

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MAY 26, 2015

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 26, 2015 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)

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the Town will vote to 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 3.** 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, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016 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)

**ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

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

(Submitted by the Superintendent of Schools)

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will vote to 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**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)

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$10,000 to upgrade the Municipal Center storage facility, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of maintaining Library copiers, printers and facsimile machines and purchasing supplies related thereto; the receipts from use of the Library copiers, printers and facsimile machines shall be deposited into said fund and expended under the direction of the Library Trustees up to the maximum amount of \$2,000 during Fiscal Year 2016, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$65,000 for purposes of the maintenance and repair of the Blackstone Public Library including roof, plumbing, structural and other building repairs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$11,705 to replace six mountain bikes for the Police Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Police Department)

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$3,000 for the purpose of procuring bulletproof vests/ body armor for the Police Department, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Police Department)

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/ Collector to execute and deliver an Investment Agreement with State Retiree Benefits Trust (“SRBT”), to sign checks and wire OPEB Trust Funds to SRBT or to the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (“PRIT”), or as it may otherwise be directed by SRBT, and to make withdrawals and investments and enter into such agreements and deliver such certificates and other documents as SRBT or the Pension Reserves Investment Management (“PRIM”) Board may direct; and, further, that the sum of \$250,000 be appropriated as the initial investment into the SRBT Fund; all in consideration of the fact that the Town has established an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (“OPEB Trust Fund”) in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Chapter 68, section 57 of the Acts of 2011 (the “Act”), and that, in accordance with the Act, the Town has designated the Town Treasurer/Collector to serve as custodian of the Town’s OPEB Trust Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$17,085 to purchase a hydro rake field grooming tractor, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Parks & Recreation)

**ARTICLE 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$17,500 for purposes of the design, construction and installation of an irrigation system at the soccer complex at the AF Maloney/JFK Elementary Schools, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Parks & Recreation)

**ARTICLE 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$65,000 to purchase a senior van for the Council on Aging, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Council on Aging)

**ARTICLE 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$10,500 for the purchase of an MS6000 Konica Digital Microform Scanner, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Clerk)

**ARTICLE 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$21,000 for the purpose of purchasing three new ImageCast Precinct optical scan election tabulators and related appurtenances and to trade-in three AccuVote system voting machines, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Clerk)

**ARTICLE 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$5,000 to provide file cabinets for the Town Clerk, Collector/Treasurer and Town Accountant's office, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 20.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64L, §2, which authorizes the Town to impose a local sales tax upon the sale of restaurant meals originating within the Town at a rate of .75% of gross sales receipts, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Finance Committee)

**ARTICLE 21.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$120,000 for acquisition of a loader for the Department of Public Works, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Department of Public Works)

**ARTICLE 22.** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c. 44, Section 20 to reauthorize for the purpose of the design and construction of Well #9, including all costs and expenses related thereto, the balance of funds, in an amount not to exceed \$163,000, previously authorized to be borrowed for the design and construction of the water tank, or take any action in relation.

(Submitted by Water & Sewer Department)

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize use of a portion of the Town-owned parcel of land located at 14 Chestnut Street, Blackstone, commonly referred to as the Chestnut Street Landfill, for the purpose of lease, with the grant of appurtenant rights of access and easements, for construction, operation and maintenance of a Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy Facility, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long term lease and other agreements in furtherance of this use upon such terms and conditions as the Selectmen shall deem to be in the interest of the Town, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Assessors to negotiate and enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement relative to said Facility in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 59, §38H, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 24.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$75,000 to update the town’s Master Plan, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board)

**ARTICLE 25.** To see if the Town will vote to revise the General Bylaw reference in the Town Code for the Medical Marijuana Facilities Bylaw approved at the May 27, 2014 Annual Town Meeting from “123-23.6.” to the correct Chapter & Section number “123-23.7”., or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Clerk)

**ARTICLE 26.** To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Board of Assessors)

**ARTICLE 27.** To see if the Town will 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 they performed such service, subject to eligibility criteria to be established by the board of assessors, , effective fiscal year 2015, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Board of Assessors)

**ARTICLE 28.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the layout of Rolling Brook Lane off of Elm Street as a public way, as shown on the plan entitled “\_\_\_\_\_” dated August 7, 2014, and prepared by \_\_\_\_\_, 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 so laid out, 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 subject to compliance with the following conditions imposed by the Planning Board: all stormwater management to be handled entirely by Homeowner’s Association, demarcation of the Open Space areas; trail heads being marked Lot 6 and 7 and lot 5 and 4, Town will cover snow removal, plowing, street sanding and trash recycling, general town services police, fire and town vehicle access, future unforeseen town services, and no taking or cleaning of the street sweeping/catch/retention basins, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Planning Board)

**ARTICLE 29.** 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)

Hereof, fail not and make due 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 seven (7) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street, and at the Fire Station on Rathbun Street and the A.F. Maloney School on Lincoln Street and also by publication no less than seven (7) days before the days fixed for such meeting in that newspaper having the largest circulation in the Town.

Given under our hands this 24th day of March 2015.

SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE

Ryan Chamberland  
Ryan Chamberland  
Acting Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Chairman

Michael A. Catalano, Jr.  
Michael A. Catalano, Jr.  
Clerk

Robert J. Dubois  
Robert J. Dubois  
Member

Margo Bik  
Margo Bik  
Member

A true copy attest:

Frank J. Stone  
Constable of Blackstone

Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, I have this 25th day of March, 2015 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.

Frank J. Stone  
Constable of Blackstone

A TRUE COPY OF THE WARRANT AND RETURN:

Claudette C. Dolinski  
Claudette Dolinski  
Town Clerk