,000 for the purpose of such acquisitions.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Two-Thirds Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Town to acquire the property at 630 Rathbun Street that currently houses St. Theresa's for general municipal purposes, with specific potential uses to be determined after a feasibility study.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote, contingent upon the passage of Article 1 to acquire the property known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146), to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$10,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of paying the costs of operating expenses through June 30, 2023 for such property once acquired by the Town, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

If the Town votes to acquire the property at 630 Rathbun Street, passage of this Article would provide for operating expenses for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2023 once the property is under the ownership and control of the Town.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote, contingent upon the passage of Article 1 to acquire the property known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146), to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a feasibility study with regard to the utilization of that property, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform such study, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

If the Town votes to acquire the property known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church for general municipal purposes, passage of this Article would allow the Board of Selectmen to commission a feasibility study to determine the possible municipal uses for the property.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform said services, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Board of Selectmen to hire a designer and pay related expenses to create plans for the redesign of Town Hall.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Moderator Daniel Doyle, who declared a quorum. There were 354 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 Annual Town Meeting: Christopher Brow, Esq., Ethan Dively, Miyares and Harrington LLP, Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor, Lisa Cheever, Library Director, Gregory Gilmore, Chief of Police, Bill Kessler, Fire Chief, Vincenzo Tirone, Building Commissioner, Karen Testa, Senior Center Director, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, and Father John Larochelle, Divine Mercy Parish.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Ross Nicol, Finance Committee Chairman, read the Finance Committee's recommendation for Article 1.

Ryan Chamberland, Board of Selectmen Chairman, made a motion to amend Article 1:

“To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain the land and buildings thereon known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146) for general municipal purposes on such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town and to appropriate from the Capital Trust a sum of \$1,370,000 for the purpose of such acquisitions to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.” The motion was seconded.

Bob Dubois, 56 Edgewater Drive, spoke in favor of purchasing St. Theresa's Church. He further stated that the Capital Trust has been able to fund many projects, and recently agreed to extend the power plant contract by 10 years. He's concerned about what could go in the property if the Town doesn't buy it, and that the Town should buy it.

Diana Simmone, expressed her love for the Senior Center and that the current space is too small.

The Moderator called for a vote for the amendment.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT
232 YES 103 NO 2 ABS

The Moderator read Article 1 as amended.

Jim Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, said that the appraisal that was completed for the property was determined that the highest and best use for the property is for religious use, as it has been for many years. The front of the property is zoned commercial, the highest and best use has to be legal, the legal use is as a religious property and not as a residential property, which affects the value of the property. He expressed his support for passing this Article.

Toni Harvey, 61 Bellingham Road, supports this Article to purchase St. Theresa's because it will benefit the Town.

Brian Scanlan, Board of Selectmen, expressed the need for a larger Senior Center. The purchase would not affect the tax rate.

Jeff Silverstein, Finance Committee, stated that he is opposed to purchasing this property, homework has not been done to purchase this property. The Capital Outlay Committee has not adopted a Capital Plan. There weren't many inspections done for this property, and the one that was done showed that there was asbestos in both buildings with an estimated cost of abatement of \$630,000. A lead, chapter 34, nor ADA inspection was never done.

Vincenzo Tirone, Building Commissioner, reminded the audience that he gives assessments as he sees things, he is not for or against anything, but is there for the purpose of assessing the building. He said that the condition of the building is consistent with the age of the building, it has a clean bill of safe according to his assessment.

Kevin Roy, Deputy Fire Chief, stated that he walked through the building and agree that the bones look good and it appears to be in decent condition. The property would need a sprinkler system, but any major renovations will require a sprinkler system.

Discussion between Kevin Roy, Vincenzo Tirone, and Jeffrey Silverstein took place regarding updates and costs.

Karen Testa, Council on Aging Director, explained the need for a larger Senior Center. She further encouraged the purchase of this property.

Mary Bulso, Board of Selectmen, said that this building has the potential for grants to renovate this building.

Robert Kluchevitz, 20 Dawes Street, stated that the price of the property was negotiated down, and the purchase won't cause the taxes to go up as it is being funded from Capital Trust and encouraged the purchase of this property.

Tanya Polak, Board of Selectmen, stated that the Capital Outlay Committee recommended the purchase of this property.

Jim Watson and Daniel Keefe spoke in favor of purchasing the property. Anita Robertson spoke about the proximity of the property to a larger shopping plaza.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain the land and buildings thereon known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146) for general municipal purposes on such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town.

MOTION FAILS (2/3 vote required)
214 YES 118 NO 3 ABS

A motion was made to hand-count the vote. The motion was seconded. The Moderator called for a hand-count vote.

MOTION FAILS (2/3 vote required)
219 YES 114 NO

A motion was made to pass over Article 2. The motion was seconded.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote, contingent upon the passage of Article 1 to acquire the property known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146), to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$10,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of paying the costs of operating expenses through June 30, 2023 for such property once acquired by the Town, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 2

A motion was made to pass over Article 3. The motion was seconded.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote, contingent upon the passage of Article 1 to acquire the property known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146), to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a feasibility study with regard to the utilization of that property, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform such study, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 3

The Finance Committee Chairman read the motion of Article 4. The motion was seconded. Ryan Chamberland, Board of Selectmen, made a motion to amend Article 4:

"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform said services, or to take any other action in relation thereto." The motion was seconded. He explained that there are issues at the Town Hall that need to be addressed, including the fire department and jail cells.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT

145 YES 75 NO 3 ABS

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Capital Trust a sum of \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform said services, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION FAILS (2/3 vote required)

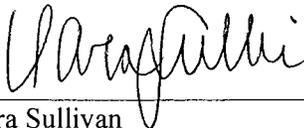
133 YES 85 NO

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider Article 1.

MOTION FAILS

85 YES 121 NO 5 ABS

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting. The Special Town Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone

Hereof, fail not and make do return of this Warrant with doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time of said meeting.

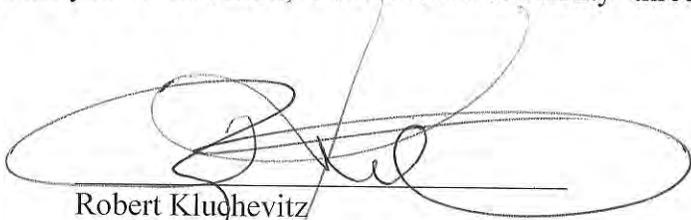
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up true and attested copies thereof in each of the following names and places in Blackstone fourteen (14) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street and at Fire Station #2, Rathbun Street and the A.F. Maloney School on 200 Lincoln Street and also by publication no less than fourteen (14) days before the day fixed for such meeting in that newspaper having the largest circulation in the Town .

Given under our hands this 7th day of March in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty -three.

SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE



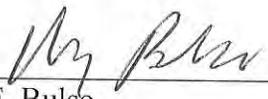
Ryan Chamberland
Chairman



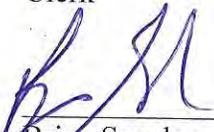
Robert Kludhevitz
Vice-Chairman



Tanya Polak
Clerk



Mary E. Bulso
Member



Brian Scanlan
Member

A true copy attest:



Constable of Blackstone

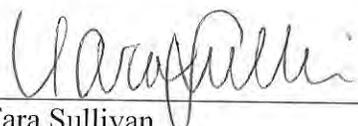
Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, I have this 8th day of March 2023 notified the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone by posting up true and attested copies of the within warrant at the within named places and by publication as within directed.



Constable of Blackstone

A TRUE COPY OF THE WARRANT AND RETURN:



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
May 30, 2023
7:00 PM

Worcester, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Blackstone in the County of Worcester.

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone, qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium in said Town of Blackstone on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. then and there to act upon the articles of the warrant.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum to balance the deficit of the snow and ice account or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
2/3rds Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to balance the deficit carried by the snow and ice account for snow removal services in a prior fiscal year.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$139.90 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Haldeman Hydraulics or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
9/10ths Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a bill incurred in a prior fiscal year for the purchase of a snow plow cylinder.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$5,861.52 to pay prior year Town Administrator's Office bill to Tellstone & Son, Inc. or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
9/10ths Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a prior fiscal year bill owed to Tellstone & Son, Inc., a contractor providing buses for Norfolk Agricultural High School.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$170.00 to pay prior year Council on Aging bill to Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
9/10ths Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a prior fiscal year bill for a toll invoice from the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$159,663.64 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Treatment or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
9/10ths Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a prior fiscal year bill from Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Treatment for the Town's yearly operations and maintenance share in the regional wastewater treatment system.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$298.92 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Riley Brothers Asphalt or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
9/10ths Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a prior fiscal year bill from Riley Brothers Asphalt, Inc., for the purchase of materials.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$472.37 to pay prior year Fire Department bill to Shred-It or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
9/10ths Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay prior fiscal year bills from Shred-It for services at the Fire Department.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$249.95 to pay prior year Town Clerk's bill to Amazon or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
9/10ths Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a prior fiscal year bill from Amazon Capital Services, Inc. for the purchases of supplies for the Police Department.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$226.82 to pay prior year Police Department's bill to Amazon or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
9/10ths Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a prior fiscal year bill from Amazon Capital Services, Inc. for the purchases of supplies for the Police Department.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate of transfer from available funds a sum of \$40,000, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for services related to filling the Chestnut Street landfill and related expenses, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
2/3rds Vote Required

Article Summary:

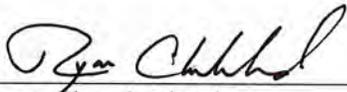
This Article would appropriate funds for fill work at the Chestnut Street landfill.

Hereof, fail not and make do return of this Warrant with doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time of said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up true and attested copies thereof in each of the following names and places in Blackstone fourteen (14) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street and at Fire Station #2, Rathbun Street and the A.F. Maloney School on 200 Lincoln Street and also by publication no less than fourteen (14) days before the day fixed for such meeting in that newspaper having the largest circulation in the Town .

Given under our hands this 28th day of March in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty -three.

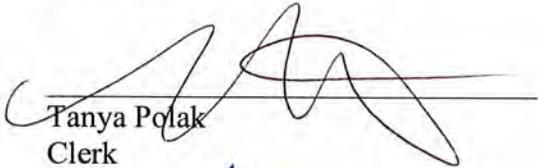
SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE



Ryan Chamberland
Chairman



Robert Kluchevitz
Vice-Chairman



Tanya Polak
Clerk

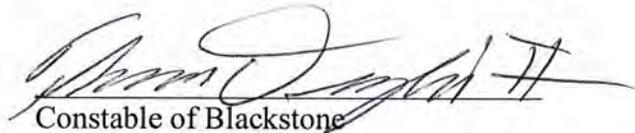


Mary E. Bulso
Member



Brian Scanlan
Member

A true copy attest:



Constable of Blackstone

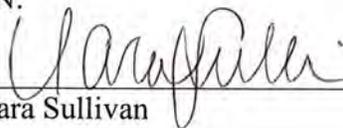
Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, I have this 29th day of March 2023 notified the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone by posting up true and attested copies of the within warrant at the within named places and by publication as within directed.



Constable of Blackstone

A TRUE COPY OF THE WARRANT AND RETURN:



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 30, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Daniel Doyle, who declared a quorum. There were 308 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 Annual Town Meeting: Christopher Brow, Esq., Ethan Dively, Miyares and Harrington LLP, Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor, Lisa Cheever, Library Director, Gregory Gilmore, Chief of Police, Bill Kessler, Fire Chief, Vincenzo Tirone, Building Commissioner, Karen Testa, Senior Center Director, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, and Samir Pater and Brian Fualk, Esq., Petitioner and Legal Counsel for Citizens Petition on Article 41.

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 \$40,150.61 to balance the deficit of the snow and ice account.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)

219 YES 44 NO

ARTICLE 2. 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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)

225 YES 13 NO

ARTICLE 3. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,861.52 to pay prior year Town Administrator's Office bill to Tellstone & Son, Inc.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)

201 YES 18 NO

ARTICLE 4. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$170.00 to pay prior year Council on Aging bill to Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
234 YES 19 NO

ARTICLE 5. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Water & Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$159,663.64 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Treatment.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
207 YES 42 NO

ARTICLE 6. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$298.92 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Riley Brothers Asphalt.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
231 YES 13 NO

ARTICLE 7. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$472.37 to pay prior year Fire Department bill to Shred-It.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
204 YES 34 NO

ARTICLE 8. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$249.95 to pay prior year Town Clerk's bill to Amazon.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
192 YES 72 NO

ARTICLE 9. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$226.82 to pay prior year Police Department's bill to Amazon.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
175 YES 74 NO

ARTICLE 10. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for services related to filling the Chestnut Street landfill and related expenses.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)
160 YES 87 NO

A motion was made by Selectmen Keefe to reconsider Article 5. The motion was seconded. Selectmen Keefe explained that Article 5 for the Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Bill, and it comes from the Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, this is the final portion of last year's bill. If we didn't pay this bill, we would be in violation of the Town's contract with the City of Woonsocket. He urged everyone to pass this bill.

Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, asked if there was any interest on the bill.

Mr. Keefe said that the City of Woonsocket didn't bill us quarterly, and understand that the Town had to wait until the Special Town Meeting to pay the bill, so there is not interest.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 5
246 YES 26 NO

The Moderator read Article 5 as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded.

ARTICLE 5. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Water & Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$159,663.64 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Treatment.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
255 YES 28 NO

A motion was made to Reconsider Article 10. The motion was seconded.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Chamberland, 234 Main Street, explained that Article 10 has to do with the DEP order the Town will be fined by the State. This is necessary to do the work on the Chestnut Street Landfill.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 10
217 YES 51 NO

Tom Tenerowicz, 5 Handy Road, asked how much the fine would be if this Article doesn't pass.

Chairman Chamberland said that he does not have an answer to that question.

ARTICLE 10. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for services related to filling the Chestnut Street landfill and related expenses.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)
218 YES 65 NO

A motion to Reconsider Article 7 was made. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland explained that these are past bills that need to be paid. If they are not paid, the accounts will be shut down. He explained that Shred-It is a company used often to dispose of documents at the Town Hall. He urged the voters to vote to approve these Articles moving forward.

Daniel Keefe stated that the bills are less than \$1,000 in total, and they can't be paid without Town Meeting approval. It could cost the Town a lot more if the Town has to go to litigation to get the bills paid.

Paul Frade, 28 Clyde Street, stated that Shred-It takes care of sensitive patient data that is in the Fire Department, and they will also take care of biohazard waste.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 7
248 YES 32 NO

ARTICLE 7. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$472.37 to pay prior year Fire Department bill to Shred-It.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
245 YES 24 NO

A motion was made to Reconsider Article 8. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 8
226 YES 39 NO

ARTICLE 8. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$249.95 to pay prior year Town Clerk's bill to Amazon.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
237 YES 28 NO

A motion was made to Reconsider Article 9. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 9
236 YES 46 NO

ARTICLE 9. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$226.82 to pay prior year Police Department's bill to Amazon.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
232 YES 37 NO

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting. The Special Town Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 30, 2023
7:30 PM

Worcester, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Blackstone in the County of Worcester.

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone, qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium in said Town of Blackstone on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. then and there to act upon the articles of the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Collector to use all means of collecting taxes that a Treasurer may use when appointed Collector or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Town has accepted M.G.L. c. 41, § 38, which provides that the Town may authorize its collector of taxes to use all means of collecting taxes which a town treasurer may use when appointed a collector of taxes. These means are dictated by M.G.L. c. 60, § 90, which allows the collector to issue warrants to collect to a deputy collector in the same form and conferring the same powers as warrants by assessors to collectors.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary 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, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024 and to determine how such sums of money should be raised, whether from the current tax levy, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Towns are required to set the salary and compensation of all elected and appointed officers of the town at the annual town meeting and determine the Town's operating budget for the fiscal year.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to compensate the members of Boards and Committees of the Town of Blackstone 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; orb) 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Article IX, §C9-14 of the Town Charter provides that “All Town officials who receive remuneration shall be compensated in an amount approved annually by Town Meeting.”

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to compensate the members of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for their services as such members and to set the amount of said compensation at \$1,500.00 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 is not in attendance of at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such members 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) months 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Article IX, §C9-14 of the Town Charter provides that “All Town officials who receive remuneration shall be compensated in an amount approved annually by Town Meeting.”

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may determine for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of public ways, street drainage systems and sidewalks throughout the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Per M.G.L. c. 40, § 4, the Town has the power to make contracts on terms and conditions authorized by Town Meeting, as long as such contracts are a legal exercise of the Town's corporate powers.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to 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 or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Two Thirds Vote Required

Article Summary:

M.G.L. c. 40, § 14 allows the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase or eminent domain, any easement within the town for any municipal purpose. The statute requires Town Meeting to authorize and appropriate funds for the acquisition.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to fund FY2024 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 FY2024 effective July 1, 2023, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Town voted in 2019 to accept M.G.L. c. 44, § 53F^{3/4}, which authorizes the Town to establish as separate revenue account known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and cable-related revenues. Moneys in the Fund may only be appropriated for cable-related expenses consistent with the franchise agreement, including, but not limited to: (i) support of public, educational, or governmental access ("PEG access") cable television services; (ii) monitor compliance of the cable operator with the franchise agreement; or (iii) prepare for renewal of the franchise license.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to grant the Board of Selectmen authority to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 Section 134 and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and business to opt-out of the aggregation, or take any other action in relation thereto, and, further, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has engaged in a process to establish a competitive marketplace through the restructuring of the electricity market; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Blackstone have a substantial economic and social interest in terms of greater customer choice and opportunities for savings in this restructured market; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Blackstone hereby finds that it may be in the interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter into appropriate agreements with consultants, experts and attorneys in connection with the establishment and operation of an electricity aggregation plan.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Blackstone hereby:

Publicly declares its intent to become an aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and business electric customers and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended; and

To negotiate and enter into such contracts for power supply pursuant to the plan or services for such plan, with the understanding that if a power supply contract is executed, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate in the aggregation plan and, instead, to choose any electricity alternatives they desire and, further, to take such other action relative hereto as may be appropriate and necessary.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry. If an aggregation of electricity load is implemented in Blackstone, individual residents and businesses would retain the right to opt out of the aggregation with no penalty and to choose any other competitive supplier or stay with the default utility.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain temporary and permanent easements and/or rights in a portion of the property known and numbered as 1 Marie Drive (Assessors' Parcel 20-54) for the purposes of locating and constructing a system of stormwater drainage on such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town; and to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of money for the purpose of such acquisitions.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Two-Thirds Vote Required

Article Summary:

This article will allow the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by eminent domain if necessary, the rights needed to improve stormwater drainage in the area of Bellingham Road and Marie Drive, which has been the subject of litigation filed against the Town. Such easement rights are necessary to remedy the stormwater drainage issues which have been raised by the property owner in the litigation.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, as a gift of land as provided in the Blackstone Planning Board's Flexible Residential Development Special Permit

for 298 Blackstone Street, the property located on Blackstone Street identified as Assessors Plat 30, Lot 9, for park or open space purposes and on such other terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This article will allow the Board of Selectmen to accept approximately 13.80 acres of land in the area for 298 Blackstone Street, which are to be donated to the Town to be used for park or open space purposes pursuant to the Planning Board's Special Permit for the development of residential lots at 298-306 Blackstone Street.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$20,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of paying the cost of a contract with a qualified vendor for the purchase of Voice Over IP telephone system equipment and related implementation services and operational charges for the first year of said contract.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate a sum of money to pay the costs incurred by a contract to install and operate a Voice over IP system in Town offices. This would be an upgrade over the current telephone system as the VoIP system allows communications services to be delivered over the Internet rather than the telephone network. This would allow Town offices to utilize more, and improved, communications options.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to purchase and install an electronic card pass or token access system for Municipal Buildings or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 18 of the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$25,000 to be repurposed for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to amend Article 1 of the January 2018 Special Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$75,000 to be repurposed for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform said services, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Board of Selectmen to hire a designer and pay related expenses to create plans for

the redesign of Town Hall. The funding for this article will come from two prior town meeting articles that were unexpended, no additional appropriation will be needed.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing and upgrading playground fitness equipment, ground surfacing, fencing, picnic tables, and any other related site work at Roosevelt Park or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required (Two-Thirds if Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds, including by borrowing, for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$520.00 to pay prior year Forestry bills to Stanley Tree Service or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Accountant)
4/5th Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a prior fiscal year bill for the treatment of a tree payable to Stanley Tree Service.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to amend the purpose of the vote under Article 23 of the May 25, 2021 Annual Town Meeting from the purchase of “one 2021 1500 GMP Pumper Fire Truck” to the purchase of “one Fire Truck”, and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, and/or transfer from available funds an additional \$155,513.24 for such purpose, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required (Two-Thirds if Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds, including by borrowing, for the stated purposes. Additionally, in 2021, Annual Town Meeting authorized an appropriation or borrowing of \$500,000 for the purchase of a fire truck and related equipment, but the Town only used a partial amount of that appropriation. This Article would rescind the \$409,486.67 remaining from that appropriation, and the authorization to borrow for the same purpose.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$35,000 for the purchase of structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$55,000 for the purchase of backup sets of structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the career members of the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$37,000 for the purchase of brush Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$215,000 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$60,000 to purchase a command vehicle for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$70,000 for the purchase of EMS equipment for the Fire Department ambulance service, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$70,000 for the purchase of fire equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to set an expenditure limit on the Library Revolving Fund set forth in § 5-33.1 of the General Bylaws in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53 E ½ up to the maximum amount of \$3,000 during Fiscal Year 2024 or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

M.G.L. c 44, § 53E½ gives towns the power to establish departmental revolving funds. A revolving fund established under this Section is accounted for separately from other town funds and is funded by fees, charges or other receipts from the departmental programs or activities supported by the revolving fund. Interest earned on revolving fund revenue goes to the town's general fund. The Town has a Library Revolving Fund for receipts from the use of Library copiers, printers, and facsimile machines. Section 53E½ requires Town Meeting to vote on the limit on the total amount that may be expended from each revolving fund.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$ 45,000 for the purpose of HVAC software and any related work at the Blackstone Public Library or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of \$500,000 for pavement reconstruction, paving, and sidewalks on Reilly Ave and surrounding streets and cul-de-sacs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Director of Public Works)
Majority Vote Required (Two Thirds if Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds, including by borrowing, for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of \$150,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for engineering designs, bid documents, construction, reconstruction, repair, and future evaluation of the Blackstone Historical Museum foundation, flooring, sidewalks and ramp, for the purpose of preserving the building's structural condition, increasing allowable floor load capacity, and complying with the ADA; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Historical Commission)
Majority Vote Required (Two Thirds if Borrowing)

Article Summary:

The Historical Commission received reports from Weston & Sampson evaluating the floor framing and foundation of the Blackstone Historical Museum building. The reports indicated that repairs are necessary to ensure the building structure is in a good condition, including reinforcing decayed floor joists and beams, restoring the mortar coating the interior foundation wall, installing a dehumidifier, reattaching the brick chimney to the building frame and repointing masonry over a crack in the chimney, replacing the existing sidewalk and ramp with a new sidewalk and ADA-compliant ramp. The report also recommended follow-up building condition evaluations every 3 to 5 years.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution to re-accept M.G.L. c. 32B, § 20, relative to the establishment of the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund ("OPEB Trust Fund"):

RESOLVED: That, the Town of Blackstone hereby accepts the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Chapter 218, Section 15 of the Acts of 2016 (the "Act"), and establishes an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (the "OPEB Fund");

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the Act, the Town hereby designates the Treasurer of Blackstone to serve as Custodian of the OPEB Fund (the "Custodian");

RESOLVED: That the balance of the existing account be appropriated as the initial investment into the OPEB Fund;

RESOLVED: That the following person(s) be designated as Trustee(s) of the OPEB Fund:

[Insert either:

- (a) The Custodian of the OPEB Fund; OR
- (b) The name of 5-13 individuals, at least one with investment experience, one citizen of the Town, one employee of the Town, one retiree of the Town, and one officer of the Town.]

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer of Blackstone, as Custodian of the OPEB Fund, be, and hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver the Investment Agreement with the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund board of trustees on behalf of the Town for the purpose of making the representations and warranties, acknowledgements, and agreements on the part of the Town to be made and performed thereunder.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Town is required to re-accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 32B, § 20 as that Section was amended in 2016, to establish an OPEB Trust fund for Town retirement benefits.

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$250,000 as the Town's investment into the State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund ("SRBT Fund");, or take other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund (SRBTF) is an investment vehicle established by Massachusetts law that enables government entities of the Commonwealth to invest funds set aside to fulfill other-post-employment-benefits (OPEB) for retirees such as healthcare or dental coverage in retirement.

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$74,610 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 or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Blackstone Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to the Blackstone Millville Regional School District OPEB Fund, which is separate from the Town's OPEB fund referenced in previous articles.

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Blackstone Millville Regional School District School Committee to establish a Stabilization Fund for capital planning relative to the School Building Project pursuant to Chapter 71 sec. 16 G½ for the purpose of funding a feasibility study in the amount of \$500,000.00 to be funded by the District's Excess and Deficiency fund.

(Submitted by the Blackstone Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

M.G.L. c. 71, § 16G½ allows regional school districts to establish a stabilization fund with the approval of a majority of the Town Meetings of the member Towns. Therefore, both Blackstone and Millville must approve the establishment of a stabilization fund in order to create the fund.

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 25 of the May 2013 Annual Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$68,867.25 to be repurposed from Veteran's Park to Turbesi Park and/or Roosevelt Park to be used for renovation and/or replacement of the playground equipment and any other related site work, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Parks & Recreation Commission)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Article 25 approved by the May 2013 Annual Town Meeting appropriated funds for the purpose, design, restoration and/or construction of athletic fields at Veteran's Park. Only \$6,132.75 of the appropriated \$75,000 has been spent. This Article would allow the remaining \$68,867.25 to be spent for the renovation of the current playground equipment either with replacement pieces or new pieces and any other related site work.

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$293,000 to renovate the playground equipment and surface area of Turbesi Park, which is dedicated to active recreational purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary under the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program (301 CMR 5.00) and the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to on behalf of the town to affect said project, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Parks & Recreation Commission)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply to the PARC Grant Program for the renovation Turbesi Park. The PARC Grant is a reimbursement program, so it is necessary to first appropriate the funds for the cost of the renovations.

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$40,000 to purchase playground equipment to replace aging equipment, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Parks and Recreation Commission)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise and appropriate or transfer funds for the stated purpose.

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$4,000 for a utility trailer to replace the current 2003 utility trailer, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Parks and Recreation Commission)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise and appropriate or transfer funds for the stated purpose.

ARTICLE 37. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a General Bylaw making Blackstone a "right to farm" community.

(Submitted by Citizens Petition by Vicki Wojcik and 13 others)

ARTICLE 38. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money to the stabilization fund or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Stabilization funds are in the nature of rainy day funds typically used for unforeseen or high cost expenditures, because a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required to later transfer money out of such funds.

ARTICLE 39. To see if the Town will vote to accept the layout of Sycamore Lane as a public way, as shown on the plan entitled “Sycamore Park Estates”, As-Built Plan and Profile of “Sycamore Lane in Blackstone, MA, Scale: 40 Feet to an Inch (Horiz.), Scale: 4 Feet to an Inch (Vert.), Date: July 20, 2020, Rev. September 3, 2020, and prepared by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc., Engineering & Land Surveying, 333 West Street, Milford, MA 01757”, which layout shall have been filed in the Office of the Town Clerk not later than seven days prior to the date of the vote hereunder and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain taking any land necessary for the purpose of such way as laid out, including Parcels A and B shown on said plan and contemplated by the subdivision approval for Sycamore Lane, and, as necessary, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to assess betterments to the owners of the land abutting the way; provided, however, that the construction of said road is acceptable to the Planning Board and Superintendent of Public Works, or to take any other action relating thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required
(Potentially Two Thirds if road not shown on subdivision plan or appropriation is required to obtain necessary easements)

Article Summary:

Accepting Sycamore Lane as a public way will allow the Town to maintain the roadway and afford the public access to the road.

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote to modify Chapter 5 Section 15 Manner of Voting to read: At each Town Meeting, the electronic voting system will be tested with a test vote. If the test votes prove the electronic voting system is operable, all voting should be done with this method. If the test proves that the electronic voting system is not working properly, the Moderator will begin an equally secretive type of voting process such as paper ballots. Hand voting should never be used.

(Submitted by Citizens Petition by 12 petitioners)

ARTICLE 41. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a Home Rule petition with the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on behalf of the Town of Blackstone, for a special act as set forth below; and further, to authorize the General Court to make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition;

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE TO GRANT ADDITIONAL LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF ALL ALCOHOL BEVERAGES, NOT TO BE DRUNK ON THE PREMISES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17 of chapter 138 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the licensing authority of the Town of Blackstone may grant one (1) license for the sale of all alcohol beverages not to be drunk on the premises under the provisions of section 15 of said chapter 138. The license shall be located at 2 Main Street. Such license shall be subject to all of the provisions of said chapter 138 except section 17; provided, however, that said licensing authority shall not approve the transfer of said license within one year after the date of issuance of such license by said licensing authority; and provided further, that such use is allowed by right or by special permit in such applicable zoning district.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by Citizens Petition by Samir Patel with 41 signatures)

Hereof, fail not and make do return of this Warrant with doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time of said meeting.

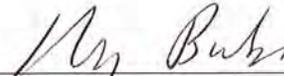
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up true and attested copies thereof in each of the following names and places in Blackstone fourteen (14) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street and at Fire Station #2, Rathbun Street and the A.F. Maloney School on 200 Lincoln Street and also by publication no less than fourteen (14) days before the day fixed for such meeting in that newspaper having the largest circulation in the Town .

Given under our hands this 9th day of May in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty -three.

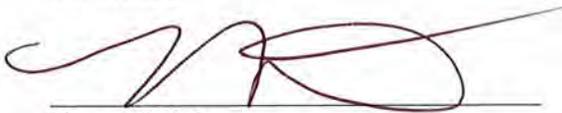
SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE



Ryan Chamberland
Chairman



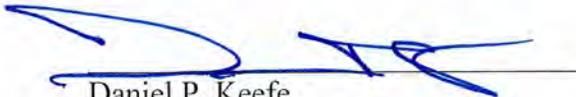
Mary E. Bulso
Vice-Chairman



Tanya Polak
Clerk

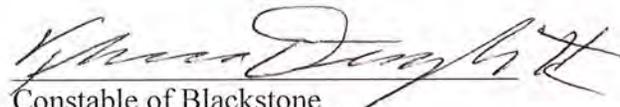


Brian Scanlan
Member



Daniel P. Keefe
Member

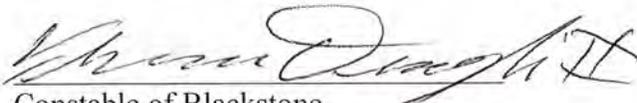
A true copy attest:



Constable of Blackstone

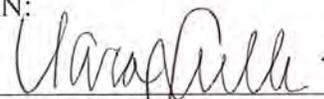
Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, I have this 10th day of May 2023 notified the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone by posting up true and attested copies of the within warrant at the within named places and by publication as within directed.



Constable of Blackstone

A TRUE COPY OF THE WARRANT AND RETURN:



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 30, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Daniel Doyle, who declared a quorum. There were 308 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 Bylaws to allow the following nonresidents to participate in discussion at the Annual Town Meeting: Christopher Brow, Esq., Ethan Divley, Miyares and Harrington LLP, Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor, Lisa Cheever, Library Director, Gregory Gilmore, Chief of Police, Bill Kessler, Fire Chief, Vincenzo Tirone, Building Commissioner, Karen Testa, Senior Center Director, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, and Samir Pater and Brian Fualk, Esq., Petitioner and Legal Counsel for Citizens Petition on Article 41.

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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

218 YES 28 NO

ARTICLE 2. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of various obsolete and/or inoperative equipment, scrap materials, etc., or to auction or sell any excess equipment that may be on hand in any Town Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

118 YES 4 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, 39 Glenside Drive, read all department salary and expense totals for Article 3. The following department totals were held: Town Accountant, Education-Blackstone Millville-Regional School District, Public Works Superintendent, Recycling, Council on Aging, and Water Administration.

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

01114 MODERATOR

Salary Total

900

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	900	252 YES	31 NO
01122	SELECTMEN			
	Salary Total	31,180		
	Expense Total	67,280	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	98,460	252 YES	31 NO
01123	ADMINISTRATION			
	Salary Total	213,528		
	Expense Total	28,950	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	242,478	252 YES	31 NO
01131	FINANCE COMMITTEE			
	Salary Total	1,500		
	Expense Total	1,850	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,350	252 YES	31 NO
01132	RESERVE FUND		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	100,000	252 YES	31 NO
01133	CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE			
	Salary Total	1,000		
	Expense Total	300	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,300	252 YES	31 NO
01141	ASSESSORS			
	Salary Total	154,378		
	Expense Total	30,300	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	184,678	252 YES	31 NO
01145	COLLECTOR/TREASURER			
	Salary Total	143,588		
	Expense Total	45,750	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	189,338	252 YES	31 NO
01151	TOWN COUNSEL			

	Expense Total	180,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	180,000	252 YES	31 NO
01155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
	Expense Total	219,620	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	219,620	252 YES	31 NO
1158	COPIER			
	Expense Total	28,130	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	28,130	252 YES	31 NO
1159	BONDS & INSURANCE			
	Expense Total	241,200	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	241,200	252 YES	31 NO
1161	TOWN CLERK			
	Salary Total	141,039		
	Expense Total	14,925	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	155,964	252 YES	31 NO
1162	ELECTIONS			
	Salary Total	17,000		
	Expense Total	9,400	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	26,400	252 YES	31 NO
1163	BOARD OF REGISTRARS			
	Salary Total	1,950		
	Expense Total	5,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,450	252 YES	31 NO
1171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION			
	Salary Total	15,000		
	Expense Total	715	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	15,715	252 YES	31 NO

1175	PLANNING BOARD			
	Salary Total	56,640		
	Expense Total	15,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	71,640	252 YES	31 NO
1176	ZONING BOARD			
	Salary Total	1,440		
	Expense Total	3,350	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,790	252 YES	31 NO
1182	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
	Salary Total	1,500		
	Expense Total	1,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,500	252 YES	31 NO
1184	CENTRAL MASS PLANNING			
	Expense Total	2,840	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,840	252 YES	31 NO
1190	GENERAL			
	Expense Total	186,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	186,500	252 YES	31 NO
1192	PUBLIC BUILDING MAINTENANCE			
	Salary Total	56,520		
	Expense Total	443,100	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	499,620	252 YES	31 NO
1195	TOWN REPORT			
	Expense Total	4,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,000	252 YES	31 NO
1210	POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	Total Salary	1,839,142		
	Expense Total	248,050	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,087,192	252 YES	31 NO
1211	POLICE DISPATCHERS			
	Salary Total	281,174		
	Expense Total	3,750	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	284,924	252 YES	31 NO
1220	FIRE DEPARTMENT			
	Salary Total	1,311,931		
	Expense Total	126,900	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,438,831	252 YES	31 NO
1231	AMBULANCE SERVICE			
	Expense Total	64,400	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	64,400	252 YES	31 NO
1241	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES			
	Salary Total	190,892		
	Expense Total	1,986	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	192,878	252 YES	31 NO
1244	SEALER WEIGHTS/MEASURES			
	Expense Total	2,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,500	252 YES	31 NO
1291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT			
	Salary Total	3,500		
	Expense Total	17,750	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	21,250	252 YES	31 NO
1292	ANIMAL CONTROL			
	Expense Total	50,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	50,000	252 YES	31 NO
1294	FORESTRY			

	Salary Total	8,800		
	Expense Total	17,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	26,600	252 YES	31 NO
1301	BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL			
	Salary Total	1,500		
	Expense Total	787,937	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	789,437	252 YES	31 NO
1303	VOCATIONAL TUITION			
	Expense Total	820,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	820,000	252 YES	31 NO
1412	ENGINEERING			
	Expense Total	15,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	15,000	252 YES	31 NO
1421	HIGHWAY LABOR			
	Salary Total	659,359	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	659,359	252 YES	31 NO
1422	HIGHWAY OPERATIONAL			
	Expense Total	42,650	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	42,650	252 YES	31 NO
1423	SNOW & ICE REMOVAL			
	Salary Total	27,500		
	Expense Total	83,177	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	110,677	252 YES	31 NO
1424	STREET LIGHTING			
	Expense Total	109,375	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	109,375	252 YES	31 NO
1428	MECHANICAL REPAIRS			

	Expense Total	100,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	100,000	252 YES	31 NO
1429	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE			
	Expense Total	330,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	330,000	252 YES	31 NO
1432	STREET CLEANING			
	Expense Total	3,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,500	252 YES	31 NO
1433	WASTE COLLECTION			
	Expense Total	766,657	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	766,657	252 YES	31 NO
1510	BOARD OF HEALTH			
	Salary Total	37,353		
	Expense Total	93,256	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	130,609	252 YES	31 NO
1543	VETERANS			
	Salary Total	10,250		
	Expense Total	142,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	152,250	252 YES	31 NO
1610	LIBRARY DEPARTMENT			
	Salary Total	363,741		
	Expense Total	276,310	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	640,051	252 YES	31 NO
1650	PARKS			
	Salary Total	128,730		
	Expense Total	51,658	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	180,388	252 YES	31 NO

1691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION			
	Expense Total	2,000		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	252 YES	31 NO
1692	MEMORIAL DAY			
	Salary Total	1,800		
	Expense Total	10,000		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	11,800	252 YES	31 NO
1710	RETIREMENT OF DEBT			
	Expense Total	716,826		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	716,826	252 YES	31 NO
1751	LONG TERM DEBT/ INTEREST			
	Expense Total	236,105		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	236,105	252 YES	31 NO
1752	SHORT TERM DEBT/ INTEREST			
	Expense Total	203,940		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	203,940	252 YES	31 NO
1810	CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS			
	Expense Total	44,678		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	44,678	252 YES	31 NO
1911	COUNTY RETIREMENT			
	Expense Total	1,186,079		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,186,079	252 YES	31 NO
1913	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION			
	Expense Total	25,000		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	25,000	252 YES	31 NO
1914	HEALTH INSURANCE			
	Expense Total	900,410		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	900,410	252 YES	31 NO
1915	LIFE INSURANCE			
	Expense Total	4,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,000	252 YES	31 NO
1916	MATCHING MEDICARE			
	Expense Total	82,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	82,000	252 YES	31 NO
1918	COMPENSATED BALANCES			
	Expense Total	10,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,000	252 YES	31 NO
1919	COMPENSATED ABSENCE			
	Expense Total	7,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,500	252 YES	31 NO
1960	CAPITAL TRUST			
	Expense Total	2,581,475	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,581,475	252 YES	31 NO
	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	29,499,696	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			252 YES	31 NO
	WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE			
60132	SEWER RESERVE FUND		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	TOTAL TRANSFER	50,000	252 YES	31 NO
60441	SEWER SALARIES			
	TOTAL SEWER SALARIES	21,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	21,800	252 YES	31 NO
60442	SEWER MAINTENANCE			
	Expense Total	317,275	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	317,275	252 YES	31 NO
60500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND			
	Expense Total	305,837	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	305,837	252 YES	31 NO
60501	TRANSFER TO WATER			
	Expense Total	45,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	45,000	252 YES	31 NO
60443	SEWER WOONSOCKET REGIONAL			
	Expense Total	572,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	572,800	252 YES	31 NO
	TOTAL SEWER	1,312,712	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			252 YES	31 NO
WATER ENTERPRISE FUND				
61132	WATER RESERVE FUND		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	TOTAL TRANSFER	50,000	252 YES	31 NO
61450	WATER DEPARTMENT LABOR			
	Salary Total	30,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	30,000	252 YES	31 NO
61452	WATER CONST & MAINTENANCE			
	Expense Total	548,565	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	548,565	252 YES	31 NO
61500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND			
	Expense Total	431,681	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	431,681	252 YES	31 NO
61710	WATER RETIREMENT OF DEBT			
	Expense Total	105,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	105,000	252 YES	31 NO

61751	WATER LONG TERM DEBT INTEREST			
	Expense Total	1,050	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,050	252 YES	31 NO
61752	WATER SHORT TERM DEBT			
	Expense Total	56,678	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	56,678	252 YES	31 NO
61820	MASS FED SAFE DRINKING WTR ASSESSMENT			
	Expense Total	2,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	252 YES	31 NO
	TOTAL WATER	1,329,974	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			252 YES	31 NO
	WATER / SEWER ENTERPRISE TOTAL	2,642,686		
			MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND / WATER & SEWER	32,142,382	252 YES	31 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE ALL NON-HELD BUDGET
252 YES 31 NO

Board of Selectmen Chairman Ryan Chamberland, 235 Main Street, made a motion to the amend Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant Salary Line item to \$125,000, for the Salary Total to read \$189,560, and for a Department Total of \$201,710. The motion was seconded. Chairman Chamberland explained that the Board of Selectmen asked for extra help in the Town Administrator office, which was voted down last year. He stated that the Town Accountant position was changed from Town Accountant to Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant, which is a better value for our tax dollars. He explained that the Town Accountant was already doing the work of the Assistant Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen voted in favor of this 5-0 and that the salary increase is the right amount for this position, she is invaluable, and they are trying to make an investment in the staff of the town. He further stated The Town doesn't have a lot of room for bigger salaries, but this is necessary for the workload.

Acting Town Administrator, Ross Atstupenas, stated that the salary increase should be passed, the Town Accountant is doing the extra work of the Assistant Town Administrator, and that if the new Town Administrator were to leave, we wouldn't have to bring in an additional Acting Town Administrator. He continued that if she were to leave and go to another town, she could be making that salary, and in the long run, the town would be losing money.

Kasey Bik, 128 Farm Street, prefaced that her comments were not about the individual employee, she stated that in one meeting the Board of Selectmen reviewed and approved a job description, gave that title to the employee, and voted to enter into contract negotiations when funding has not been secured. She continued that the legal opinion is not the creation of a new position, and she disagrees with it, there has never been a person in that position before, and she has concerns that this position is being created and leaves open a lot of loopholes. She also stated that she has concerns about creating a position around a person, and summarized that approval of this funding, the salary total for that department will be over \$360,000.

Anita Robertson, 61 Edgewater Drive, stated that \$364,000 for the Administration for a town that has a budget of \$32 million dollars, and removing the school budget, \$360,000 to manage \$24 million dollars is nothing, if looking at percentages, administrations for non-profits would have a salary of 20-25% of their budgets. She further stated that this position in this town is an essential position, and that the town was lucky to have somebody in that position for as long as the town has.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that this is an important vote, and that this vote is not only for the salary, but to approve the job description.

A motion to move the question was made and seconded.

MOTION FAILS
 MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT
 128 YES 138 NO

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Town Accountant budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

01135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT		
	Salary Total	155,600	
	Expense Total	12,150	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	167,750	199 YES 76 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
 199 YES 76 NO

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, member of the Finance Committee, stated that he held the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District budget because it was a large budget and suggested discussion, and that the Additional Contribution has increased since last year, and another Warrant Article is a proposal for \$500,000, for building a new school. He stated that if there were questions on this then vote no.

There was no motion on the floor to amend. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1300	EDUCATION - BLACKSTONE MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		
	Expense Total	11,250,893	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	11,250,893	197 YES 90 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
197 YES 80 NO

The hold for the Public Works Superintendent was rescinded. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Public Works Superintendent budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1420	PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT		
	Salary Total	109,412	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	109,412	230 YES 43 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
230 YES 43 NO

The hold for the Recycling was rescinded. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Recycling budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1434	RECYCLING		
	Salary Total	144,203	
	Expense Total	70,393	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	214,596	226 YES 49 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
226 YES 49 NO

Diana Simonini, 25 Fox Run Road, stated that she can't believe that the Council on Aging budget was being reduced, stated that the Senior Center hasn't been this great until the Director came along.

Chairman Chamberland stated that the 2.5% increase is what was given to all the department heads based on the union contracts, what was removed was the increases from the salary survey, and that the Directors budget wasn't being reduced. He supports all department budgets that were held, but was removing the holds, and that the votes were for the salaries as recommended by the Finance Committee.

There was no motion on the floor to amend the Council on Aging budget. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Council on Aging budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1541	COUNCIL ON AGING		
	Salary Total	234,311	

Expense Total	25,520	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	259,831	222 YES	50 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
222 YES 50 NO

Jeff Langerin, 30 Carrington Street, was curious about the salary increase for 125%.

Chairman Chamberland stated that the increase was due to the Water Filtration Plant not being online yet, the FY23 budget was \$40,000, they thought that position would be filled for half of the fiscal year. It was always intended for this to be increased, and a job description was created and it will be posted.

There was no motion on the floor to amend the Water Administration budget. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Water Administration budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

61451	WATER ADMINISTRATION		
Salary Total	105,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	105,000	228 YES	51 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
228 YES 51 NO

ARTICLE 2. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$32,142,382 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, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, and that said appropriations shall be funded as follows:

That	\$22,483,140	raised from FY '24 Taxation net Estimated Overlay (Abatements & Exemptions)
That	\$2,016,185	raised from FY '24 Projected State Revenue net State Offsets and State Charges
That	\$2,031,500	raised from FY '24 Estimated Local Receipts
That	\$1,554,429	transferred from Capital Trust
That	\$375,000	transferred from The Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$-	transferred from the Septic Loan Betterment Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$2,642,686	raised from FY '24 Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenues
That	\$-	transferred from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Certified Retained Earnings
That	\$737,515	transfer from Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Reimbursement
That	\$-	transferred from Stabilization
That	\$301,924	use of Free Cash
That	\$-	use of Overlay

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
228 YES 52 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

212 YES 49 NO

The Moderator called for a vote to waive the Moderator's re-reading of each article. The motion was seconded.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

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

210 YES 49 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

238 YES 28 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
233 YES 24 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 (2/3 vote required)
216 YES 41 NO

ARTICLE 8. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$150,000 to fund FY2024 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 FY2024 effective July 1, 2023.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
202 YES 60 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 9. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland clarified that this would allow the town to be able to bundle our electric rates to get a better rate. If this is passed, this is an option for residents for their electric costs, and this is a creative way to get some of the costs down.

ARTICLE 9. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town grant the Board of Selectmen authority to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 Section 134 and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and business to opt-out of the aggregation, or take any other action in relation thereto, and, further, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has engaged in a process to establish a competitive marketplace through the restructuring of the electricity market; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Blackstone have a substantial economic and social interest in terms of greater customer choice and opportunities for savings in this restructured market; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Blackstone hereby finds that it may be in there interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter in to appropriate agreements with consultants, experts and attorneys in connection with the establishment and operation of an electricity aggregation plan.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Blackstone hereby:

Public declare its intent to become an aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and business electric customers and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended; and

To negotiate and enter into such contracts for power supply pursuant to the plan or services for such plan, the understanding that if a power supply contract is executed, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate in the aggregation plan and, instead, to choose any electric alternatives they desire and, further, to take such other action relative hereto as may be appropriate and necessary.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
251 YES 15 NO

ARTICLE 10. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain temporary and permanent easements and/or rights in a portion of the property known and numbered as 1 Marie Drive (Assessors' Parcel 20-54) for the purposes of locating and constructing a system of stormwater drainage on such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town; and to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of money for the purpose of such acquisitions.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)
231 YES 36 NO

ARTICLE 11. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, as a gift of land as provided in the Blackstone Planning Board's Flexible Residential Development Special Permit for 298 Blackstone Street, the property located on Blackstone Street identified as Assessors Plat 30, Lot 9, for park or open space purposes and on such other terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
238 YES 34 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 12. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland stated that this will move everyone except Police and Fire to Voice Over IP telephones and save about \$6,000-\$8,000 per year.

ARTICLE 12. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$20,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of paying the cost of a contract with a qualified vendor for the purchase of Voice Over IP telephone system equipment and related implementation services and operational charges for the first year of said contract.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
211 YES 49 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 13. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that he will be voting no on this, there has been no documented security issues at the Town Hall, town offices are in the same building as the police department, there are 24/7 security cameras in place. This was voted down last year at town meeting, and he urged everyone to do the same.

Mary Noble, 48 Edgewater Drive, urged everyone to vote yes on this article, we shouldn't wait until something happens to have this type of security in the building.

ARTICLE 13. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town NOT transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to purchase and install an electronic card pass or token access system for Municipal Buildings or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE
115 YES 144 NO

ARTICLE 14. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend Article 18 of the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$25,000 to be repurposed for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to amend Article 1 of the January 2018 Special Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$75,000 to be repurposed for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform said services.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
141 YES 116 NO

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, made a motion to advance article 34 to be discussed after Article 14. She asked for this Article to be moved up in the agenda because they should be discussed back-to-back. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 34. The motion was seconded.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that a survey was done, and Turbesi Park has been on the top of the list for upgrades for Parks and Recreation. There were several roadblocks, there was no Open Space and Recreation Plan, now that there is an updated plan, Parks and Recreation were able to look for grants to update Turbesi Park, which will hopefully provide \$100,000, which is a reimbursement grant. The funds need to be expended, and then the Town will be reimbursed. She also shared facts about the Parks and Recreation budget, it is .61% of the overall budget, not including Water and Sewer. She respectfully asked that the Turbesi Park plan be approved.

Carolyn Sullivan, 49 Miller Street, stated that she lives close to Turbesi Park, and that she goes to the park almost everyday and sees other people utilizing the park everyday, as long as there

isn't snow or ice on it. She stated that the park really needs to be updated, and expressed her support to pass this Article.

ARTICLE 34. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$293,000 to renovate the playground equipment and surface area of Turbesi Park, which is dedicated to active recreational purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary under the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program (301 CMR 5.00) and the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to on behalf of the town to affect said project, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

227 YES 55 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 15. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland, stated that on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, made a motion to amend Article 15 to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing and upgrading playground fitness equipment, ground surfacing, fencing, picnic tables, and any other related site work at Roosevelt Park or take any other action relative thereto.

The motion was seconded.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, urged the voters to vote against this Article, and vote with the Finance Committee's Recommendation.

Tanya Polak, 10 Meadow Lane, Board of Selectmen, stated that she sponsored this Article, and that there is a plan for this Article, and it will be discussed if the vote to approve the amendment is passed.

MOTION FAILS

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT

98 YES 173 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, re-read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 15. The motion was seconded.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that this plan was not submitted by Parks and Recreation, and were not included in the plan. She urged the voters to vote with the Finance Committee's Recommendation.

Tanya Polak, 10 Meadow Lane, Board of Selectmen, stated that she attended the workshop for this, and that there was a joint meeting between the Parks and Recreation and Board of

Selectmen, and wanted to work on both parks. She expressed her concerns, that both playgrounds should be done as they are neglected. She further expressed her support for upgrading both parks.

Chairman Chamberland stated that this Article is important, and that the Open Space Plan was approved by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen. It shows the results of the survey, indicating the need for playground updates, including Roosevelt Park. He read statistics from the survey for context. He stated that this funding is coming from Free Cash. He said that the Town's children deserve parks, and both areas need work. Both of these projects have to go out to bid, the project could change, all that has been presented are plans. He asked that this Article be voted down, once it gets voted down, it can be brought back up.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that voting yes votes with the Finance Committee, and clarified that voting yes will not approve this Article, voting no will cause this Article to be brought up again.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE ARTICLE 15
113 YES 160 NO

Chairman Chamberland made a motion to Amend Article 15 as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing and upgrading playground fitness equipment, ground surfacing, fencing, picnic tables, and any other related site work at Roosevelt Park or take any other action relative thereto.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland stated that a yes vote would pass this Article.

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that when this motion first came on the floor it was voted down, and now it is coming back up again. He urged voters to vote no on this Article.

Brian Scanlan, 6 Reilly Ave, Board of Selectmen, stated that he is in support of both parks. He stated that there is an opportunity to use Free Cash to get this done, and these playground upgrades can help our Economic Development.

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 15
158 YES 101 NO

The Moderator read Article 15 as Amended.

Carolyn Sullivan, 49 Miller Street, stated that she went to Roosevelt Park for the first time in about 10 years, and asked about the plan.

Chairman Chamberland clarified that her area of concern was identified in the plan, and it is something that can be looked into.

Mary Bulso, 4 Patricia Drive, Board of Selectmen, stated that she was in favor of both articles and hard work went into the plans. She stated that Roosevelt Park needs to be updated for Economic Development, and can help bring in tourism.

ARTICLE 15. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing and upgrading playground fitness equipment, ground surfacing, fencing, picnic tables, and any other related site work at Roosevelt Park.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE ARTICLE 5 AS AMENDED
165 YES 86 NO

ARTICLE 16. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$520.00 to pay prior year Forestry bills to Stanley Tree Service.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (4/5 vote required)
189 YES 26 NO

ARTICLE 17. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend the purpose of the vote under Article 23 of the May 25, 2021 Annual Town Meeting from the purchase of “one 2021 1500 GMP Pumper Fire Truck” to the purchase of “one Fire Truck”, and that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust an additional \$155,513.24 for such purpose.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)
150 YES 72 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 \$35,000 for the purchase of structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
175 YES 38 NO

A motion was made and seconded to consolidate Article 19, Article 20, Article 21, Article 23, and Article 24.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE CONSOLIDATION

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee’s recommendation and motion regarding Article 19, Article 20, Article 21, Article 23, and Article 24. The motions were seconded.

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that if there were any individual Articles that needed discussion, vote this down.

ARTICLE 19. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,000 for the purchase of backup sets of structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the career members of the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
171 YES 52 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 \$37,000 for the purchase of brush Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
171 YES 52 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 \$215,000 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) for the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
171 YES 52 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 \$70,000 for the purchase of EMS equipment for the Fire Department ambulance service.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
171 YES 52 NO

ARTICLE 24. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000 for the purchase of fire equipment for the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
171 YES 52 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 22. The motion was seconded.

Kevin Roy, 14 Pickering Road, Deputy Fire Chief, made a motion to amend Article 22 as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$60,000 to purchase a command vehicle for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The motion was seconded.

Deputy Chief Roy stated that the current command vehicle is 10 years old, and that it has had 3 breakdowns in the last 10 months including engine issues and electrical issues. He stated that it could take up to 2 years to receive a new vehicle.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 22

154 YES 67 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read Article 22 as amended. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that the Finance Committee asked the Fire Chief if he would be willing to lease a command vehicle, and stated that the vote the Finance Committee took was taken on that basis. The original vote the Finance Committee took was on leasing a vehicle instead of buying it outright.

Chairman Chamberland stated that the Police and Fire Department's needs need to be taken care of, and urged everyone to vote in favor of this.

A voter stated that he had to call the Fire Department, and that he hopes no one ever has to call the Fire Department, they need vehicles. The cost of vehicles are minor compared to the cost of a home.

Diana Simonini, 25 Fox Run Road, stated that leasing a vehicle isn't a good idea because of the mile usage.

Patrick Roy, 10 Pickering Road, stated that leasing a vehicle isn't a good idea, the car needs to last years. He has seen first hand the issues the current command vehicle has had, and that it is important to have this vehicle.

ARTICLE 22. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$60,000 to purchase a command vehicle for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED

173 YES 49 NO

ARTICLE 25. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was Voted that the Town set an expenditure limit on the Library Revolving Fund set forth in § 5-33.1 of the General Bylaws in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53 E 14 up to the maximum amount of \$3,000 during Fiscal Year 2024 or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

182 YES 20 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 26. The motion was seconded.

Mary Lou Branchaud, 5 State Street, Library Board of Trustees, stated that the two of the boilers and one of the pumps has failed. The replacement of these items will be covered by the American Resuce Plan Act Funds (ARPA Funds), the software for the boiler and pump required to run it does not qualify for ARPA Funds, and needs to be approved.

ARTICLE 26. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$ 45,000 for the purpose of HVAC software and any related work at the Blackstone Public Library or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
165 YES 19 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 26. The motion was seconded.

Judith Decasse, 11 Reilly Ave, stated that she was told when she first moved to Reilly Ave, it was designed to connect Mendon Street and Main Street with a S-Curve to keep drivers slow, but drivers are going faster, driving on the wrong side of the road, and is concerned that if they hit a pot hole, they may lose control and somebody could get hurt.

ARTICLE 27. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$500,000 for pavement reconstruction, paving, and sidewalks on Reilly Ave and surrounding streets and cul-de-sacs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
136 YES 71 NO

ARTICLE 28. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust a sum of \$150,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for engineering designs, bid documents, construction, reconstruction, repair, and future evaluation of the Blackstone Historical Museum foundation, flooring, sidewalks and ramp, for the purpose of preserving the building's structural condition, increasing allowable floor load capacity, and complying with the ADA; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)
135 YES 63 NO

ARTICLE 29. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted the Town adopt the following resolution to re-accept M.G.L. c. 32B, § 20, relative to the establishment of the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund ("OPEB Trust Fund") as follows:
RESOLVED: That, the Town of Blackstone hereby accepts the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Chapter 218, Section 15 of the Acts of 2016 (the "Act"), and establishes an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (the "OPEB Fund");

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the Act, the Town hereby designates the Treasurer of Blackstone to serve as Custodian of the OPEB Fund (the "Custodian");

RESOLVED: That the balance of the existing account be appropriated as the initial investment into the OPEB Fund;

*RESOLVED: That the following person(s) be designated as Trustee(s) of the OPEB Fund:
[Insert either:*

(a) The Custodian of the OPEB Fund; OR

(b) The name of 5-13 individuals, at least one with investment experience, one citizen of the Town, one employee of the Town, one retiree of the Town, and one officer of the Town.]

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer of Blackstone, as Custodian of the OPEB Fund, be, and hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver the Investment Agreement with the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund board of trustees on behalf of the Town for the purpose of making the representations and warranties, acknowledgements, and agreements on the part of the Town to be made and performed thereunder.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

154 YES 33 NO

ARTICLE 30. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$226,400 and from Water and Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$23,600, totaling \$250,000, as the Town's investment into the State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund ("SRBT Fund");, or take other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

140 YES 37 NO

ARTICLE 31. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$74,610 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 or take any other action relative thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

151 YES 37 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 32. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that this vote is premature, and that the full amount of the feasibility study should be voted on when the full amount is known. The amount being presented now is only partial funding.

Keri Gaudette, 78 Glenside Drive, member of the BMRSD School Committee, stated that the purpose of this Article is to create an account and transfer money into this account for a possible feasibility study. The money is earmarked only, and the vote is only to simply open this account.

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that the money is coming from a line item in the BMRSD School Budget, he stated that this Article is only authorizing the school to create this account.

Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, stated that the cost of feasibility studies range from \$850,000-\$1.2 million. The School Committee would like to use their E&D funds to offset the cost of a possible feasibility study.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, asked if Millville has approved their portion of this.

Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, stated that Millville passed this at their Town Meeting several weeks prior.

ARTICLE 32. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Blackstone Millville Regional School District School Committee to establish a Stabilization Fund for capital planning relative to the School Building Project pursuant to Chapter 71 sec. 16 GL? for the purpose of funding a feasibility study in the amount of \$500,000.00 to be funded by the District's Excess and Deficiency fund.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
138 YES 61 NO

ARTICLE 33. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend Article 25 of the May 2013 Annual Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$68,867.25 to be repurposed from Veteran's Park to Turbesi Park and/or Roosevelt Park to be used for renovation and/or replacement of the playground equipment and any other related site work, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
157 YES 38 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 35. The motion was seconded.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, Parks and Recreation Commission, asked that this Article be passed over.

A motion was made and seconded to pass over Article 35.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 35

~~**ARTICLE 35.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$40,000 to purchase playground equipment to replace aging equipment, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.~~

ARTICLE 36. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,000 for a utility trailer to replace the current 2003 utility trailer, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
177 YES 26 NO

The Moderator read the motion for Article 37. There was no second.

A motion was made and seconded to pass over Article 37.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 37

~~ARTICLE 37. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a General Bylaw making Blackstone a “right to farm” community.~~

ARTICLE 38. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$100,000 to the stabilization fund or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

158 YES 41 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee’s recommendation and motion regarding Article 39. The motion was seconded.

Gail Van Dyke, 106 Elm Street, was wondering if there will be signage and adequate public entrance to the open space.

James Sullivan, 77 Florence Drive, Public Works Superintendent, said that there is no signage there now, but there was on the plans.

ARTICLE 39. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town accept the layout of Sycamore Lane as a public way, as shown on the plan entitled “Sycamore Park Estates”, As-Built Plan and Profile of “Sycamore Lane in Blackstone, MA, Scale: 40 Feet to an Inch (Horiz.), Scale: 4 Feet to an Inch (Vert.), Date: July 20, 2020, Rev. September 3, 2020, and prepared by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc., Engineering & Land Surveying, 333 West Street, Milford, MA 01757”, which layout shall have been filed in the Office of the Town Clerk not later than seven days prior to the date of the vote hereunder and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain taking any land necessary for the purpose of such way as laid out, including Parcels A and B shown on said plan and contemplated by the subdivision approval for Sycamore Lane, and, as necessary, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to assess betterments to the owners of the land abutting the way; provided, however, that the construction of said road is acceptable to the Planning Board and Superintendent of Public Works, or to take any other action relating thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

158 YES 30 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee’s recommendation and motion regarding Article 41. The motion was seconded.

Attorney Faulk, representing Samir Patel, petitioner of Article 41, asked for a motion be made to approve Article 41 as written in the Warrant. He stated that Mr. Patel planned to open a grocery store at 2 Main Street, and this would allow him to petition for another liquor license, most of the store would be food sales, but a portion of the store would be alcohol sales, similar to a Trader Joes style store.

There was discussion against Article 41 by Daniel Keefe, 269 Main Street, Cameron Jolliffe, 240 Lincoln Street, Mary Bulso, 4 Patricia Drive, John Wozniak, 194 Farm Street, and James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, took place.

ARTICLE 41. Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted NOT to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a Home Rule petition with the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on behalf of the Town of Blackstone, for a special act as set forth below; and further, to authorize the General Court to make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition as follows:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE TO GRANT ADDITIONAL LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF ALL ALCOHOL BEVERAGES, NOT TO BE DRUNK ON THE PREMISES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17 of chapter 138 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the licensing authority of the Town of Blackstone may grant one (1) license for the sale of all alcohol beverages not to be drunk on the premises under the provisions of section 15 of said chapter 138. The license shall be located at 2 Main Street. Such license shall be subject to all of the provisions of said chapter 138 except section 17; provided, however, that said licensing authority shall not approve the transfer of said license within one year after the date of issuance of such license by said licensing authority; and provided further, that such use is allowed by right or by special permit in such applicable zoning district.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION FAILS

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE ARTICLE 41

47 YES 157 NO

Chairman Chamberland asked to go back to one item, Article 2, and made a motion to reconsider the Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant budget. The motion was seconded.

Brian Scanlan, 6 Reilly Ave, Board of Selectmen, stated that if we were to lose the person in that position now, the cost to replace them would be spent either way.

Susan Dowrey, 9 Dorena Drive, asked for clarification of what the line item under Administration, Assistant to the Town Administrator, in the amount of \$61,000 by itself.

Chairman Chamberland clarified that the Assistant to the Town Administrator is an executive assistant position, clerical, and non-union. It is not a managerial role, department head, HR, or finance related, and it is a completely different position.

Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, urged this salary increase to be voted in favor of.

Chairman Chamberland further clarified that our Acting Town Administrator can only work 20 hours per week, the full salary will be paid to the future Town Administrator, and the Assistant Town Administrator position is necessary for the Town to run successfully.

MOTION FAILS

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO RECONSIDER ARTICLE 2

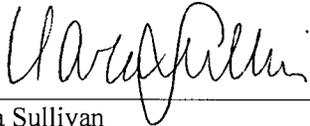
85 YES 90 NO

The Moderator made the following Finance Committee Appointments:

Jeffrey Silverstein – 3-year term to expire ATM 2026
James Watson – 3-year term to expire ATM 2026
Kasey Bik – 3-year term to expire ATM 2026
Timothy Howell – unexpired 3-year term to expire ATM 2025

A motion was made and duly seconded, it was voted to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting and adjourn at 10:50 p.m.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
November 6, 2023
7:00 PM

Worcester, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Blackstone in the County of Worcester.

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone, qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium in said Town of Blackstone on Monday November 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. then and there to act upon the articles of the warrant.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will approve the \$373,050.00 borrowing authorized by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, to pay costs of a feasibility study to consider options for developing a new Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, located at 175 Lincoln Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee. The MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Study costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Study shall be as set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. Or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District)
2/3rds Vote Required

Article Summary:

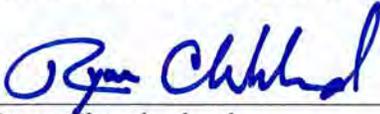
The \$373,050.00 represents the Town’s cost of the one million dollar expense for the feasibility study. The one million dollar cost is being offset by \$500,000.00 coming from BMRSD’s Capital Stabilization Fund approved by the Town at the 2023 Annual Town meeting.

Hereof, fail not and make do return of this Warrant with doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time of said meeting.

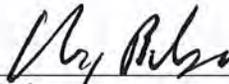
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up true and attested copies thereof in each of the following names and places in Blackstone fourteen (14) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street and at Fire Station #2, Rathbun Street and the A.F. Maloney School on 200 Lincoln Street and also by publication no less than fourteen (14) days before the day fixed for such meeting in that newspaper having the largest circulation in the Town .

Given under our hands this 3rd day of October in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty -three.

SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE



Ryan Chamberland
Chairman



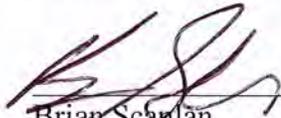
Mary Bulso
Vice-Chairman



Tanya Polak
Clerk

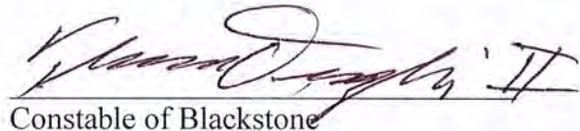


Daniel P. Keefe
Member



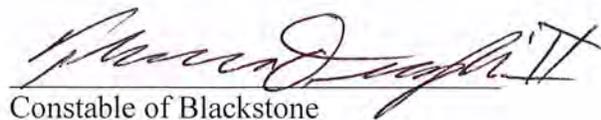
Brian Scanlan
Member

A true copy attest:

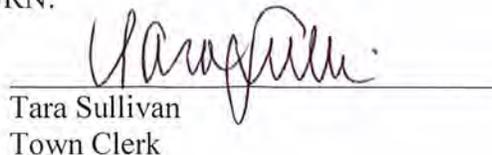

Constable of Blackstone

Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, I have this 4th day of October 2023 notified the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone by posting up true and attested copies of the within warrant at the within named places and by publication as within directed.


Constable of Blackstone

A TRUE COPY OF THE WARRANT AND RETURN:


Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator Daniel Doyle, who declared a quorum. There were 161 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 Annual Town Meeting: Christopher Brow, Esq., Ethan Divley, Miyares and Harrington LLP, Lauren Taylor, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant, Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor, Lisa Cheever, Library Director, Gregory Gilmore, Chief of Police, Bill Kessler, Fire Chief, Vincenzo Tirone, Building Commissioner, Karen Testa, Senior Center Director, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, the Millville representatives of the BMRSD School Committee and members of the School Building Committee; Erin Vinacco, Tara Larkin, Jane Reggio, Denise Carrier, Jill Foulis, and Jill Pilla-Gallerani,

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Silverstein, read the motion for Article 1.

Jim Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, asked if this Article has gone before the Capital Outlay Committee. It was confirmed that it did go before the Capital Outlay Committee.

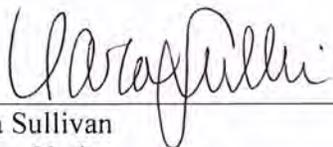
ARTICLE 1. It was voted that the Town approve the \$373,050.00 borrowing authorized by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, to pay costs of a feasibility study to consider options for developing a new Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, located at 175 Lincoln Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Study costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Study shall be as set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)

131 YES 27 NO

A motion was made and duly seconded, it was voted to dissolve the Special Town Meeting and adjourn at 7:11pm.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The Town Accountant's office provides accounting support to all departments, boards, and committees of the Town. The office maintains a complete set of financial records for all Town accounts, appropriations, debts, and contracts. Payments to all Town vendors and employees are processed through this department. The office is also responsible for budgetary oversight and accurate maintenance and review of all expenditures and financial records pertaining to all Town appropriations.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the Town of Blackstone department heads, employees, committees, and boards. Thank you for your continuous cooperation and communication with the Town Accountant's Office. We look forward to working with you in the coming fiscal year! I would also like to thank Kelsey Lemoine, Assistant Town Accountant, for her support and hard work in maintaining a professional and efficient environment within the Town Accountant's office.

The following reports provide combining balance sheets and fund activity for the Fiscal Year 2023 ending June 30, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lauren Taylor
Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant

Town of Blackstone

Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups as of June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	8,252,319.22	4,209,113.23	874,991.04	3,334,940.06		16,419,501.10		33,090,864.65
Investments								0.00
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	24,697.31							24,697.31
Real estate taxes	480,689.54							480,689.54
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(691,215.67)							(691,215.67)
Tax liens	739,890.98							739,890.98
Deferred taxes								0.00
Motor vehicle excise	471,536.86							471,536.86
Other excises								0.00
User fees				695,270.03				695,270.03
Utility liens added to taxes				38,579.54				38,579.54
Departmental								0.00
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments								0.00
Other receivables	44.88	761,022.84						761,067.72
Foreclosures/Possessions	520,061.80							520,061.80
Prepays								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Working deposit								0.00
Inventory								0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation								0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds							8,382,349.00	8,382,349.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave								0.00
Total Assets	9,798,024.92	4,970,136.07	874,991.04	4,068,789.63	0.00	16,419,501.10	8,382,349.00	44,513,791.76

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Warrants payable								0.00
Accounts payable	380,078.21	11,023.65	73,659.60	196,113.72		5,390.00		666,265.18
Accrued payroll								0.00
Withholdings	45,351.60							45,351.60
Accrued claims payable								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Due to other governments								0.00
Other liabilities								0.00
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	(185,824.82)							(185,824.82)
Tax liens	739,890.98							739,890.98
Deferred taxes								0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	520,061.80							520,061.80
Motor vehicle excise	471,536.86							471,536.86
Other excises								0.00
User fees				599,431.00				599,431.00
Utility liens added to taxes				134,417.23				134,417.23
Departmental								0.00
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments								0.00
Other receivables	44.88	761,022.84						761,067.72
Deposits receivable								0.00
Prepaid taxes/fees	2,715.56							2,715.56
Tailings								0.00
IBNR								0.00
Agency Funds						1,524,548.97		1,524,548.97
Notes payable			2,342,141.00					2,342,141.00
Bonds payable							8,382,349.00	8,382,349.00
Vacation and sick leave liability								0.00
Total Liabilities	1,973,855.07	772,046.49	2,415,800.60	929,961.95	0.00	1,529,938.97	8,382,349.00	16,003,952.08

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	437,180.64			431,945.22				869,125.86
Reserved for expenditures	2,457,454.00			23,600.00				2,481,054.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	2,470,932.63			721,363.06				3,192,295.69
Reserved for petty cash								0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit								0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit								0.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit								0.00
Reserved for debt service								0.00
Reserved for premiums								0.00
Reserved for working deposit								0.00
Undesignated fund balance	2,458,602.58	4,198,089.58	(1,540,809.56)			14,889,562.13		20,005,444.73
Unreserved retained earnings				1,961,919.40				1,961,919.40
Investment in capital assets								0.00
Total Fund Equity	7,824,169.85	4,198,089.58	(1,540,809.56)	3,138,827.68	0.00	14,889,562.13	0.00	28,509,839.68
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	9,798,024.92	4,970,136.07	874,991.04	4,068,789.63	0.00	16,419,501.10	8,382,349.00	44,513,791.76

Town of Blackstone							
Special Revenue Fund Balance Detail							
as of June 30, 2023							
(Unaudited)							
Fund Number	Fund Name	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Fund Balance 6/30/2023	Receipts thru 9/30/2023	BAN's	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2023
13000	Highway Fund			0.00			0.00
21122	ARPA			2,587,559.13			0.00
20121	CARES Act			0.00			0.00
20130	Community Compact Grant			0.00			0.00
20133	Community Compact Grant			250.00			0.00
20155	Community Compact Grant- IT			75,869.47			0.00
20161	CTCL Election Covid Grant			0.00			0.00
20162	Elections Grant			0.00			0.00
20163	Early Voting			0.00			0.00
20182	Mass Housing			15,000.00			0.00
20192	Mass Renewable Energy			3,080.61			0.00
20193	Green Communities Grant			0.00			0.00
20211	Dispatch Grant			14,373.30			0.00
20213	Underage Drinking Grant			1,128.72			0.00
20215	Police Vests (State)			0.00			0.00
20217	911 Support & Incentive Grant			48,835.97			0.00
20219	GHSB Traffic Enforcement Grant			0.00			0.00
20220	Fire Safety Equipment Grant			(15,500.00)	15,500.00		0.00
20224	Fire Safe Grant			4,276.53			0.00
20226	Fire Equipment Grant			0.00			0.00
20230	Emergency Mgmt Grant			0.00			0.00
20439	Reycling Grant			5,402.47			0.00
20511	COVID-19 Grant			0.00			0.00
20512	Bd of Health - Tobacco Grant			56.76			0.00
20541	COA - Formula Grant			0.00			0.00
20610	State Aid To Libraries (MEG - LIG)			77,315.60			0.00
20612	Library Construction Grant			124.74			0.00
20615	Library Copy Maintenance			275.45			0.00
20616	Library LSTA Grant			0.00			0.00
20691	Civil War Preservation Grant			0.00			0.00
20692	Historical Commission Grant			367.05			0.00
20694	Art Council			9,569.99			0.00
29299	TNC Surcharge			1,420.40			0.00
29119	Plans and Specs			2,548.52			0.00
29120	ABB Power Gener Gift			17,638.12			0.00
29122	Insurance Recovery			0.00			0.00
29123	EOCD Recaptured Funds			212,027.97			0.00
29124	ANP Leak Detection			13,148.05			0.00
29125	ANP Title V Repairs Gift			25,500.00			0.00
29128	ANP MOU #5 Generation Gift			63,263.76			0.00
29129	Cable Franchise			168,005.06			0.00
29171	Notice of Intent			2,974.63			0.00
29172	Milk St Review Fees			2,885.00			0.00
29173	0 Main St Review Fees			675.00			0.00
29174	307 Blackstone Review Fees			2,750.00			0.00
29175	Meadow Harris			265.00			0.00
29175	Canal St			425.00			0.00
29175	Planning Board - Prof Review Onyx			918.00			0.00
29176	Sycamore Estate Review Fees			466.86			0.00
29177	Zoning Board Rolling Brook			351.98			0.00
29178	142 Blackstone Review Fees			1,339.83			0.00
29179	315 Blackstone Review Fees			2,019.44			0.00
29180	Butler St Review Fees			361.50			0.00
29181	Revitalization Gift			1,020.97			0.00
29182	Clean Air Donation			100,000.00			0.00
29183	110R Blackstone Review Fees			281.70			0.00
29184	298 Blackstone Review Fees			603.00			0.00
29185	Pyne Sand & Stone Review Fees			15.24			0.00
29186	Pickering Review Fees			(309.76)			(309.76)
29211	Police Gift			14,732.52			0.00
29220	Fire Dept Gift			699.41			0.00
29231	Ambulance Fees	761,022.84	761,022.84	584,287.46			0.00
29292	Animal Control Donations			21,389.08			0.00
29293	A C O Building Donation Fund			188.08			0.00
29295	Tree Fund Donations			58.23			0.00
29310	School Cable Franchise Gift			34,164.12			0.00
29440	Sewer Onyx Peer Review			173.75			0.00
29422	Highway Road opening Bond			334.55			0.00
29433	Recycling Center			286.81			0.00
29511	RR - Title V Loan Payments			449.43			0.00
29540	COA Gift			131.98			0.00
29541	Senior Van Donations			15,444.36			0.00
29543	Senior Programs			16,221.23			0.00

Special Revenue Fund Balance Detail

as of June 30, 2023

(Unaudited)

Fund Number	Fund Name	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Fund Balance 6/30/2023	Receipts thru 9/30/2023	BAN's	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2023
29545	COA & BOH Health Fair Gift			2,895.69			0.00
29546	COA Giving Tree Donation			300.00			0.00
29548	Veterans COLA Adjustment			3,792.00			0.00
29610	Library Gifts			24,059.23			0.00
29630	Recreation Gift			3,555.90			0.00
29631	Recreation Trails Gift			7,500.00			0.00
29691	Historical Commission			9,841.35			0.00
29692	Parade Donations			7,685.20			0.00
29694	Arts Council Gifts			360.41			0.00
29695	Veterans Memorial Donations			957.73			0.00
Total Special Revenue Fund Balance		761,022.84	761,022.84	4,198,089.58	15,500.00	0.00	(309.76)

Town of Blackstone
Capital Project Fund Balance Detail
as of June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

Fund Number	Fund Name	Enterprise Fund Name (if applicable)	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Fund Balance 6/30/2023	Receipts thru 9/30/2023	BAN's 6/30/2023	BAN's / Debt Issued 7/1/2023 - 9/30/2023	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2023
31	Department Roadway Improvement				1,692.65				0.00
31	Water Meters ATM 5/13				129,275.90				0.00
31	Fire Truck ATM 5/21				34,486.76		375,000.00		0.00
32	Water/Sewer Design/Eng				14,140.02				0.00
33	Library Repairs ATM 5/19				(48,095.00)		85,000.00		0.00
33	Sallyport ATM 5/21				(340,000.00)		340,000.00		0.00
33	Police Cells ATM 5/19				(40,000.00)		40,000.00		0.00
33	Fire Station 2 & 3 ATM 5/19				(11,661.00)		150,000.00		0.00
33	JFK Parking Lot ATM 5/20				(233,588.14)		300,000.00		0.00
30	Town Hall Roof				(424,378.00)		424,378.00		0.00
36	Tank Painting ATM 5/04 #6				17,993.07				0.00
37	Water Filtration Plant				(701,422.15)		627,763.00	73,659.15	(0.00)
38	Stormwater Retro				90.31				0.00
39	Well #9				60,656.02				0.00
Total Capital Projects Fund Balance			0.00	0.00	(1,540,809.56)	0.00	2,342,141.00	73,659.15	(0.00)

Town of Blackstone

Combining Balance Sheet - Enterprise Funds

as of June 30, 2023

(Unaudited)

	Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,334,940.06	3,334,940.06
Investments		0.00
Receivables:		
User Fees	695,270.03	695,270.03
Special assessments		0.00
Utility liens added to taxes	38,579.54	38,579.54
Tax foreclosures		0.00
Departmental		0.00
Other receivables		0.00
Due from other governments		0.00
Due to/from other funds		0.00
Prepays		0.00
Inventory		0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation		0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds		0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation and sick leave		0.00
Total Assets	4,068,789.63	4,068,789.63
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable		0.00
Warrants payable	196,113.72	196,113.72
Accrued payroll and withholdings		0.00
Other liabilities		0.00
Deferred revenue:		
User Charges	695,270.03	695,270.03
Special assessments		0.00
Utility liens added to taxes	38,578.20	38,578.20
Tax foreclosures		0.00
Departmental		0.00
Other receivables		0.00
Due from other governments		0.00
Due to other governments		0.00
Due to/from other funds		0.00
Notes payable		0.00
Bonds payable		0.00
Vacation and sick leave liability		0.00
Total Liabilities	929,961.95	929,961.95
Fund Equity:		
Reserved for encumbrances	431,945.22	431,945.22
Reserved for expenditures	23,600.00	23,600.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	721,363.06	721,363.06
Reserved for petty cash		0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit		0.00
Reserved for debt service		0.00
Unreserved retained earnings	1,961,919.40	1,961,919.40
Investment in capital assets		0.00
Total Fund Equity	3,138,827.68	3,138,827.68
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	4,068,789.63	4,068,789.63

Town of Blackstone
Trust Fund Balance Detail
as of June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

Fund Number	Fund Name	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Fund Balance 6/30/2023	Receipts thru 9/30/2023	BAN's	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2023
70145	OPEB Trust Fund			2,782,025.51			0.00
84145	Stabilization			3,507,726.26			0.00
84210	Law Enforcement Trust			16,308.76			0.00
85000	Capital Trust			8,583,501.60			0.00
Total Expendable Trust Fund Balance		0.00	0.00	14,889,562.13	0.00	0.00	0.00

Town of Blackstone

Agency Fund Detail

as of June 30, 2023

(Unaudited)

Fund Number	Fund Name	Accounts Receivable	Deferred Revenue	Balance 6/30/2023	Receipts thru 9/30/2023	BAN's	Remaining Deficit 6/30/2023
89122	ANP Escrow			803,336.81			0.00
89123	83 Federal St Decomm			151,449.94			0.00
89124	142 Blackstone Decomm			175,004.00			0.00
89125	307 Blackstone Decomm			212,952.45			0.00
89145	Deputy Fees			(425.01)			(425.01)
89175	Performance Bonds			56,421.91			0.00
89177	142 Blackstone Performance Guar			50,119.33			0.00
89210	Police Outside Detail			(14,506.45)			(14,506.45)
89211	Police FID			(962.50)			(962.50)
89241	Guarantee Gravel Bonds			2,535.29			0.00
89422	76 Elm Street Road Bond			508.60			0.00
89439	May St Road Bond			0.00			0.00
89443	Canal Street Road Bond			1,143.51			0.00
89444	Federal Hill Road Bond			338.02			0.00
89447	Sycamore Estates			5,847.90			0.00
89448	Austin St Road Bond			1,895.68			0.00
89449	Mill River Road Bond			504.66			0.00
89450	T & S Surety Sycamore			11,192.12			0.00
89451	Blackstone St Near #301			1,758.18			0.00
89452	Champlain Ave Road Bond			376.56			0.00
89453	83 Federal St Road Bond			10,022.61			0.00
89454	142 Blackstone St Road Bond			2,503.53			0.00
89455	307 Blackstone Road Bond			0.00			0.00
89456	Summer St Road Bond			5,006.20			0.00
89457	119 Farm St Road Bond			1,501.50			0.00
89458	121 Mendon St Road Bond			1,501.41			0.00
89459	204 Mendon St Road Bond			1,501.33			0.00
89460	Butler St Lts 111&153 Road Bond			4,504.12			0.00
89461	28 Main St Road Bond			1,000.68			0.00
89462	109 Elm St Road Bond			6,003.70			0.00
89463	3 Austin St Road Bond			500.31			0.00
89464	14 Warner St Road Bond			4,001.92			0.00
89465	307 Blackstone St Road Bond			4,502.13			0.00
89466	302 Blackstone St Road Bond			1,500.70			0.00
89467	304 Blackstone St Road Bond			1,500.70			0.00
89468	50 Milk St Road Bond			4,502.13			0.00
89469	306 Blackstone St Road Bond			2,000.81			0.00
89470	24 Milk St Road Bond			2,000.80			0.00
89471	702 Rathbun St Road Bond			2,000.80			0.00
89472	147 Mendon St Road Bond			6,002.36			0.00
89473	16 Auclair St Road Bond			2,000.15			0.00
89474	222 Mendon St Road Bond			500.04			0.00
89475	36 Butler St Road Bond			500.04			0.00
Total Agency Balance		0.00	0.00	1,524,548.97	0.00	0.00	(15,893.96)

Town of Blackstone
Undesignated Fund Balance Roll-forward
as of June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

Beginning Undesignated Fund Balance	3,463,618.40
 <u>Add:</u>	
Prior Year Reserved for Encumbrances	218,848.15
Prior Year Reserved for Expenditures	1,708,525.00
Prior Year Reserved for Continuing Appropriations	2,357,510.60
Prior Year Reserved for Petty Cash	
Prior Year Reserved for _____	
 <u>Less:</u>	
Prior Year Reserved for Appropriation Deficits	
Prior Year Reserved for Snow and Ice Deficits	
 Prior Year Total Fund Balance	 7,748,502.15
 <u>Deduct:</u>	
Current Year Reserved for Encumbrances	437,180.64
Current Year Reserved for Expenditures	2,457,454.00
Current Year Reserved for Continuing Appropriations	2,470,932.63
Current Year Reserved for Petty Cash	
Current Year Reserved for _____	
 <u>Add:</u>	
Current Year Reserved for Appropriation Deficits	
Current Year Reserved for Snow and Ice Deficits	
 <u>Add:</u>	
Current Year Revenue Closeouts	28,259,246.42
Other Financing Sources	
Audit Adjustments	
 <u>Less:</u>	
Current Year Expenditure Closeouts	28,183,578.72
Other Financing Uses	
Audit Adjustments	
 Current Year Undesignated Fund Balance	 2,458,602.58

Town of Blackstone Municipal Center

Tel (508) 883-1500

FAX (508) 883-7043

Extension	Department/Title	Employee
	<u>Administration</u>	
113	Town Administrator	Chad Lovett
102	Assistant to the Town Administrator	Katie Moxam
101	Office Assistant/Selectmen's Office	Sherlene Hernandez
	<u>Town Clerk</u>	
116	Town Clerk	Tara Sullivan
124	Assistant Town Clerk	Alison Vaillancourt
146	Office Assistant	Melissa Germain
	<u>Collector/Treasurer</u>	
117	Collector/Treasurer	Matthew Ryan
118	Assistant Treasurer	Erin Pelletier
119	Assistant Collector	Lori Charbonneau
	<u>Assesors Office</u>	
121	Assistant Assessor	
122	Administrative Asst/Assessor's Office	Nicole Desmeule
268	Data Collector	Rocco Micciche
	<u>Town Accountant</u>	
123	Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant	Lauren Taylor
148	Assistant Accountant	Kelsey Lemoine
	<u>Building/Planning/Zoning/Recycling</u>	
130	Municipal Secretary	Brittany Eldridge
129	Municipal Secretary	
143	Building Commissioner	Vinny Tirone
170	Health Agent	Colleen Strapponi
157	<u>CULTURAL COUNCIL</u>	
158	<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u>	
159	<u>HISTORICAL COMMISSION</u>	
168	<u>CONSERVATION COMMISSION</u>	
126	<u>VETERAN'S AGENT</u>	Dennis Pimenta
	<u>SENIOR CENTER</u>	
134	COA Director	
133	Transportation	Dennis Pimenta
135	Outreach Program	Kayla Cardin
151	General Info/Nutrition Site/Activities	Brenda Takessian
	<u>FACILITIES MANAGER</u>	
164	Facilities Manager	Joseph Cahill
	<u>Department of Public Works</u>	
	DPW	508-883-9331 James Sullivan Patricia Dubois Kelly Shea
	Police Department	508-883-1212
	Fire Department	508-883-1030

