

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 25, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Moderator John Wozniak, who declared a quorum. There were 163 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; Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor; Lisa Cheever, Library Director; Gregory Gilmore, Chief of Police; Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District; Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, Millville Representatives of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District; Samuel Kenney and Jeffrey McClure, PE, Associates Weston & Sampson, Greg Balukonis, Acting Town Administrator, and Wendy Timmons, Union Representative.

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 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 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

Finance Committee Chairman, Mr. James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, read all department salary and expense totals for Article 3. The following department totals were held: Town Accountant, Assessor, Collector/Treasurer, Town Clerk, Police Dispatchers, Public Works- Highway Labor, Council on Aging, Library Department, Water & Sewer Enterprise Sewer Salaries, Water & Sewer Enterprise – Water Administration, and BMR Education.

Mr. Joseph Gatchell, 194 Blackstone Street, Finance Committee member, stated that most department heads are not in the union and are not entitled to union benefits, and further stated that they were here every day though COVID, and giving them the 3% raises they have gotten historically would have only costed about \$10,000.

Mr. Jeff Silverstein, 300 Main Street, Finance Committee member, stated that the Board of Selectmen approved, without discussion, contracts for two of the unions, and there may be additional ones that could be approved. He further stated that no town officials have made any

attempt to explain what obligations are for the town for the next fiscal years, and that the Finance Committee has not seen any details about these contracts.

Mr. Ryan Chamberland, 234 Main Street, Board of Selectmen member, stated that the department heads are getting the same raise as the unions are getting. He stated that Acting Town Administrator has been acting diligently to negotiate the union contracts. He stated that the 2% raises are the best value that the Board of Selectmen could offer for the taxpayers.

Mr. Robert Dubois, 56 Edgewater Drive, Board of Selectmen member, stated that the unions and departments always got the same raises. He credited the Acting Town Administrator for negotiating the union contracts. He further stated that the figures were provided to the Finance Committee, and that they do not have to provide them with the contracts.

01114	MODERATOR			
	Salary Total		900	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	900	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
01122	SELECTMEN			
	Salary Total		33,212	
	Expense Total		60,100	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	93,312	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
01123	ADMINISTRATION			
	Salary Total		204,892	
	Expense Total		15,250	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	220,142	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
01131	FINANCE COMMITTEE			
	Salary Total		2,000	
	Expense Total		5,100	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,100	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
01132	RESERVE FUND			
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	100,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
01133	CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE			
	Salary Total		1,000	
	Expense Total		600	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,600	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
01151	TOWN COUNSEL			
	Expense Total		150,000	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	150,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
01155	DATA PROCESSING			
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	162,800	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1158	COPIER			
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	38,750	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1159	BONDS & INSURANCE			
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	260,621	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1162	ELECTIONS			
	Salary Total		9,500	
	Expense Total		6,250	
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	15,750	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

1163	BOARD OF REGISTRARS			
	Salary Total		2,250	
	Expense Total		4,550	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		6,800	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1171	CONSERVATION COMM			
	Salary Total		4,000	
	Expense Total		480	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		4,480	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1175	PLANNING BOARD			
	Salary Total		15,400	
	Expense Total		18,011	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		33,411	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1176	ZONING BOARD			
	Salary Total		8,466	
	Expense Total		3,707	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		12,173	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1182	ECONO DEVELOP			
	Salary Total		1,500	
	Expense Total		1,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		2,500	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1184	CENTRAL MASS PLANNING			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		2,716	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1190	GENERAL			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		154,500	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1192	PUBLIC BUILDING MAINT.			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		393,525	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1195	TOWN REPORT			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		3,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1210	POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	Total Salary		1,720,813	
	Expense Total		223,926	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		1,944,739	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1220	FIRE DEPARTMENT			
	Salary Total		1,126,598	
	Expense Total		60,650	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		1,187,248	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1231	AMBULANCE SERVICE			
	Salary Total		5,869	
	Expense Total		54,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		59,869	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1241	MUNICIPAL INSPECTOR			
	Salary Total		77,212	
	Expense Total		3,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		80,712	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1243	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR			
	Salary Total		17,001	

	Expense Total	1,133	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	18,134	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1244	SEALER WEIGHTS/MEASURES		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,750	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1245	ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR		
	Salary Total	17,001	
	Expense Total	650	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	17,651	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
	Salary Total	500	
	Expense Total	18,750	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	19,250	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1292	ANIMAL CONTROL		
	Salary Total	24,216	
	Expense Total	8,050	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	32,266	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1294	TREE WARDEN		
	Salary Total	7,050	
	Expense Total	18,200	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	25,250	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1301	BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOC		
	Salary Total	1,500	
	Expense Total	846,746	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	848,246	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1303	VOCATIONAL TUITION		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	888,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1412	ENGINEERING		
	Expense Total	15,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	15,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1420	PUBLIC WORKS SUPT		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	33,141	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1422	HIGHWAY OPERATIONAL		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	47,064	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1423	SNOW & ICE REMOVAL		
	Salary Total	27,500	
	Expense Total	83,175	
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	110,675	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1424	STREET LIGHTING		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	109,375	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1428	MECHANICAL REPAIRS		
	Expense Total	95,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	95,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1429	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE		

	Expense Total	630,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	630,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1432	STREET CLEANING		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,500	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1433	WASTE COLLECTION		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	660,480	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1434	RECYCLING		
	Salary Total	175,301	
	Expense Total	58,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	233,801	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1510	BOARD OF HEALTH		
	Salary Total	10,213	
	Expense Total	80,680	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	90,893	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1543	VETERANS		
	Salary Total	20,000	
	Expense Total	181,920	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	201,920	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1650	PARKS		
	Salary Total	86,920	
	Expense Total	46,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	133,420	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1692	MEMORIAL DAY		
	Salary Total	1,800	
	Expense Total	16,600	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	18,400	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1710	RETIREMENT OF DEBT		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	710,005	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1751	LONG TERM DEBT/ INTEREST		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	174,330	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1752	SHORT TERM DEBT/ INTEREST		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,915	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1810	CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	46,323	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1911	COUNTY RETIREMENT		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	920,201	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1913	UNEMPLOYMENT COMP		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	50,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1914	HEALTH INSURANCE		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	878,652	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1915	LIFE INSURANCE		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,000	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

1916	MATCHING MEDICARE			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	80,000		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1918	COMPENSATED BALANCES			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,000		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1919	COMPENSATED ABSENCE			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,500		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
1960	CAPITAL TRUST			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,466,450		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	26,632,309		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE

60132	SEWER RESERVE FUND			
	TOTAL TRANSFER	100,000		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
60442	SEWER MAINTENANCE			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	260,383		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
60500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	48,102		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
60443	SEWER WOONSOCKET REGIONAL			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	571,932		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
	TOTAL SEWER	1,155,489		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

61132	WATER RESERVE FUND			
	TOTAL TRANSFER	100,000		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
61450	WATER DEPARTMENT LABOR			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	191,160		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
61452	WATER CONST & MAINTENANCE			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	609,534		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
61500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	62,942		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
61710	WATER RETIREMENT OF DEBT			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	105,000		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
61751	WATER LONG TERM DEBT INTEREST			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	5,775		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
61752	WATER SHORT TERM DEBT INTEREST			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,650		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
61820	MASS FED SAFE DRINKING WTR ASSESSMENT			
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
	TOTAL WATER	1,164,418		MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

WATER / SEWER ENTERPRISE TOTAL	2,319,907	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
TOTAL GENERAL FUND / WATER & SEWER	28,952,216	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ALL NON-HELD ITEMS

Ms. Anita Robertson, 61 Edgewater Drive, asked for an explanation for the 4% increase to the BMR Education budget.

Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, explained that the largest chunk of the increase came from the minimum contributions which is set by the state.

1300	EDUCATION - B.M.R.		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,226,689	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
			MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz, Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen made a motion to amend one amount shown in the department salary for Town Accountant (#01135) to \$114,129 and the total budget amount to \$129,389. The motion was seconded.

Mrs. Katie Trottier, 110 Harris Pond Road, inquired as to why the increases are 3%.

Mr. Greg Balukonis, Acting Town Administrator, stated that the amounts represented here are reflective of a 2%, and also take into consideration step increases.

Mr. James Watson stated that he did not have the updated figures for the raises.

Mr. Greg Balukonis clarified that the increases that are over 2% are reflective of possible step increases. He further stated that the union negotiations were only completed several hours prior to the meeting.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the department salary for Town Accountant (#01135) to \$114,129 and the total budget amount to \$129,389. The motion was seconded.

01135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT		
	Salary Total	114,129	
	Expense Total	15,260	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	129,389	MAJORITY VOICE VOTE
			MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for Assessor's (#01141) to \$119,241 and the total budget amount to \$170,571. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for Assessor's (#01141) to \$119,241 and the total budget amount to \$170,571. The motion was seconded

01141	ASSESSORS		
	Salary Total		119,241
	Expense Total		51,330
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		170,571

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for Collector/Treasurer (#01145) to \$120, 536 and the total budget amount to \$148,286. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for Collector/Treasurer (#01145) to \$120, 536 and the total budget amount to \$148,286. The motion was seconded.

01145	COLLECTOR/TREASURER		
	Salary Total		120,536
	Expense Total		27,750
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		148,286

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for the Town Clerk (#01161) to \$123,864 and the total budget to \$145,239. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for the Town Clerk (#01161) to \$123,864 and the total budget to \$145,239. The motion was seconded.

01161	TOWN CLERK		
	Salary Total		123,864
	Expense Total		21,375
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		145,239

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for the Police Dispatchers (#01211) to \$253,257 and the total budget amount to \$256,757. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for the Police Dispatchers (#01211) to \$253,257 and the total budget amount to \$256,757. The motion was seconded.

1211	POLICE DISPATCHERS		
	Salary Total		253,257
	Expense Total		3,500

DEPARTMENT TOTAL 256,757
MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for the Public Works – Highway Labor (#01421) to \$312,387 and the total budget to \$312,387. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for the Public Works – Highway Labor (#01421) to \$312,387 and the total budget to \$312,387. The motion was seconded.

1421 HIGHWAY LABOR
DEPARTMENT TOTAL 312,387
MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for Council on Aging (#01541) to \$166,021 and the total budget to \$179,541. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for Council on Aging (#01541) to \$166,021 and the total budget to \$179,541. The motion was seconded.

1541 COUNCIL ON AGING
Salary Total 166,021
Expense Total 13,520
DEPARTMENT TOTAL 179,541
MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for the Library Department (#01610) to \$309,780 and the total budget to \$536,210. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for the Library Department (#01610) to \$309,780 and the total budget to \$536,210. The motion was seconded.

1610 LIBRARY DEPARTMENT
Salary Total 309,780
Expense Total 226,430
DEPARTMENT TOTAL 536,210
MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for Water & Sewer Enterprise Sewer salaries (#60441) to \$175,072 and the total budget to \$175,072. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for Water & Sewer Enterprise Sewer salaries (#60441) to \$175,072 and the total budget to \$175,072. The motion was seconded.

60441 SEWER SALARIES

DEPARTMENT TOTAL 175,072

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to amend the amount shown in the departmental salary for Water & Sewer Enterprise – Water Administration (#61451) to \$84,357 and the total budget to \$84,357. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz made a motion to approve the amended amount shown in the departmental salary for Water & Sewer Enterprise – Water Administration (#61451) to \$84,357 and the total budget to \$84,357. The motion was seconded.

61451 WATER ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT TOTAL 84,357

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Mrs. Susan Dowrey, 9 Dorena Drive, thanked Mr. Watson for giving people the opportunity to ask questions about the budget.

Mr. Paul Robinson, 12 Meadow Lane, inquired about the dues and subscription line items.

Mr. Greg Balukonis clarified that the dues and subscriptions vary by department; dues have all been thoroughly reviewed as part of the budget and there are no substantial increases.

Ms. Kasey Bik, 95 Elm Street, Collector/Treasurer, stated that for her budget there are subscriptions due to the Worcester County Collector/Treasurer Association, and those costs include classes that can be attended.

ARTICLE 3 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$28,952,216.00 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 that said appropriations shall be funded as follows:

That	\$20,643,672	raised from FY '22 Taxation net Estimated Overlay (Abatements & Exemptions)
That	\$1,929,703	raised from FY '22 Projected State Revenue net State Offsets and State Charges
That	\$1,621,500	raised from FY '22 Estimated Local Receipts
That	\$1,284,764	transferred from Capital Trust
That	\$375,000	transferred from The Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$538	transferred from the Septic Loan Betterment Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$2,319,907	raised from FY '22 Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenues
That	\$-	transferred from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Certified Retained Earnings
That	\$111,044	transfer from Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Reimbursement
That	\$-	transferred from Stabilization
That	\$406,067	use of Free Cash
That	\$-	use of Overlay

That \$260,021 use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

And further, to fund the first year of the collective bargaining agreements between the Town of Blackstone and the Blackstone Police Union -Local 442, the Department of Public Works Union-Local 1709, and the Blackstone Police Dispatchers- Chapter of Local 1709A and the Blackstone Clerical Workers- Local 1709.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

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

ARTICLE 8 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 9 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 10 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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

ARTICLE 11 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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 ¾, 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 12 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. James Watson read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 13.

Tanya Polak, 10 Meadow Lane, explained the ongoing issues with the Sally Port in the Police Department.

ARTICLE 13 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

Mr. James Watson read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 14.

Tanya Polak, explained that this Article was originally on the Warrant for \$210,000, but it was reduced to allow for engineering to evaluate what is in need of repair at the Historical Museum.

Julie Wingate, 1 St, Paul Street, Chairman of the Historical Commission, asked if there is a timeframe of when the engineering will take place, because there are some safety issues that need to be addressed. It was stated that it would be done as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 14 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000 to complete repair and maintenance to the Historical Museum.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. James Watson read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 15.

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz, described the disrepair of the driveway of the JFK/AFM Elementary School and the need for the repairs.

ARTICLE 15 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

124 YES 20 NO

TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 16 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

118 YES 25 NO

TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

Mr. James Watson read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion to NOT APPROVE Article 17.

Mrs. Tanya Polak moved to amend the motion under Article 17 to read:

That the Town vote TO APPROVE the Blackstone Home Rule Charter amendment as printed in Article 17 of the Warrant.

The motion to amend was seconded.

Mr. James Watson expressed his opinion against the amendment; he stated that an elected Collector/Treasurer is important to the functioning of the town.

Mrs. Tanya Polak stated her concerns regarding the financial controls within that position, and stated that it should be more uniform with how other parts of town government is set up.

Mrs. Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, asked why this article keeps being placed on the Warrant after continually being voted down year after year. Further, she stated that the position becoming appointment could create a problem with safeguards in place.

Mr. Joseph Gatchell expressed his concerns with a Town Administrator becoming the appointing authority for this position, and also stated that it was implied that the voters are not intelligent enough to vote somebody into this position.

Mrs. Tanya Polak clarified that there needs to be controls in place for financial management. She also inquired about the financial support that the Finance Committee has as to why this position should remain elected.

A motion was made and seconded to move the question.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

36 YES 90 NO

MAJORITY HAND-COUNT VOTE NOT IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT

ARTICLE 17 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that Town NOT 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.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

Mr. James Watson read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 18.

Mr. Ryan Barry, 3 Willow Brook Lane, asked for detail on the price of the machine that will be purchased.

Mr. James Sullivan, 77 Florence Drive, Superintendent of Public Works, clarified that it is a tractor that comes with a boom mower.

Mr. Thomas Tenerowicz, 5 Handy Road, asked how much was in the Capital Trust fund.

Mrs. Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, stated that there is \$5,974,574.56 in the Capital Trust.

ARTICLE 18 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

TWO-THIRDS VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 19 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust the sum of \$50,000 for the purchase of a 1-ton 4x4 F350 dump truck.

TWO-THIRDS VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 20 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Water and Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$110,000 for the cleaning of 13 sewer pump stations.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. James Watson read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 21.

Mr. Keith Harlow, 32 Bellingham Road, asked what the \$25,000 was going to pay for.

Mr. Ryan Chamberland stated that the Board of Selectmen wanted to do their due diligence on this project, and voted this amount of money to pay for engineering of this project.

Mrs. Mary Bulso, explained that the engineer will make sure the project is done correctly.

ARTICLE 21 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 to complete drainage work on Bellingham Road.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 22 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

87 YES 20 NO

TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 23 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

81 YES 19 NO
TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 24 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer \$200,000 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund and \$100,000 from Free Cash totaling \$300,000 to purchase a new ambulance.

101 YES 10 NO
TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 25 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 26 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund the sum of \$17,000 to purchase 7 complete sets of structural firefighting gear.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Ross Nicol, 39 Glenside Drive, Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 21.

Katie Trottier, 110 Harris Pond Road, stated that she thought that the town already owned a skid steer, and asked if this purchase was for a new one.

Mr. Kevin Ryan, 146 Elm Street, clarified that the current skid steer is about 10 years old and is in poor condition.

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz stated that the town has one licensed operator at the Recycling Center. He suggested that if the current skid steer breaks, one could be rented while it is being repaired. He also stated that the Recycling Center is losing money.

A motion was duly made and seconded to waive Chapter 5, Section 8, of the Town Bylaws to allow Colleen Strapponi, Health Agent, to address the Annual Town Meeting as a non-resident.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mrs. Colleen Strapponi, Health Agent, clarified that the Recycling Center was not losing money, and that it was not an Enterprise Fund. She also stated the need for the skid steer and the need for 2 operators at the Recycling Center.

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz clarified that the Recycling Center has been in the negative for the last 6 years.

Mrs. Colleen Strapponi also clarified that the previous year's negative balances has not been in the negative as high as Mr. Kluchevitz had suggested. She further explained that they are taking action to increase receipts and increase revenues at the Recycling Center.

Mr. Robert Dubois stated that the Capital Outlay Committee voted 6-1 to approve this. He further stated that although there are issues with the Recycling Center, the Town still has an

obligation to continue to operate it.

ARTICLE 27 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust the sum of \$50,000 to purchase a skid steer for the Recycling Center.

TWO-THIRDS VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 28 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

99 YES 2 NO

TWO-THIRDS SECRET BALLOT VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 29 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 30 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Mr. Ross Nicol, Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee, read the Finance Committee’s recommendation and motion NOT TO APPROVE Article 31.

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz moved to amend the motion under Article 31 to read:

That the Town vote TO AUTHORIZE the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Blackstone Home Rule Charter as set forth in Article 31 of the Warrant.

The motion to amend was seconded.

Mr. Robert Dubois explained the history of the last 7 Town Administrators and their challenges with the residency requirement.

Mr. Ryan Chamberland stated that the new Town Administrator will still move to town whether or not this article passes. He also stated that out of 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts, only 15 still have a residency requirement. He expressed his support of passing this article as amended.

Mr. Brian Scanlan, 6 Reilly Ave, Finance Committee member, stated that this rule is super archaic and expressed his support of passing this article.

Mrs. Mary Bulso stated that she agrees with her colleagues in regards to changing the residency requirement and be able to hire the best candidate.

Mrs. Kate Donovan, 292 Lincoln Street, stated that this is a very specialized skill and that the pool of qualified candidates within town is limited.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 31

Mr. Robert Kluchevitz explained that a yes vote for this amended article would allow the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court to abolish this requirement.

Mr. Joseph Gatchell explained that he voted against this because he feels as though this article should be tabled. He further stated that it should be amended to have a radius requirement.

Mr. Ryan Chamberland stated that the issue Mr. Gatchell raised would be negotiated in a contract.

A motion was made and seconded to move the question.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

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

TWO-THIRDS VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

ARTICLE 32 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 33 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 34 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town 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.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 35 Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Stabilization Fund.

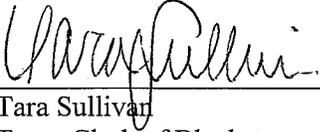
UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to dissolve the warrant and to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

MODERATOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Finance Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
Ross Nicol	3 yrs. Expiring ATM 2024
Katherine Sweeney	3 yrs. Expiring ATM 2024



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone