

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 28, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Mark N. Poirier, who declared a quorum. There were 167 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: Patrick J. Costello, Esq., Louison, Costello, Condon & Pfaff LLP; Lauren Zahorsky, Town Accountant; Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor; Lisa Cheever, Library Director; Gino Carlucci, TGC Associates, Franklin, MA; Samuel Kenney and Jeffrey McClure, P.E., Associate, Weston & Sampson; Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District; Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District and Jane Reggio, Chairman of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District.

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 vote to authorize the Collector to use all means of collecting taxes that a Treasurer may use when appointed Collector.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 2 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

At this time, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Daniel Keefe, made a motion to take Article 23 out of order. This motion was seconded by Board of Selectmen Member Mrs. Margaret Bik.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO TAKE ARTICLE 23 OUT OF ORDER

Mr. Keefe read the article as written:

ARTICLE 23 To see if the Town will vote to borrow, raise, and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$1,000,000 to complete repair and maintenance and upgrades to public buildings or properties, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Mr. Keefe explained what the borrowing would be used for, including repairs and upgrades to the library, historical building, paving the AFM/JFK driveway, police station, and various fire stations. He stated the reasoning for taking this Article out of order is because it would free up a sum of free cash that would be used to fund the school budget as requested. Mr. John Wozniak, 194 Farm Street, explained the Finance Committee budget process; and stated that the allocation of the borrowed funds were never brought to the Finance Committee prior to, or after, the Public Hearing. Mr. James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that the Capital Outlay Committee has made no recommendation because the article as written in the Warrant does not expend any monies on monetary items; he further stated that the Capital Outlay Committee did recommend Articles 24-26. Mr. Wozniak then read the Finance Committees motion regarding Article 23, which was seconded. Mr. Wozniak reiterated that the use of the allocated monies was not part of the Finance Committee's Public Hearing.

Mrs. Connie Perreault, 99 Harris Pond Road, asked for clarification on this Article, and if the Articles 24-26 will still be voted on. Town Administrator, Daniel Keyes, explained that this Article will be funding some of the repair and upgrades that are necessary. Mr. Keyes further explained that if the Selectmen are authorized to borrow, it would fund those repairs without free cash. Mrs. Perreault asked why upgrades and repairs were being made to a Fire Station 3 that is leased. She provided documentation to Legal Counsel which was the Assessors record of the property which is Fire Station 3. Fire Chief, Mr. Michael Sweeney, explained that at a prior year's Town Meeting, the Town voted to authorize acceptance of Fire Station 3 as a gift to the town. It was assumed that the Town did own the building. Legal Counsel, Mr. Patrick Costello, explained that it is true that public funds cannot be expended on buildings that are not owned by the Town. He confirmed that many years ago the Town voted to accept title to that property. Mr. Costello explained that this borrowing authorization is very general in scope, and by passing this Article, it would allow the borrowing to proceed, but no expenditure on the Fire Station 3 property could be made unless/until the Town owned it, which he stated would require Selectmen approval and recording the deed. After that time, town monies could be expended on Fire Station 3. Mrs. Perreault did confirm that it was passed at a prior Town Meeting, but the problem was that it was never recorded, and agreed with Mr. Costello's recommendation.

Mr. Jim Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, again stated that the Capital Outlay Committee must make a recommendation either for or against the Article, and asked Legal Counsel if this Article can be used to fund Capital Outlay items when no recommendations have been made by the Committee. Mr. Costello explained that, as drafted, this Article is a borrowing authorization, and several of the purposes of this Articles use have been approved by the Capital Outlay Committee, per Article 24-26, and if spent for those purposes he would see no issue.

Mrs. Lisa Breeder of 28 Edgewater Drive, asked for clarification on the figures that were stated by Mr. Keefe when discussing the reasoning for moving this Article up. Mr. Keefe stated that \$310,000 would cover repairs to the Sally Port of the Police Station, deteriorated stairways at the Town Hall, and \$75,000 repairs to the Historical Commission building. Mr. Wozniak asked why

the information wasn't given regarding the expenditures of the \$1,000,000. Mr. Keyes explained that he went to both the Finance Committee and Capital Outlay Committee, and it was explained that these figures that were read are preliminary, and the repairs will still have to go out to bid. Mr. Keyes stated that this just gives the Selectmen the authorization to borrow. Mr. Keefe re-read the Finance Committee recommendation for Article 23. Mr. Wozniak asked if the monies that are specified for certain projects are tied to the Selectmen, Mr. Keyes responded and answered his question in relation to the expenditures of this borrowing. Mrs. Perreault asked why Article 23 is being rushed now. Mr. Watson suggested that Article 24-26 not be passed, and move to vote individually on the three Articles.

ARTICLE 23 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to borrow the sum of \$1,000,000 to complete repair and maintenance and upgrades to public buildings or properties.

105 YES 52 NO
TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

Finance Committee Chairman, Mr. John Wozniak, read all department salary and expense totals for Article 3. The following department totals were held: BMR Education.

The Moderator called for a vote on all non-held items. Mrs. Perreault stated that she understood that the average tax bill would go up \$250 if the budget was to be passed as presented with the BMR budget. Mr. Keyes stated that with the additional funding as proposed by the school, the Town would have to tax to the levy. It could be sustained in 202, but not 2021, or 2022. He explained that the average valued home in Blackstone is \$288,000, the tax bill would go up \$249.

ARTICLE 3 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ALL NON-HELD ITEMS

01114	MODERATOR			
	Salary Total		900	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	900	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01122	SELECTMEN			
	Salary Total		32,194	
	Expense Total		52,600	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	84,794	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01123	ADMINISTRATION			
	Salary Total		197,656	
	Expense Total		15,250	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	212,906	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

01131	FINANCE COMMITTEE		
	Salary Total	3,000	
	Expense Total	6,300	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	9,300	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01132	RESERVE FUND		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	100,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01133	CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE		
	Salary Total	1,500	
	Expense Total	1,600	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,100	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT		
	Salary Total	114,600	
	Expense Total	15,260	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	129,860	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01141	ASSESSORS		
	Salary Total	109,083	
	Expense Total	55,800	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	164,883	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01145	COLLECTOR/TREASURER		
	Salary Total	121,600	
	Expense Total	27,750	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	149,350	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01151	TOWN COUNSEL		
	Expense Total	135,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	135,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01155	DATA PROCESSING		
	Expense Total	145,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	145,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01158	COPIER		
	Expense Total	26,487	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	26,487	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01159	BONDS & INSURANCE		
	Expense Total	239,701	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	239,701	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01161	TOWN CLERK		
	Salary Total	142,597	
	Expense Total	20,675	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	163,272	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01162	ELECTIONS		
	Salary Total	17,000	
	Expense Total	7,800	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	24,800	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

01163	BOARD OF REGISTRARS		
	Salary Total	2,250	
	Expense Total	4,550	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	6,800	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01171	CONSERVATION COMM		
	Salary Total	4,000	
	Expense Total	480	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,480	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01175	PLANNING BOARD		
	Salary Total	20,320	
	Expense Total	18,011	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	38,331	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01176	ZONING BOARD		
	Salary Total	10,000	
	Expense Total	3,707	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	13,707	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01182	ECONO DEVELOP		
	Salary Total	1,500	
	Expense Total	3,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	5,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01184	CENTRAL MASS PLANNING		
	Expense Total	2,585	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,585	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01190	GENERAL		
	Expense Total	154,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	154,500	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01192	PUBLIC BUILDING MAINT.		
	Expense Total	389,775	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	389,775	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01195	TOWN REPORT		
	Expense Total	3,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01210	POLICE DEPARTMENT		
	Total Salary	1,634,720	
	Expense Total	208,232	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,842,952	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01211	POLICE DISPATCHERS		
	Salary Total	234,150	
	Expense Total	3,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	237,650	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01220	FIRE DEPARTMENT		
	Salary Total	1,142,859	
	Expense Total	43,800	

		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,186,659	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01231		AMBULANCE SERVICE		
		Salary Total	5,869	
		Expense Total	52,000	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	57,869	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01241		MUNICIPAL INSPECTOR		
		Salary Total	76,876	
		Expense Total	3,500	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	80,376	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01243		PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR		
		Salary Total	16,506	
		Expense Total	1,133	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	17,639	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01244		SEALER WEIGHTS/MEASURES		
		Expense Total	2,000	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01245		ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR		
		Salary Total	16,506	
		Expense Total	650	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	17,156	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01291		EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
		Salary Total	500	
		Expense Total	18,750	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	19,250	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01292		ANIMAL CONTROL		
		Salary Total	20,700	
		Expense Total	8,050	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	28,750	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01294		FORESTRY		
		Salary Total	7,050	
		Expense Total	18,200	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	25,250	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01301		BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOC		
		Salary Total	1,500	
		Expense Total	927,481	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	928,981	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01303		VOCATIONAL TUITION		
		Expense Total	560,000	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	560,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01412		ENGINEERING		
		Expense Total	15,000	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	15,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01420		PUBLIC WORKS SUPT		

	Salary Total	31,499	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	31,499	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01421	HIGHWAY LABOR		
	Salary Total	303,282	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	303,282	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01422	HIGHWAY OPERATIONAL		
	Expense Total	44,189	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	44,189	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01423	SNOW & ICE REMOVAL		
	Salary Total	27,500	
	Expense Total	83,173	
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	110,673	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01424	STREET LIGHTING		
	Expense Total	109,375	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	109,375	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01428	MECHANICAL REPAIRS		
	Expense Total	81,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	81,500	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01429	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE		
	Expense Total	630,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	630,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01432	STREET CLEANING		
	Expense Total	3,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01433	WASTE COLLECTION		
	Expense Total	629,465	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	629,465	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01434	RECYCLING		
	Salary Total	168,251	
	Expense Total	58,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	226,751	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01510	BOARD OF HEALTH		
	Salary Total	18,123	
	Expense Total	71,075	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	89,198	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01541	COUNCIL ON AGING		
	Salary Total	210,904	
	Expense Total	13,520	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	224,424	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01543	VETERANS		
	Salary Total	14,496	
	Expense Total	151,920	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	166,416	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

01610	LIBRARY DEPARTMENT		
	Salary Total	293,653	
	Expense Total	218,830	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	512,483	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01650	PARKS		
	Salary Total	85,525	
	Expense Total	54,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	139,525	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION		
	Expense Total	2,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01692	MEMORIAL DAY/INDEPENDENCE DAY		
	Salary Total	1,800	
	Expense Total	8,300	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,100	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01710	RETIREMENT OF DEBT		
	Expense Total	829,148	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	829,148	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01751	LONG TERM DEBT/ INTEREST		
	Expense Total	234,449	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	234,449	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01752	SHORT TERM DEBT/ INTEREST		
	Expense Total	12,216	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	12,216	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01810	CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS		
	Expense Total	46,712	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	46,712	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01911	COUNTY RETIREMENT		
	Expense Total	855,819	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	855,819	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01913	UNEMPLOYMENT COMP		
	Expense Total	50,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	50,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01914	HEALTH INSURANCE		
	Expense Total	806,361	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	806,361	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01915	LIFE INSURANCE		
	Expense Total	3,750	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,750	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01916	MATCHING MEDICARE		
	Expense Total	80,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	80,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

01918	COMPENSATED BALANCES		
	Expense Total	10,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01919	COMPENSATED ABSENCE		
	Expense Total	7,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,500	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
01960	CAPITAL TRUST		
	Expense Total	2,084,403	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,084,403	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
	GENERAL FUND TOTAL		15,561,301
WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE			
60132	SEWER RESERVE FUND		
	TOTAL TRANSFER	100,000	
60441	SEWER SALARIES		
	TOTAL SEWER SALARIES	169,662	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	169,662	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
60442	SEWER MAINTENANCE		
	Expense Total	223,945	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	223,945	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
60500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND		
	Expense Total	28,925	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	28,925	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
60443	SEWER WOONSOCKET REGIONAL		
	Expense Total	611,049	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	611,049	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
	TOTAL SEWER	1,133,581	
61132	WATER RESERVE FUND		
	TOTAL TRANSFER	100,000	
61450	WATER DEPARTMENT LABOR		
	Salary Total	174,740	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	174,740	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
61451	WATER ADMINISTRATION		
	Salary Total	78,640	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	78,640	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
61452	WATER CONST & MAINTENANCE		
	Expense Total	532,201	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	532,201	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
61500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND		
	Expense Total	42,589	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	42,589	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
61710	WATER RETIREMENT OF DEBT		
	Expense Total	160,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	160,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

61751	WATER LONG TERM DEBT INTEREST		
	Expense Total	14,250	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	14,250	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
61820	MASS FED SAFE DRINKING WTR ASSESMENT		
	Expense Total	2,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
	TOTAL WATER	1,104,420	
	WATER / SEWER ENTERPRISE TOTAL	2,238,001	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND / WATER & SEWER	17,799,302	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ALL NON-HELD ITEMS

Mr. Keefe moved to amend the BMR Education to \$9,513,397, adding an additional \$295,101, which was the original department request. This motion was seconded. Mr. Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, asked about the funding of the budget for FY 2020, and the borrowing article. Mr. Keyes stated that the school budget will be funded with free cash, it does not have an effect on the tax rate in FY 2020, and that by voting the borrowing article at the beginning it would allow other Articles to be funded. Mr. Keefe reiterated the reasoning for moving around the Articles. Tammy Lemieux, 120 Lakeshore Drive, member of the BMRSD School Committee urged the voters to approve this amendment. Mr. Wozniak stated the Finance Committee was not aware of this when the Finance Committee made their recommendations, and that the number the figure is being amended to is the original total the School District requested.

01300	EDUCATION - B.M.R.		
	Expense Total	9,513,397	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	9,513,397	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND / WATER & SEWER	27,312,699	UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE FOR SCHOOL BUDGET

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,312,699 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, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020, and that said appropriation shall be funded as follows:

That	\$ 19,232,169	raised from FY'20 Taxation net Estimated Overlay (Abatements & Exemptions)
That	\$ 1,777,393	raised from FY'20 Projected State Revenue net State Offsets and State Charges
That	\$ 1,715,000	raised from FY'20 Estimated Local Receipts
That	\$ 1,454,959	transferred from Capital Trust
That	\$ 400,000	transferred from The Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$ -	transferred from the Septic Loan Betterment Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$ 2,238,001	raised from FY'20 Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenues

That	\$	-	transferred from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Certified Retained Earnings
That	\$	71,514	transfer from Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Reimbursement
That	\$	-	transferred from Stabilization
That	\$	423,663	use of Free Cash
That	\$	-	use of Overlay

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 4 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 5 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 6 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 7 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mark Juba, 3 Susan Drive, made a motion to reconsider Article 3. This motion was seconded. Mr. Tom Bik, 95 Elm Street, stated that he did not want to reconsider, and stated that he will be staying for the entire meeting, and that there should not be special interest.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE NOT TO RECONSIDER

ARTICLE 8 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to authorize expenses from the Library Revolving Fund established pursuant to Article IV, Section 5-33.1 of the General Bylaws up to the maximum amount of \$3,000 during FY2020.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 9 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from the Library Revolving Fund in the amount of \$2,800 for purposes of a 36-month lease and installation of a replacement colored, all in one, printer.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 10 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,364 for purposes of a 36-month lease, and the installation, of a replacement colored copier and coin box.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Wozniak read the Finance Committee's motion regarding Article 11. Mr. Jim Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, Chairman of the Capital Outlay Committee, stated that this article received a favorable recommendation from the Capital Outlay Committee.

ARTICLE 11 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 to upgrade the "Vision" computer program used by the Assessors' Office to a Vision 8 program.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 12 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to approve the Brave Act relative to Veteran's Benefits, Rights, Appreciation, Validation and Enforcement to increase the Veteran Tax Work Off Program benefit from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Wozniak read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion reading Article 13.

Mr. Joel Cohen, 130 King Street, asked for clarification on how the vote will effect this Article. Mr. Kevin Ryan, 146 Farm Street, explained what this revolving fund would be used for. Legal Counsel, Mr. Patrick Costello, explained that any new revolving account would have to be

created through a new by-law. The funds collected from fees of tobacco stings would be used to fund surveillance and other tasks required for enforcing tobacco laws. He stated that an affirmative vote on this article would defeat the by-law and not establish this fund.

Mr. Wozniak, 194 Farm Street, explained why the Finance Committee recommended not to approve this article; instead of departmental fines going into the general fund, they would then go into the revolving fund, and the expenditures would not have their own line items, nor would they have to submit a budget for approval.

ARTICLE 13 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote NOT TO APPROVE this article.

Original Article:

To see if the Town will vote to amend General Bylaws Section 5-33.1 (Department Revolving Funds) by adopting a new revolving fund entitled "Board of Health Tobacco Revolving Fund", and adding the following language to the respective columns of the chart at the end of said Bylaw:

- A. *(Revolving Fund): Board of Health Tobacco Revolving Fund*
- B. *(Board Authorized to Spend from Fund): Board of Health*
- C. *(Fees, Charges or other Receipts Credited to Fund): Annual fees paid to Town for tobacco permits and fines collected for violation of Town Tobacco Regulations.*
- D. *(Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund): Costs and expenses associated with semi-annual tobacco compliance checks.*
- E. *(Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund): See text of the Bylaw (Section 5-33.1).*
- F. *(Other Requirements/Reports): N/A*
- G. *(Fiscal Years): Fiscal Year 2020 and subsequent years.*

And further to authorize expenses from the Board of Health Tobacco Revolving Fund up to the maximum amount of \$4,000 during FY2020.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE NOT TO APPROVE

Mr. Jack Keefe, 269 Main Street, made a motion to amend Article 13. Mr. Jim Pitler, 2 Michelle Lane, questioned how you could amend an Article that has already been voted on and defeated. Mr. Costello suggested voting to reconsider, and then creating a motion to amend.

Mr. Jack Keefe made the motion to read as follows:

I move to reconsider the vote under Article 14 and to amend the motion to read that the Town vote to approve the Article as printed in the Warrant.

The motion was seconded.

57 YES 60 NO

MAJORITY HAND-COUNT VOTE TO DEFEAT

Mr. Wozniak made a motion to waive the reading of Article 14, the motion to waive the reading was seconded by Mrs. Bulso.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. James Sullivan, Superintendent of Public Works, 77 Florence Drive, explained that this Article is to prevent the water that is running into the roads that ruins the roads and costs the town a lot of money in sand and salt in the winter when it creates ice hazards.

Mrs. Tammy Lemieux asked if this by-law does not apply to existing properties, and only to properties that are created after this by-law has passed. Legal Counsel Mr. Costello explained that this does only apply to new homes, and the existing homes are grandfathered in.

ARTICLE 14 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to adopt the following General Bylaw regulating the discharge of water to public ways in the Town as summarized by Mr. Sullivan.

The original Article reads as follows:

Chapter 111
Discharge of Water to Public Ways
§111-1. Preamble.

Whereas, it is recognized that during winter months, the flow of water onto a public way can freeze and cause unsafe travel conditions on public roadways, including all streets, courts, lanes, sidewalks, and roads with respect to which the public has a right of use in the Town (hereinafter collectively referred to as "public ways"). It is also recognized that the flow of water onto a public way can deteriorate the surface and subsurface of the way and pose a safety hazard to motorists and pedestrians.

§111-2. Discharge of water prohibited.

Now, therefore, no person, property owner, or person exercising control of real property shall discharge water onto a public way between November 1st through April 30th without prior written permission of the Superintendent of Public Works. For the purpose of this Bylaw, discharge shall mean the physical act of draining, diverting by mechanical means, or pumping water from a person's or others' property to a public way. This Bylaw shall not apply to instances of natural overland flow of stormwater.

§111-3. Alteration of property.

As of the effective date hereof, no property shall be altered such that said alteration causes the flow of stormwater or groundwater from private property onto public ways. This provision shall not apply to existing property conditions as of the effective date hereof but shall not limit or restrict the Town in enforcing any other right it possesses to eliminate or abate hazards on public ways.

§111-4. Penalties and enforcement.

The penalty for violation of this Bylaw shall be \$100 per day, with each day constituting a new violation. This Bylaw shall be enforced by the Superintendent of Public Works, any Police Officer of the Town, or by such other officials as the Board of Selectmen shall, from time to time,

designate. Violations and penalties shall be enforced in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw §5-49, including Noncriminal Disposition pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §21D.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 15 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey and grant as a gift to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Department of Conservation and Recreation, several permanent easements and temporary easements within land located off Mill Street, owned by the Town of Blackstone (Assessor's Parcels: 1 Mill Street – 8-127 and 6 Mill Street – 7-93) for conservation and recreation purposes and for the Blackstone Greenway and Trail.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 16 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$5,000,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners for final engineering design and construction of the Water Treatment Plant project at the existing Corrosion Control Facility located at 53 Elm Street, and to authorize the Town to apply for and enter into agreement(s) for grant and/or loan funds from USDA Rural Development program or MA DEP State Revolving Loan Fund for said purpose, as determined by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners.

102 YES 20 NO

TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 17 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to modify the purpose for which the \$100,000 appropriation approved pursuant to the vote under Article 23 at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting may be expended to include:

purchase and install generators for the Bellingham Road water tank and Upper Main Street pumping station and repair or replacement of sewer pumps for Staples Lane and other pump stations, including all costs and expenses incidental thereto.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 18 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$170,000 to purchase a new utility body sander with plow.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 19 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 to purchase a new F250 4 x 4 truck with plow.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 20 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$115,000 to purchase a utility body crane truck with plow, to be funded 50% from Water and Sewer retained earnings and 50% from Free Cash (Department of Public Works share).

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 21 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Water and Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$125,000 to complete the sewer system evaluation (continuation of I & I Study).

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 22 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to pass over Article 22. The original Article reads as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$100,000 to fund implementation of the regulatory requirements of the Stormwater Permitting Program (MSS) which must be completed on a yearly basis, or take any other action in relation thereto.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Wozniak read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion on Article 24. Mr. Jim Pitler, 2 Michelle Lane, explained that he was under the impression that Articles 23-26 would not be voted on after passing Article 23. Mr. Costello explained that the motion has been revised to specify where the funds were coming from which was Article 23. Mr. Watson stated that the Capital Outlay Committee did approve this article and the funding of it.

Mr. Joe Gatchell, 194 Blackstone Street, expressed his concern about the Article not being clear. The Moderator explained that it was read to be appropriated from Article 23.

ARTICLE 24 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 from funds of Article 23 for improvements to the Blackstone Library.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 25 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from funds of Article 23 to complete mandatory state regulation repairs to the Police Department cell area.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Wozniak read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion on Article 26. Fire Chief, Mr. Michael Sweeney, explained that the appropriate steps for taking title of Fire Station 3 will be done before any money is expended on repairs of it. The Moderator asked for clarification on the vote. Mr. Costello explained that the Article as originally written would require a secret ballot but because the funding source have already been approved through Article 23, this is just merely narrowing the purpose of which it is being spent, and does not require a ballot vote.

ARTICLE 26 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 from the funds of Article 23 for improvements Fire Stations 2 and 3.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

On a motion made, and duly seconded, it was voted to waive the reading of Article 27.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 27 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Blackstone by deleting Section 123-23.7 regarding Medical Marijuana Facilities in its entirety, and replacing it with a new Section 123-23.7 as shown below in order to also address Recreational Marijuana, as well as adding definitions of Marijuana Establishment and Marijuana Retailer to Section 123-24 and adding a Recreational Marijuana Establishment and Recreational Marijuana Retailer to Section 123-11 Use Schedule.

123-23.7. Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers

A. Purpose. This section regulates Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers for the following purposes as defined in Section 123-24 (“Definitions”):

(1) To provide for Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers in appropriate places and under strict conditions in accordance with Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012 and Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017.

(2) To minimize the adverse impacts of Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers on adjacent properties, residential neighborhoods, schools, parks and other places where children congregate, local historic districts, and other land uses potentially incompatible with said Facilities.

(3) To regulate the siting, design, placement, security, safety, monitoring, modification, and removal of Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers, but shall not supersede the requirements of any Host Community Agreement.

B. Applicability

(1) The commercial cultivation, production, processing, assembly, packaging, retail or wholesale sale trade, distribution or dispensing of Marijuana is prohibited unless permitted as a Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer under this Section 123-23.7.

(2) No Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer shall be established except in compliance with the provisions of this Section 123-23.7.

(3) Nothing in this Bylaw shall be construed to supersede federal and state laws governing the sale and distribution of narcotic drugs.

(4) If any provision of this Section or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance shall be invalid, the remainder of this Section, to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of those provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this end the provision of this Section are severable.

C. Eligible Locations for Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers.

Marijuana Establishments may be allowed by Special Permit from the Blackstone Planning Board in the Industrial Zoning District provided the facility meets the requirements of this Section 123-23.7.

Marijuana Retailers may be allowed by Special Permit from the Blackstone Planning Board in the Commercial or Industrial Zoning Districts.

D. General Requirements and Conditions for all Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers.

(1) A Medical Marijuana Facility shall not be located in buildings that contain any medical doctor's offices or the offices of any other professional practitioner authorized to prescribe the use of medical marijuana.

(2) No Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers shall be located within 500 feet of a public or private school or within 200 feet of a library, church, child-care facility, park or playground. Distances shall be measured from the property line of the proposed use or from a line 100 feet from the building in which the use is located, whichever is less.

(3) No Marijuana Establishment and Marijuana Retailers shall be located inside building containing residential units, including transient housing such as motels and dormitories, or inside a movable or mobile structure such as a van or truck.

(4) Signage for the Medical Marijuana Facility shall include the following language: "Registration card issued by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission required." The required text shall be a minimum of two inches in height.

(5) Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers shall provide the Blackstone Police Department, Building Inspector and the Special Permit Granting Authority with the names, phone numbers and email addresses of all management staff and key holders to whom one can provide notice if there are operating problems associated with the establishment.

E. Special Permit Requirements

(1) Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers shall only be allowed by special permit from the Blackstone Planning Board in accordance with G.L. c. 40A, §9, subject to the following statements, regulations, requirements, conditions and limitations.

(2) The proposed Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer shall meet the special permit criteria of Section 123-4

(3) In addition to the application requirements set forth in Sections D and E of this Bylaw, a special permit application for a Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer shall include the following;

a) the name and address of each owner of the facility;

b) The following information may be provided in the form of copies of the applicant's submittal to the Cannabis Control Commission for authorization to operate the proposed Facility;

i) evidence of the Applicant's right to use the site of the Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer, such as a deed, or lease;

ii) if the Applicant is a business organization, a statement under oath disclosing all of its owners, shareholders, partners, members, managers, directors, officers, or other similarly-situated individuals and entities and their addresses. If any of the above are entities rather than persons, the Applicant must disclose the identity of the owners of such entities until the disclosure contains the names of individuals;

iii) a certified list all parties in interest entitled to notice of the hearing for the special permit application, taken from the most recent tax list of the town and certified by the Town Assessor;

iv) Proposed security measures for the Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer, including lighting, fencing, gates and alarms, etc., to ensure the safety of persons and to protect the premises from theft.

c) For marijuana cultivation or grow facilities, the following additional requirements shall apply:

i) Proposed odor mitigation plan, including floor plans indicating locations of odor mitigation equipment. Odor mitigation equipment shall be state-of-the-art equipment to the maximum extent practicable. Such odor mitigation plan shall be subject to peer review by a qualified marijuana odor mitigation consultant.

ii) Proposed noise mitigation plan for mechanical equipment. Noise mitigation facilities shall be state-of-the-art to maximum extent practicable. The plan must document compliance with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection standards for noise.

(4). Mandatory Findings. The Special Permit Authority shall not issue a special permit for a Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer unless it finds that:

a) the Facility is designed to minimize any adverse visual or economic impacts on abutters and other parties in interest, as defined in G.L. c. 40A, § 11;

b) the Facility demonstrates how it plans to meet all the permitting requirements of all applicable agencies within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and

c) the applicant has satisfied all of the conditions and requirements of Sections D and E herein:

(5) Annual Reporting. Each Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer permitted under this Bylaw shall as a condition of its special permit file an annual report to and appear before the Special Permit Granting Authority and the Town Clerk no later than January 31st, providing a copy of all current applicable state licenses for the Facility and/or its owners and demonstrate continued compliance with the conditions of the Special Permit.

(6) A special permit granted under this Section shall have a term limited to the duration of the applicant's ownership or tenancy of the premises as a Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer. A special permit may be transferred only with the approval of the Special Permit Granting Authority in the form of an amendment to the special permit with all information required in this Section 123-23.7.

(7) The Board shall require the applicant to post a bond at the time of construction to cover costs for the removal of the Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer in the event the Town must remove the facility. Documentation of a bond posted with the Cannabis Control Commission shall satisfy this requirement.

F. Abandonment or Discontinuance of Use

(1) A Special Permit shall lapse if not exercised within one year of issuance.

(2) A Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Retailer shall be required to remove all material, plants equipment and other paraphernalia:

a) prior to surrendering its state issued licenses or permits; or

b) within six months of ceasing operations; whichever comes first

and add the following to Section 123-24 Definitions and word usage:

Marijuana Establishment (ME): A Medical Marijuana Facility, marijuana independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturer, or marijuana cultivator, all as defined in General Laws chapter 94G, §1, but not including Marijuana Retailers.

Marijuana Retailer: An entity licensed to purchase and deliver medical and/or recreational marijuana and marijuana products from marijuana establishments and to deliver, sell or otherwise transfer marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to consumers.

And add the following to Section 123-11 Use Schedule under COMMERCIAL USES:

	R-1,			
	R-2	R-3	C	I
<u>Marijuana Establishment</u>	No	No	No	PB

Marijuana Retailer No No PB PB

Mr. Costello explained that an amendment to Article 27 will be proposed to expand the area in which a special permit may be issued to a few select properties in an R1 district that directly abut a commercial or industrial district.

Mr. Keefe moved to amend Article 27 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant by

“1) adding the following language after the second paragraph of Section 123-23.7(C):

Marijuana Retailers may also be allowed in an R-1 district by Special Permit granted by the Planning Board, but only on sites that abut a Commercial or Industrial District that have been previously used for commercial purposes,

and

2) adding the following asterisk and footnote language in the RI and R2 column of Section 123-11 under Commercial Uses.

	R-1, R-2	R-3	C	I
<u>Marijuana Establishment</u>	No	No	No	PB
<u>Marijuana Retailer</u>	No*	No	PB	PB

* Except on sites in an R-1 District that abut a Commercial or Industrial District and that have previously been used for commercial purposes, as set forth in Section 123-27(C).”

The motion to amend was seconded.

Mr. Ashley Prester, 14 Meadow Lane, stated that those applicants should have to go through the standard process because there are already provisions set forth. Mr. Costello clarified this amendment and its purpose. Mr. Wozniak, 194 Farm Street, asked if Anderson’s Variety would be included. Mr. Paul Marvelle, 171 Mendon Street, Chairman of the Planning Board, noted the Planning Board recommended approval of the original Bylaw language but had no report on the amendment, and referred Mr. Wozniak’s question to Gino Carlucci, the Planning Board’s Consultant. Mr. Carlucci explained that a building in question may only be used for a marijuana facility not general commercial use, and if that specific site is abutting a commercial zone and has historically been used as commercial property, then it would qualify. Mrs. Mary Bulso, 4 Patricia Drive, asked if this is in relation to a particular property, and if it was for new properties. Mr. Carlucci explained that the overall by-law would be a specific use in the Zoning By-law. Mr. Keefe clarified that the property Mr. Wozniak inquired about does not qualify under this new amendment.

UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT

A motion was made, and duly seconded to waive the reading of Article 27 as amended.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ARTICLE 27 AS AMENDED

A motion was made, and duly seconded to waive the reading of Article 28.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Paul Marvelle, 171 Mendon Street, Chairman of the Planning Board, briefly explained this Article, noting the Planning Board recommended approval.

ARTICLE 28 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to amend **Section 123-23.6, Commercial Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facilities**, Subsection D, Requirements for Solar Photovoltaic Facilities, of the Blackstone Zoning Bylaws by adding the following as illustrated in **bold underline** type:

123-23.6 Commercial Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facilities

D. Requirements for Solar Photovoltaic Facilities

(1) Special Permit

No solar photovoltaic facility over 100 kilowatts of rated nameplate capacity shall be erected, constructed, installed or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a special permit from the Planning Board. The construction of a solar photovoltaic facility shall be permitted subject to the issuance of a Special Permit and provided that the use complies with all requirements set forth in this Section 123-23.6. All such solar photovoltaic facilities shall be constructed and operated in a manner that minimizes adverse visual, safety, and environmental impacts. **No special permit shall be issued for a Solar Photovoltaic Facility for any parcel that will result in more than 25% of the total land area of an Industrial District consisting of parcels that are the site of Commercial Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations.**

and to amend Section 123-11, Use Schedule, by removing the authority of the Planning Board to grant special permits for Commercial Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facilities in the R-1, R-2, R-3 and C districts as indicated with ~~strikethrough~~ type for deletions and **bold underline** type for additions follows:

	R-1, R-2	R-3	C	I
Commercial Solar Photovoltaic Facility in accordance with Section 123-23.6	<u>PB No</u>	<u>PB No</u>	<u>PB No</u>	PB

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Wozniak read the Finance Committee’s recommendation and motion on Article 29. Mrs. Connie Perreault, 99 Harris Pond Road, expressed her concern for this Article. She referenced

the cable money the town receives, and it is indicated that a budget and appropriation of these monies would be established. She explained the balance in the referenced account per the Annual Town Report.

ARTICLE 29 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to accept General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F3/4, which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, and to appropriate the sum of \$98,500 for the operation of said Fund in FY2020, which begins on July 1, 2019, with said appropriation to be funded through the current balance of said Fund.

MAJOIRTY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Wozniak read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion on Article 30. Mrs. Perreault stated that the right to vote is being taken away. She also recalled the recent history of the people in this position over the last year. She urged people not to give up their right to vote for elected officials. Selectmen Mr. Bob Dubois, 56 Edgewater Drive, expressed his reasoning for this position being appointed. He further explained that the auditors that review the town also say that the Collector/Treasurer should be appointed, as many other towns in the state have been doing. He clarified that the appointment would go into place upon the expiration of the current Collector/Treasurer's term.

Mr. Wozniak stated that this Article would just put this question on the ballot, and let the voters vote on what they would like. Mr. Jim Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, explained that this Article has been failing to pass for several years ago, and requires a 2/3 vote. Mr. Keefe explained the history of the Collector/Treasurer's in the past year. Mrs. Perreault explained that towns are losing financial staff because they are leaving and going to other financial industries. Mr. Wozniak stated that he agrees with Mr. Keefe's statements regarding this Article, but this would take it out of the Town Meeting, and into the hands of the voters at the next election; and that the Finance Committee Voted to recommend it. Mr. Jim Pitler, 5 Michelle Lane, stated that he was under the impression that this issue was part of the Masterplan. Mr. Dubois explained the process of a Charter Study.

ARTICLE 30 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to propose an amendment to the Blackstone Home Rule Charter for consideration by the voters of the Town to convert the office of Collector-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.

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY DECLARED ON VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

The majority voice vote for Article 30 was questioned, the Moderator counted 8 voters who called for a recount.

63 YES 36 NO
UPON RECOUNT MOTION FAILS

(TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED TO APPROVE)

A motion was made to reconsider the vote. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE ON MOTION TO RECONSIDER FAILS

ARTICLE 31 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Wozniak read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 32.

ARTICLE 32 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved that the Town vote NOT TO APPROVE this article.

Article 32:

HOME RULE PETITION TO REGULATE CERTAIN INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR APPOINTED AND ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for Special Legislation, as set forth below, to establish that an elected or appointed official of the Town of Blackstone who receives a stipend shall not be eligible for participation in the Town's contributory health and life insurance plans unless the official pays to the town 100% of the cost of participation in the plans, plus any administrative costs that may be assessed by the Board of Selectmen; provided that the General Court may only make clerical or editorial changes of form to the Act, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the Act before enactment by the General Court, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments to the Act which shall be within the scope of the general objectives of the petition:

AN ACT REGULATING CERTAIN INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

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 Chapter 32B of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, an elected or appointed official of the Town of Blackstone who receives a stipend shall not be eligible for participation in the Town's contributory health and life insurance plans unless the official pays to the town 100 percent of the cost of participation in the plans, plus any administrative costs that may be assessed by the Board of Selectmen.*

SECTION 2. *Notwithstanding Section 1, the Town Clerk and Treasurer-Collector shall remain eligible for participation in the Town's contributory health and life insurance plans at the same rate of contribution as nonunion employees of the Town.*

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Mr. Daniel Keefe moved to amend the motion under Article 32 to read:
That the Town vote to APPROVE the Article as written in the Warrant.
The motion to amend was seconded.

Mr. Wozniak expressed his concern regarding this Article; he stated that the Finance Committee does not receive stipends. He believes that this Article is mean spirited.

Mrs. Franscena Schandelmayer-Davis, 98 Federal Street, also Chairman of the Board of Assessors for 20 years. She explained how the Board of Assessors is required to take a certification by the Department of Revenue. Mr. Keefe explained that many communities around the Commonwealth are changing their by-laws regarding this also because of the costs to the Town. He stated that there are 23 town officials that are eligible for this health insurance benefit. Mr. Wozniak stated that there are 2 people who take advantage of this benefit. Mrs. Schandelmayer-Davis stated that her and her other Board of Assessors member received the benefit.

Mr. Keefe expressed how this would become a liability to the town with the cost of health insurance. Mr. Wozniak also claimed that the school district violated a law when they removed the health insurance benefit the School Committee members.

Mr. Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, asked for clarification on the cost of the health insurance per person. Mr. Joe Gatchell, 194 Blackstone Street, stated that he feels that the people who are on these boards and committees do it for genuine reasons, and he would hate to see anyone run for these positions disingenuously only to get the benefit. He stated that he works for a commercial insurance company and works with many municipalities, and knows how it can be an increased liability.

Mrs. Carolyn Powers asked for clarification on the vote. The Moderator clarified that this vote is only to amend the main motion offered for the Article. Legal Counsel Mr. Pat Costello clarified that, if approved, this vote would allow the Meeting to approve the Article, as per the amendment.

68 YES 28 NO

MAJORITY HAND-COUNT VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mrs. Schandelmayer-Davis made a further motion to amend Article 32 to read as follows:
“Notwithstanding Section 1, The Town Clerk, Board of Assessors, and Treasurer/Collector shall remain eligible for participation in the Town’s contributory health and life insurance plans at the same rate of contribution as a non-union employee of town”.

The motion was seconded.

Mr. Bill Chapin, 8 Kimberly Lane, stated that now we are going to pick and choose who gets health insurance and who doesn’t, rather than it being all or nothing like it was before.

Mr. Keefe clarified that its original intent was to not include the Collector/Treasurer and Town Clerk which are full time positions.

Mrs. Schandelmayer-Davis explained that many of the Board of Assessors work is done in the background, as she will not discuss individual tax bills on television. She also reiterated the fact that the Board of Assessors is the only board who requires a certification.

Mr. Bill Chapin, 8 Kimberly Lane, stated how he does not think we should be picking and choosing who gets the insurance.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO DEFEAT THE FURTHER AMENDMENT

The Moderator called for a vote on the Article per the amended main motion.

56 YES 41 NO

MAJORITY HAND-COUNT VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDED MOTION

ARTICLE 33 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of money in the amount of \$229,550 and from Water and Sewer Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of \$20,450, totaling \$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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 34 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$15,317.21 to the Stabilization Fund.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to dissolve the warrant and to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone