

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Town Clerk, Tara Sullivan, who declared a quorum. There were 86 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 Taylor, Town Accountant; Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District; and Jane Reggio, Chairwomen of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Committee.

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

Chairman of the Finance Committee, John Wozniak, read Article 1 as written and recommended by the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE 1 The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote not to approve acceptance of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Amended Regional Agreement as presented by the School Committee on April 27, 2020.

Mr. John Wozniak, 194 Farm Street, Chairman of the Finance Committee, expressed his concern with the proposed Regional Agreement Amendment. He stated that he feels as though the proposed agreement will not benefit the Town of Blackstone.

Mr. Daniel Keefe, 269 Main Street, moved to amend the motion as follows: move that the Town vote to approve acceptance of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Amended Regional Agreement as presented by the School Committee on April 27, 2020.

Mr. Keefe explained that this Agreement Amendment will create a fair and equitable school district for all students to be educated in.

Ms. Sarah Williams, 70 Edgewater Drive, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Committee Member, and the Chairwomen of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Regional Agreement Amendment Committee, spoke in favor of passing the Regional Agreement Amendment.

Mr. Joseph Gatchell, 194 Blackstone Street, Finance Committee Member, stated that the per-student tuition for each town would be around the same. He also stated that passing this Agreement Amendment will allow for all students to have a smaller class size and better education.

Mr. Wozniak reiterated his opposition of the Agreement Amendment.

Mr. James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, Finance Committee Member, explained his support of the Agreement Amendment.

Mrs. Tammy Lemieux, 120 Lakeshore Drive, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Committee Member, urged voters to pass the amendment to the motion, as well as to pass the Agreement Amendment. She explained the thought and consideration throughout the process of amending the agreement, and its benefits.

Mr. Brian Scanlan, 6 Reilly Ave, Finance Committee Member, expressed his concern regarding the passing of the Agreement Amendment.

Mrs. Wendy Greenstein, 4 Liberty Hill Drive, urged voters to pass the Agreement Amendment due to the current differences in class sizes, and passing the Agreement Amendment would allow for more equal class sizes for Blackstone students.

Mr. Keefe further expressed his support of passing the Agreement Amendment, and clarified the reason for having the Special Town Meeting in the fall; which was due to the fact that the Spring Annual Town Meeting was condensed because of COVID-19, and the school district was promised a Special Town Meeting in the fall to vote on the Agreement Amendment.

Mrs. Tanya Polack, 10 Meadow Lane, echoed the statement from Mr. Wozniak regarding the proportions of representation on the school committee. She further questioned whether there is more that could be added to it to make the Agreement Amendment even better at a future time.

On the motion to amend Article 1, as read by Mr. Keefe, and duly seconded, it was voted to pass the amendment to Article 1.

43 YES 21 NO
MAJORITY HAND-COUNT VOTE TO APPROVE

Town Clerk, Tara Sullivan, read the motion under Article 1 as amended: That the Town vote to approve acceptance of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Amended Regional Agreement as presented by the School Committee on April 27, 2020.

Mr. Gatchell pointed out that the vote on Article 1 does not determine the school committee representation or to deregionalize the district, it just determines if the new agreement is better than the old agreement.

Mr. Wozniak clarified that the reason there are students in the Millville Elementary School is because of an emergency order. The superintendent does not have the right to do so without the approval of the school committee.

Mrs. Lemieux stated that the school committee works together as a whole, and clarified how the cost per town for school services is determined.

Mr. Keefe stated that if the Agreement Amendment is voted down, Millville schools will continue to have smaller class sizes. Mr. Keefe made a motion, duly seconded, to move the question.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 1 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town approve acceptance of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Amended Regional Agreement as presented by the School Committee on April 27, 2020.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 2 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$100,000 to fund implementation of the regulatory requirements of the Stormwater Permitting Program (MS4).

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 3 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate \$120,000 to fund the FY 2021 expenses of the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, established by the vote under Article 29 of the May 28, 2019 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53F 3/4, said appropriation to be funded by fees received pursuant to the Town's cable licensing agreement.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 4 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Finance Committee recommended that the Town not approve the proposed amendment to Article V, section C5-1 of the Blackstone Home Rule Charter; accordingly, it was moved that Article 4 be indefinitely postponed.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 5 The sponsor of Article 5, Mr. John Wozniak, withdrew the Article; accordingly, no motion was offered thereunder.

ARTICLE 6 Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. James Watson, read Article 6 as written and recommended by the Finance Committee.

Mr. James Sullivan, 77 Florence Drive, Superintendent of Public Works, stated that this Article should be held off until the Spring Town Meeting due to a few issues; swimming pools encroaching on the retention ponds and the outfalls for the stormwater have not been maintained. He also stated that the Planning Board did not require Rolling Brook to install granite berms throughout the development as others were required to do.

Mrs. Amanda Pelletier, 9 Rolling Brook Lane, sponsor of Article 6, explained that she has been trying to get Rolling Brook to become a public way since she has lived there. She also stated that Elm Street has berms, but not granite berms. She stated that they have gotten quotes to have the land cleared by the retention pond to meet the code.

Mr. Watson said that based on the Superintendent of Public Work's recommendation to vote Article 6 down, that is what the vote should be. He then questioned the signature requirement for petitions to be placed upon the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Attorney Patrick Costello clarified that the previously petitioned articles were properly included in the Warrant and before the meeting. Due to COVID-19 situation, the Town agreed with the article petitioners to defer consideration of the petitioned articles to a future meeting. He further stated that the Board of Selectmen, by executing the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting on October 6, 2020,

which included each of the previously petitioned articles therein, duly submitted said articles to the Special Town Meeting for its action thereon.

Mr. Sullivan cleared up confusion regarding the berms on Elm Street, he stated that the town does not have to put in granite berms throughout Elm Street, as would be required for developments.

Mr. Keefe stated that a more appropriate time for this article would be in the spring at the Annual Town Meeting. He encouraged the petitioners to meet with the Department of Public Works in hopes of resolving the issues of concern.

Mrs. Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that when this petition was first brought to the town for a vote, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Wozniak, was against this article, but now he is in favor of it.

Mr. Todd Goyer, 5 Rolling Brook Lane, stated that Rolling Brook is the first road that you come upon when entering Blackstone, and there have been times that the Department of Public Works and the Police Department has used this road for various reasons.

ARTICLE 6 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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 was 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 shall be 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 Lots 5 and 4, Town will cover snow removal plowing, street sanding, and trash recycling, general town services, police, fire and town vehicle access, future unforeseen town services, and no taking or cleaning of the street sweeping/catch/retention basins.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO DEFEAT

On a motion made, and duly seconded, it was voted to adjourn the Special Town Meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:11a.m.



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone