

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MAY 25, 2021 (7:30 PM)

Worcester, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Blackstone in the County of Worcester.

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone, qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium in said Town of Blackstone on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. then and there to act upon the articles of the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Collector to use all means of collecting taxes that a Treasurer may use when appointed Collector or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will 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 or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Superintendent of Schools)

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and 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 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, 2022, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$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 said 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, or take other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to borrow, raise, and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$340,000 to complete repair and maintenance to the Police Department sally port, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to borrow, raise, or transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money not to exceed \$210,000 to complete repair and maintenance to the Historical Museum, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to borrow, raise, or transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money not to exceed \$300,000 for repair and maintenance to the JFK/AF Maloney Elementary School parking lot, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will 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, to determine whether this revised appropriation shall be met by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Water and Sewer Commission 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; or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 17. 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, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of a utility tractor with a side boom mower/brush cutter, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 for the purchase of a 1 ton 4 x 4 F350 dump truck, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$110,000 for the cleaning of 13 sewer pump stations, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to complete drainage work on Bellingham Road, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$500,000 for the rehabilitation of the 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise, transfer, or borrow from available funds and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to purchase one 2021 1500 GPM Pumper Fire Truck and related equipment, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$300,000 to purchase a new ambulance, or take and other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise, transfer, or borrow from available funds and appropriate 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise, transfer, or borrow from available funds and appropriate the sum of \$17,000 to purchase 7 complete sets of structural firefighting gear, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to purchase a skid steer for the Recycling Center or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 29. 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to vote to amend **Section 123-17, Signs**, Subsection D, Permitted accessory signs in Business and Industrial Districts, of the Blackstone Zoning Bylaws by change 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

Or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 31. 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will 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. The current residency requirement is 2 consecutive years before the tax year begins. This

warrant article requests authorization, by local option, to reduce the “2-year residency requirement” to 1 year prior to the date of filing for exemptions pursuant to the applicable clause, or take any other action related thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Assessors)

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will 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. A surviving parent or guardian must have lived in Massachusetts for at least 5 consecutive years before the tax year begins. If not, the deceased military or guard member or veteran had to have been domiciled in Massachusetts for at least 6 consecutive months before entering the service, or take any other actin related thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Assessors)

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money to the stabilization fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

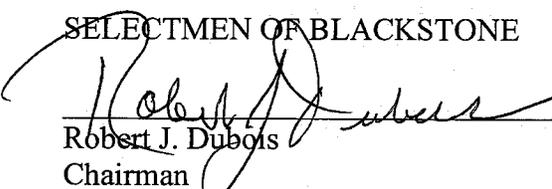
(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

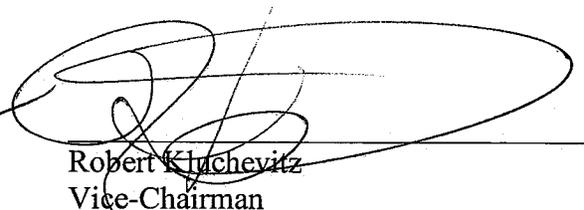
Hereof, fail not and make do return of this Warrant with doings thereon to the Town Clerk at or before the time of said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up true and attested copies thereof in each of the following names and places in Blackstone seven (7) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street and at the Fire Station on Rathbun Street and the A.F. Maloney School on Lincoln Street and by publication no less than seven (7) days before the days fixed for such meeting in that newspaper having the largest circulation in the Town.

Given under our hands this 20th day of April 2021.

SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE


Robert J. Dubois
Chairman


Robert Kluchevitz
Vice-Chairman


Mary E. Bulso
Clerk


Ryan Chamberland
Member

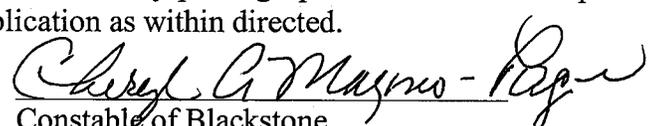

Tanya Polak
Member

A true copy attest:

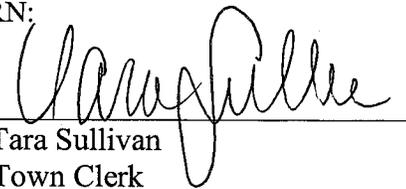

Cheryl A. Marino-Pape
Constable of Blackstone

Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, I have this 21st day of April 2021 notified the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone by posting up true and attested copies of the within warrant at the within named places and by publication as within directed.


Cheryl A. Marino-Pape
Constable of Blackstone

A TRUE COPY OF THE WARRANT AND RETURN:


Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk