

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MAY 30, 2017

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, 2017 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, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018 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 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)

ARTICLE 7. 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 8. To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town by adding a new section as set forth below (Department Revolving Funds) to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain Town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 § 53E ½, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE IV, §5-34. DEPARTMENT REVOLVING FUNDS

- A. Purpose: This Bylaw establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by Town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some

of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E ½.

- B. Expenditure Limitations: A department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law without appropriation subject to the following limitations:
- a. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund.
 - b. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.
 - c. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by Town Meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or an increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during the fiscal year by the Selectmen and Finance Committee.
- C. Interest: Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this Bylaw shall be credited to the general fund.
- D. Procedures and Reports: Except as provided in General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E ½ and this Bylaw, the laws, charter provisions, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of Town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this Bylaw. The Town Accountant/Finance Director shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the Town Accountant/Finance Director provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.
- E. Authorized Revolving Funds:
- The Table establishes:
- A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a Town department, board, committee, agency, or officer,
 - B. The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund,
 - C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant/Finance Director,
 - D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used,
 - E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund,
 - F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and
 - G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this Bylaw.

A Revolving Fund	B Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	C Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	D Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	E Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	F Other Requirements/ Reports	G Fiscal Years
Library Revolving Fund	Library Board of Trustees	Receipts from use of the Library copiers, printers and facsimile machines	Expenses related to maintaining Library copiers, printers and facsimile machines and purchasing supplies related thereto	Salaries or wages of full time employees shall be paid through annual budget appropriation	N/A	Fiscal Year 2018 and subsequent years

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 9 . To see if the Town will vote to establish a \$3,000 limit in the amount of funds that may be spent from the Library Revolving Fund during Fiscal Year 2018, 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 \$10,000 for purposes of the maintenance and repair of the Blackstone Public Library's HVAC system, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to propose an amendment to the Blackstone Home Rule Charter for consideration by the voters of the Town to convert the office of Coilector-Treasurer from an elected office to an appointed office by deleting the reference to the Collector-Treasurer in Article IV, Section 4-1A, and adding a reference for the Collector-Treasurer to Article V, Section C5-2A, (1), with a Term of Appointment of 3 years, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$55,285 to purchase a stryker power lift stretcher system for the ambulance, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

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 a one ton utility truck with a 9' plow and emergency lights for the Department of Public Works, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$130,000 to purchase a new back hoe for the Department of Public Works, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$47,509.75 to purchase a cruiser for the Police Department, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$150,000 to address the report provided by US Army Corps of Engineers, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$44,600 to develop a collection system GIS mapping/data layer and initial flow monitoring, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Water & Sewer Commission)

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$125,000 from the Water & Sewer Commission for a water filtration plant study, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Water & Sewer Commission)

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$125,000 to install a master meter for the Town of North Smithfield, RI, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Water & Sewer Commission)

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by adding the following new Subsection E to Section 123-23 Village Overlay District:

E. Conforming and grandfathered lots. By-right development on lots that comply with the dimensional requirements of the underlying district and those lots grandfathered for single and two-family dwellings under MGL 40A, Section 6, shall be subject to the site design standards of Subsection B as determined by site plan review by the Planning Board.

And, further, to amend Subsection C. Site Plan Review of Section 123-2 by adding the following words shown in **underlined and bold** to (1) (a) so that it reads as follows:

- (a) Unless proposed for single-family or two-family use **outside the Village Overlay District**, all development proposals are subject to site plan review by the Planning Board if proposing any of the following:

Or take any other action relative thereto.

§ 123-23.2. Village Overlay District.

[Added by 4-25-1994 ATM, Art. 22]

A. Purposes. The purposes of the Village Overlay District are to facilitate new investment within the district, to build pedestrian-scale convenience and amenity, to meet housing needs, to serve entrepreneurial interests of Blackstone residents and to protect and enhance the village heritage.

B. Village-compatible development. Applicants for development within the Village Overlay District may choose to develop subject to the alternative use and dimensional regulations of Subsections **C** and **D**, rather than those normally applicable, provided that the Planning Board grants the development proposal a special permit for village-compatible development upon its determination that the proposal is consistent with one or the other of the following:

[Amended by 5-31-2005 ATM, Art. 37]

(1) The development proposed is an alteration or addition to an existing structure, increasing the total floor area by up to 50% above that existing on the premises as of January 1, 1994; or

(2) The Planning Board finds that the building as proposed would be compatible with development within a comparison area consisting of all lots abutting the premises in question plus all lots in whole or part within 300 feet of the boundary of the premises. That determination is to be based upon compliance with the following, unless the Planning Board finds that, owing to peculiarities of the location or of the proposed building but not found generally in the District, the proposal would on balance advance the purposes of the Village Overlay District despite noncompliance with one or more of the following standards, or conversely finds that despite compliance with these standards the proposal would not on balance advance the purposes of the Village Overlay District:

(a) Any proposed buildings are in scale with those existing within the comparison area, which means:

[1] The total floor area proposed to be on the premises is to be no more than 1/4 greater than the total floor area existing on at least one lot within the comparison area; and

[2] The ratio of total floor area (as proposed) to total lot area is to be no more than 1/4 greater than the ratio existing on at least one lot within the comparison area; and

[3] The maximum building height is to be no more than 10% greater than the tallest building existing within the comparison area and no less than 2/3 that of the lowest building existing within that area.

(b) The site design is consistent with that of the comparison area and abutting premises, which means:

[1] The building is proposed not to be separated from the street line except by a landscaped yard and usual walks and drives; and

[2] If abutting properties to the left and right both have some physical definition of the street line (such as walls, fences, hedges, or building location at the street line) development on the premises in question is proposed to also provide some physical street line definition; and

[3] The location of parking facilities relative to the principal building is consistent with that found on the majority of developed lots within the comparison area.

C. Use regulations. Within the Village Overlay District, the use requirements of § 123-11, Use schedule, for the underlying districts shall continue to apply, except that multifamily dwellings may be allowed on special permit from the Planning Board, provided that the development is determined to be village-compatible as specified in Subsection B above.

D. Dimensional regulations. For village-compatible development as specified in Subsection B above, the following dimensional regulations shall apply rather than those of § 123-13.

[Amended by 5-30-2006 ATM, Art. 22]

Minimum lot area	7,500 square feet ^a
Minimum lot frontage	70 feet
Minimum front yard	20 feet ^b
Minimum side or rear yard:	
At Village Overlay Boundary	15 feet
Elsewhere	8 feet
Maximum lot coverage	40%

NOTES:

^a Except not less than 5,000 square feet per dwelling unit for two-family or multifamily dwellings.

^b Except that the front yard need not be larger than the average of the front

yards provided on lots adjoining it on the same street, with a vacant lot considered to have a front yard of 20 feet.

E. Conforming and grandfathered lots. By-right development on lots that comply with the dimensional requirements of the underlying district and those lots grandfathered for single and two-family dwellings under MGL 40A, Section 6, shall be subject to the site design standards of Subsection B as determined by site plan review by the Planning Board.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 21. 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 22. 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 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 M.G.L. 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 relative to establishment of an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or take other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 23. 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)

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to accept the layout of Rolling Brook Lane off of Elm Street as a public way. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain taking any land necessary for the purpose of such 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: 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, 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 Citizens' Petition)

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.

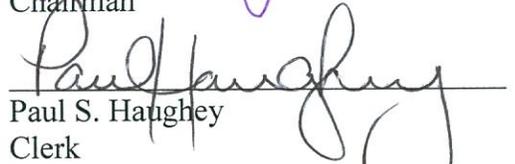
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up true and attested copies thereof in each of the following names and places in Blackstone seven (7) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street and at the Fire Station on Rathbun Street and the 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.

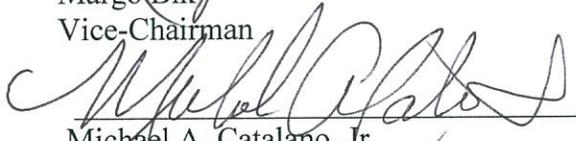
Given under our hands this 29th day of March 2017.

SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE


Robert J. Dubois
Chairman

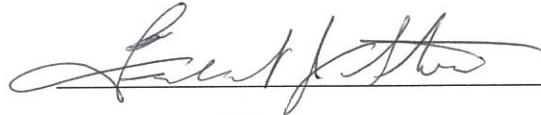

Margo Bik
Vice-Chairman


Paul S. Haughey
Clerk


Michael A. Catalano, Jr.
Member

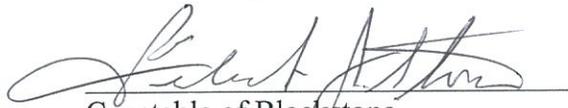

Daniel P. Keefe
Member

A true copy attest:

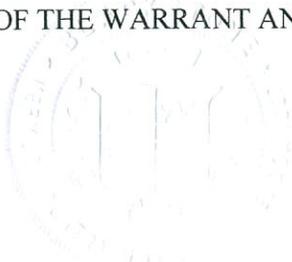

Constable of Blackstone

Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, I have this 29th day of March, 2017 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:




Claudette Dolinski
Town Clerk