

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator Mark N. Poirier, who declared a quorum. There were 81 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; Lauren Zahorsky, Acting Town Accountant; Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor; and Allen W. Himmelberger, Superintendent of Schools;

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 duly made and seconded that the town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000) Dollars to be expended under the direction of Blackstone-Millville Regional School District School Committee for paying the costs of feasibility study for a window and boiler replacement project at John F. Kennedy School, 200 Lincoln St. Blackstone, MA, for which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Discussion followed the Finance Committee's recommendation.

Mr. Allen Himmelberger, the Superintendent of Schools, indicated that this is what has to be done to adhere to the timeline put forth by the MSBA if we want to participate in their reimbursement program. He said the \$75,000 commits the district to a feasibility study and schematic design. The next step is to provide certified documentation of funding by January 31 to MSBA and then execute contracts with the project manager within 4 weeks. The design must be submitted by May 9; the project funding agreement by June 27; and the total project budget would be voted by September 25. This is an accelerated repair; over eighty were submitted; and we were one of several approved. He said the condition of the building is ready for renovation, and the boilers and windows are part of this. We will know the cost once the schematic design is done. He said that typically, we could be in the 57% reimbursable rate. Mr. Himmelberger said that along with that, other renovations are needed at the Kennedy: plumbing, bathrooms, HVAC, electrical system, flooring, and furniture and fixtures. He said that would be a tremendous investment on a building that has served the community since 1965 and could go on for another generation.

Ms. Jacalyn Miner of 125 Blackstone Street stated that raises are given year after year and yet residents are asked to give more money. The Moderator reminded her that the discussion was about renovations to the JFK School and the feasibility study and not about raises. Ms. Miner stated that her opinion was that repairs should be done continuously.

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 2. A motion was duly made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of Forty Thousand (\$40,000) Dollars to purchase a 2017 Ford F350 truck for the Recycling Center.

Mr. Robert Antonitis of 11 Residential Lane asked if the vehicle has a diesel or gas engine and if other makes of vehicles were considered. It was stated that the truck requested has a gas engine. Town Administrator Daniel Keyes indicated that the Ford was in bids put out to replace a vehicle. This will be a replacement vehicle for a truck that was in an auto accident and totaled out by the insurance carrier. The town is currently using a rental vehicle that is being paid for by the town's insurance carrier who will then seek reimbursement from the insurance carrier for the vehicle that hit our truck. He said the \$40,000 cost is all-inclusive.

Mr. Thomas Bik of 95 Elm Street questioned why the town's insurance carrier is not paying for the replacement of the vehicle. Mr. Keyes said that the net worth of the vehicle was \$5,800 with a deductible. The Board of Selectmen accepted a reimbursement of \$4,800, which went to the General Fund.

Mr. Paul Muller of 3 State Street asked about the source of funding. The answer given was Free Cash.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to dissolve the warrant and to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:15 p.m. A total of 85 voters had checked in by the conclusion of the meeting.

Claudette C. Dolinski

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Town Clerk of Blackstone