

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator Frederick J. Stone, who declared a quorum. There were 149 registered voters present and voting at the start of the meeting.

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

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

A motion was duly made and seconded to waive Chapter 5, Section 8, of the Town Bylaws to allow the following nonresidents to participate in discussion at the Special Town Meeting: Patrick J. Costello, Esq., Louison, Costello, Condon & Pfaff, LLP; Gino Carlucci, TGC Associates, Franklin, MA; Gary Shepard, President/COO – Soldier On; and John F. Downing, Chief Executive Officer – Soldier On.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Finance Committee Chairman James P. Belisle read the motion on Article 1. Moderator Stone asked if there were any comments or questions on the motion. Anita Robertson of 61 Edgewater Drive was the first to speak indicating that she wanted more information and asked how the influx of people with issues was going to affect the town in terms of emergency services, police, etc.

Town Administrator Daniel Keyes explained that the article is about land use. He said there would have to be an RFP process, but if the voters don't give the town the tools to get the land transfer, then it stays the way it is. He said that the land would also be developed for ball fields for the youth of the community. He also indicated that state officials have said that if this land-use article is voted in the affirmative, the state will help fund a project such as this. He repeated that the article is on land use. There will be public hearings, and boards and commissions will be involved.

Town Counsel Patrick Costello explained that the article is solely for the purpose of changing the dedicated use. When the town acquired the property in 1997, it was for water supply purposes. That well turned out to be of limited capacity. Under Massachusetts General Law, in order to change the property from one use to another, the town has to vote to change its use. He said that the town still has to go through a Chapter 30B process. He said the change in use would convert the property to a taxable use. He said the town would use this development in a creative process so it can build the fields at this location that the town has not been able to fund. He also said this is the type of project that can generate substantial grant funding from state agencies. He added that public meetings, public hearings, and any land-use permits will be applicable to this project.

Other attendees speaking during the discussions were Tammy Lemieux, 120 Lakeshore Drive; Kevin Hart, 8 Residential Lane; John Wozniak of 194 Farm Street; Jacalyn Miner, 125

Blackstone Street; Cheryl Magri, 48 Union Street; Steven Perrault, 340R Main Street; Daniel Keefe, 269 Main Street; and Allyson Anderson, 12 New York Avenue.

There was a motion and second to move the question.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO MOVE THE QUESTION

ARTICLE 1: Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to authorize a change in the use of a portion of the Town-owned parcel of land located on Elm Street, commonly referred to as "Veterans Park", (Blackstone Assessors' Parcel ID: 18/ 9&10), as more particularly described in the Quitclaim Deed to the Town of Blackstone, dated December 30, 1997 and recorded at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Book 19487, Page 121 (the "Subject Parcel"), from public water supply use to land held for the purpose of disposition, transfer or lease by the Board of Selectmen for the development of low/ moderate income housing for veterans and services related thereto; to authorize a change in use of the remainder of the Subject Property to land held for general municipal/recreational purposes under the custody and control of the Board of Selectmen; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to exercise care, custody and control of the Subject Parcel and to enter into a property transfer agreement, long term lease and/or such other related agreements, and to execute such instruments as may be deemed necessary to implement these uses upon such terms and conditions, including possible reverter language, as the Selectmen shall deem to be in the interest of the Town.

123 YES 27 NO

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY HAND-COUNT VOTE TO APPROVE ARTICLE 1

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to dissolve the warrant and to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Claudette C. Dolinski

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Town Clerk of Blackstone

