

**Town of Blackstone**  
**Annual Town Meeting**  
**Finance Committee Recommendations**  
**May 25, 2021**  
**6:00 pm**

Town Clerk  
Town of Blackstone

MAY 17 2021

Time: 4:05 PM LDF  
RECEIVED

**ARTICLE 1** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to authorize the Collector to use all means of collecting taxes that a Treasurer may use when appointed Collector.

**ARTICLE 2** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, 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.

**ARTICLE 3** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, 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, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022 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.

**ARTICLE 4** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, 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.

**ARTICLE 5** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, 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.

**ARTICLE 6** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, 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.

**ARTICLE 7** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, 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.

**ARTICLE 8** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, 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 FY2022.

**ARTICLE 9** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$110,000 to fund implementation of the regulatory requirements of the Stormwater Permitting Program (MS4) which must be completed on a yearly basis.

**ARTICLE 10** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, 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.

**ARTICLE 11** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate \$120,000 to fund FY2022 expenses of the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, as established by the vote under Article 29 of the May 28, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, pursuant to Mass General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53F  $\frac{3}{4}$ , said appropriation to be funded by fees received pursuant to the Town's cable licensing agreement and cable franchise agreement, with the fund to begin operation for FY2022 effective July 1, 2021.

**ARTICLE 12** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of money in the amount of \$230,750 and from Water and Sewer Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of \$19,250, 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.

**ARTICLE 13** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$340,000 to complete repair and maintenance to the Police Department sally port, provided that all debt service payments are to be paid through a transfer from the Capital Trust.

**ARTICLE 14** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000 to complete repair and maintenance to the Historical Museum.

**ARTICLE 15** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$300,000 for repair and maintenance to the JFK/AF Maloney Elementary School parking lot, provided that all debt service payments are to be paid through a transfer from the Capital Trust.

**ARTICLE 16** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 16 of the warrant for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, by increasing the appropriation for the design and construction of a Water Treatment Plant at the existing Corrosion Control Facility located at 53 Elm Street, including all costs incidental or related thereto, from Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) to Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,500,000), as required to comply with the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCL) promulgated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §8(4) or any other enabling authority, to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes hereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed by the amount of any such premium so applied, and that the Board of Selectmen and/or the Water and Sewer Commission are authorized to apply for and accept any Federal, State, County or other grants, including the USDA Rural Development program or the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, that may be available for this purpose and to enter into agreements for the acceptance of any such grants which shall be used to offset the total appropriation authorized by this vote, all of such funds to be expended under the direction of the Water and Sewer Commission for the purposes of this vote.

**ARTICLE 17** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote NOT TO APPROVE this article.

Original Article:

*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 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.*

**ARTICLE 18** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust the sum of \$149,999 for the purchase of a utility tractor with a side boom mower/brush cutter.

**ARTICLE 19** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust the sum of \$50,000 for the purchase of a 1-ton 4x4 F350 dump truck.

**ARTICLE 20** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Water and Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$110,000 for the cleaning of 13 sewer pump stations.

**ARTICLE 21** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 to complete drainage work on Bellingham Road.

**ARTICLE 22** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$500,000 for the rehabilitation of existing bridge carrying Elm Street over Quick Stream; work includes the rehabilitation of the existing stone masonry headwalls with new crash-rated guard walls and standard approach railings.

**ARTICLE 23** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$500,000 to purchase one 2021 1500 GPM Pumper Fire Truck and related equipment, provided that all debt service payments are to be made by a transfer from the Capital Trust.

**ARTICLE 24** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer \$200,000 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund and \$100,000 from Free Cash totaling \$300,000 to purchase a new ambulance.

**ARTICLE 25** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$108,896.40 to purchase and install: (1) A Stryker Power-Pro XT ambulance cot and Power-Load cot fastener system and (2) An X series monitor/defibrillator AND (3) ONE Lucas automatic CPR device.

**ARTICLE 26** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund the sum of \$17,000 to purchase 7 complete sets of structural firefighting gear.

**ARTICLE 27** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust the sum of \$50,000 to purchase a skid steer for the Recycling Center.

**ARTICLE 28** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to transfer \$150,000 of the remaining \$200,000 balance of the \$310,000 appropriation approved under Article 18 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting for the completion of the design and construction of Well #9 and to renovate Wells # 2, #4 and #7.

**ARTICLE 29** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to INDEFINITELY POSTPONE this article.

Original Article:

*To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a donation of land on Milk Street, containing 20 acres, more or less, as more particularly described in the deed recorded at Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 60431, Page 163 and shown on Blackstone Assessors Map 24 as Parcel 26 to be held for conservation purposes.*

**ARTICLE 30** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to amend **Section 123-17, Signs**, Subsection D, Permitted accessory signs in Business and Industrial Districts, of the Blackstone Zoning Bylaws by changing the word "Business" to "Commercial" such that it reads as follows, with deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ and added text in **bold**:

D. Permitted accessory signs in ~~Business~~**Commercial** and Industrial Districts

**ARTICLE 31** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote NOT TO APPROVE this article.

Original Article:

*To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Blackstone Home Rule Charter ("Charter") as follows: Delete the fourth sentence of Article V, Section C5-1 of the Charter, which provides that if the Town Administrator is not a resident of the Town he shall be required to establish residence within one year from the date of his appointment; said Charter amendment to become effective immediately upon enactment of the special legislation.*

**ARTICLE 32** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to rescind the unissued balance of the borrowing authorization approved under Article 1 of the April 30, 2001 Special Town Meeting for the design, construction, and original equipping of a new library facility at 86 Main Street, Blackstone in the amount of \$1,918,676.

**ARTICLE 33** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to change and reduce the Residency Requirement for Veterans seeking local property tax exemptions under M.G.L. c. 59, Section 5, Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, and 22F to one year.

**ARTICLE 34** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to accept M.G.L. c. 59, Section 5, Clause 22H, a local option, granting full property tax exemption to surviving parents or guardians of (1) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) who went missing in action during active duty and are presumed to have died, or (2) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) or veterans who dies as a proximate result of injuries sustained or illnesses contracted during active duty service.

**ARTICLE 35** The Finance Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Town vote to transfer a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund.