

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MAY 31, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator John Wozniak, who declared a quorum. There were 129 registered voters in attendance.

The Moderator demonstrated the Electronic Voting System, and a test vote was taken.

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: Dori Vecchio, Town Administrator, Christopher Brow, Esq., Miyares and Harrington LLP, Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor, Lisa Cheever, Library Director, Gregory Gilmore, Chief of Police, Colleen Strapponi, Inspectional Services, Karen Testa, Senior Center Director, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, and the Millville Representatives 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 authorize the Collector to use all means of collecting taxes that a Treasurer may use when appointed Collector.

**MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE**

108 YES      7 NO

**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.

**MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE**

118 YES      4 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, 39 Glenside Drive, read all department salary and expense totals for Article 3. The following department totals were held: Board of Selectmen, Sewer Salaries, Water Department Labor, and Water Administration.

The Moderator called for a vote on all non-held budget items.

01114	MODERATOR			
	Salary Total	900		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	900	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			94 YES	27 NO
01123	ADMINISTRATION			

	Salary Total	216,349	
	Expense Total	23,950	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	240,299	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01131	FINANCE COMMITTEE		
	Salary Total	1,500	
	Expense Total	1,850	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,350	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01132	RESERVE FUND		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	100,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01133	CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE		
	Salary Total	1,000	
	Expense Total	300	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,300	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT		
	Salary Total	140,637	
	Expense Total	12,150	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	152,787	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01141	ASSESSORS		
	Salary Total	141,907	
	Expense Total	35,023	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	176,930	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01145	COLLECTOR/TREASURER		
	Salary Total	149,735	
	Expense Total	25,250	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	174,985	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01151	TOWN COUNSEL		
	Expense Total	150,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	150,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
	Expense Total	181,900	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	181,900	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01158	COPIER		

	Expense Total	22,330	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	22,330	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01159	BONDS & INSURANCE		
	Expense Total	241,200	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	241,200	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01161	TOWN CLERK		
	Salary Total	132,856	
	Expense Total	15,925	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	148,781	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01162	ELECTIONS		
	Salary Total	23,000	
	Expense Total	10,650	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	33,650	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01163	BOARD OF REGISTRARS		
	Salary Total	2,250	
	Expense Total	4,550	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	6,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION		
	Salary Total	4,000	
	Expense Total	715	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,715	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01175	PLANNING BOARD		
	Salary Total	30,870	
	Expense Total	15,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	45,870	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01176	ZONING BOARD		
	Salary Total	10,670	
	Expense Total	3,350	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	14,020	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01182	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
	Salary Total	1,500	
	Expense Total	1,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO

01184	CENTRAL MASS PLANNING			
	Expense Total	2,771		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,771		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01190	GENERAL			
	Expense Total	169,500		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	169,500		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01192	PUBLIC BUILDING MAINTENANCE			
	Salary Total	53,000		
	Expense Total	379,125		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	432,125		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01195	TOWN REPORT			
	Expense Total	3,500		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,500		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01210	POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	Total Salary	1,822,644		
	Expense Total	245,290		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,067,934		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01211	POLICE DISPATCHERS			
	Salary Total	271,352		
	Expense Total	3,500		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	274,852		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01220	FIRE DEPARTMENT			
	Salary Total	1,298,471		
	Expense Total	63,850		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,362,321		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01231	AMBULANCE SERVICE			
	Salary Total	-		
	Expense Total	55,400		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	55,400		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01241	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES			
	Salary Total	195,169		

	Expense Total	1,986	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	197,155	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01244	SEALER WEIGHTS/MEASURES		
	Expense Total	1,750	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,750	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
	Salary Total	500	
	Expense Total	17,750	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	18,250	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01292	ANIMAL CONTROL		
	Salary Total	20,000	
	Expense Total	-	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	20,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01294	FORESTRY		
	Salary Total	8,800	
	Expense Total	17,800	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	26,600	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01300	EDUCATION - BLACKSTONE MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		
	Expense Total	10,695,154	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,695,154	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01301	BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL		
	Salary Total	1,500	
	Expense Total	803,852	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	805,352	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01303	VOCATIONAL TUITION		
	Expense Total	1,038,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,038,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01412	ENGINEERING		
	Expense Total	15,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	15,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01420	PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT		

	Salary Total	106,676	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	106,676	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01421	HIGHWAY LABOR		
	Salary Total	611,175	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	611,175	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01422	HIGHWAY OPERATIONAL		
	Expense Total	42,650	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	42,650	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01423	SNOW & ICE REMOVAL		
	Salary Total	27,500	
	Expense Total	83,176	
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	110,676	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01424	STREET LIGHTING		
	Expense Total	109,375	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	109,375	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01428	MECHANICAL REPAIRS		
	Expense Total	95,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	95,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01429	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE		
	Expense Total	330,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	330,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01432	STREET CLEANING		
	Expense Total	3,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01433	WASTE COLLECTION		
	Expense Total	738,577	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	738,577	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01434	RECYCLING		
	Salary Total	140,756	
	Expense Total	59,393	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	200,149	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO

01510	BOARD OF HEALTH			
	Salary Total	7,353		
	Expense Total	67,429		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	74,782	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	94 YES 27 NO
01541	COUNCIL ON AGING			
	Salary Total	219,391		
	Expense Total	12,020		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	231,411	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	94 YES 27 NO
01543	VETERANS			
	Salary Total	16,000		
	Expense Total	164,000		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	180,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	94 YES 27 NO
01610	LIBRARY DEPARTMENT			
	Salary Total	341,184		
	Expense Total	240,292		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	581,476	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	94 YES 27 NO
01650	PARKS			
	Salary Total	111,695		
	Expense Total	47,350		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	159,045	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	94 YES 27 NO
01691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION			
	Expense Total	2,000		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	94 YES 27 NO
01692	MEMORIAL DAY			
	Salary Total	1,800		
	Expense Total	10,000		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	11,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	94 YES 27 NO
01710	RETIREMENT OF DEBT			
	Expense Total	705,001		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	705,001	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	94 YES 27 NO
01751	LONG TERM DEBT/ INTEREST			

	Expense Total	144,339	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	144,339	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01752	SHORT TERM DEBT/ INTEREST		
	Expense Total	158,411	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	158,411	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01810	CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS		
	Expense Total	49,569	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	49,569	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01911	COUNTY RETIREMENT		
	Expense Total	1,015,222	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,015,222	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01913	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION		
	Expense Total	25,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	25,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01914	HEALTH INSURANCE		
	Expense Total	900,410	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	900,410	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01915	LIFE INSURANCE		
	Expense Total	4,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01916	MATCHING MEDICARE		
	Expense Total	80,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	80,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01918	COMPENSATED BALANCES		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01919	COMPENSATED ABSENCE		
	Expense Total	7,500	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
01960	CAPITAL TRUST		
	Expense Total	2,518,510	

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,518,510	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	28,181,515	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
60132	SEWER RESERVE FUND		
	SEWER RESERVE FUND	50,000	
	TOTAL TRANSFER	50,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
60442	SEWER MAINTENANCE		
	Expense Total	317,275	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	317,275	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
60500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND		
	INDIRECT COSTS	231,946	
	Expense Total	231,946	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	231,946	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
	TRANSFER TO WATER		
	INDIRECT COSTS	20,000	
	Expense Total	20,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	20,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
60443	SEWER WOONSOCKET REGIONAL		
	Expense Total	572,800	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	572,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
	TOTAL SEWER	1,213,821	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
61132	WATER RESERVE FUND		
	WATER RESERVE FUND	50,000	
	TOTAL TRANSFER	50,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
61452	WATER CONST & MAINTENANCE		
	Expense Total	548,565	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	548,565	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
61500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND		
	INDIRECT COSTS	347,312	
	Expense Total	347,312	

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	347,312	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
61710	WATER RETIREMENT OF DEBT Expense Total	105,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	105,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
61751	WATER LONG TERM DEBT INTEREST Expense Total	3,150	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,150	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
61752	WATER SHORT TERM DEBT INTEREST Expense Total	4,055	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,055	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
61820	MASS FED SAFE DRINKING WTR ASSESSMENT MFSDWAA Expense Total	2,000 2,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
	TOTAL WATER	1,147,057	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
	WATER / SEWER ENTERPRISE TOTAL	2,360,878	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE 94 YES 27 NO
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND WATER / SEWER	30,542,393	
	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE ALL NON-HELD ITEMS		94 YES 27 NO

The Moderator opened up discussion for all held budget items.

Robert Kluchevitz, 20 Dawes Street, discussed the Board of Selectmen budget that was held. He stated that the line item is creating a new position for the town, he stated that there is no job description, and stated that it should be under the Town Administrator's budget.

Dori Vecchio, Town Administrator, stated that this would be a new position, but the cost would be offset by a current position funded under the Selectmen's office, that position would be vacated, and that the person will have more experience with community outreach and social media, and will be doing work for the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. She requested support of this.

Robert Kluchevitz, 20 Dawes Street, stated that the Town Administrator is correct, but it is currently a part time position, and that it should remain a part time position due to the uncertainty of the future economy.

Ryan Chamberland, 234 Main Street, stated that currently there is a lack of transparency to the townspeople, and that many boards and commissions do not update their minutes to the website, including the Board of Selectmen minutes. This will help bridge the communication gap between boards and commissions and residents. This position would be repurposed, become fulltime, to better help the offices and the Town. He stated that there was a 5-0 vote in favor of this from the Board of Selectmen, and hoped for the town's support of this article.

Robert Kluchevitz, 20 Dawes Street, stated that is an overall \$35,000 increase in this item, and that it should be voted down and revisit it next year.

Tanya Polak, 10 Meadow Lane, stated that the part-time person that is in the office now is not enough, and that there is a need for this position. She encouraged everyone to support this.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that the Finance Committee discussed this position and asked for a job description, and stated that he doesn't believe a job description was ever presented for this position.

Ross Nicol, 39 Glenside Drive, stated that the Finance Committee did ask for a job description, and were told that once it is finalized and ready it would be sent to the board.

A motion and second was made to move the questions.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO MOVE THE QUESTION

The Moderator called for a vote on this line item.

01122	SELECTMEN		
	Salary Total	60,680	
	Expense Total	56,600	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	117,280	MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE 49 YES 74 NO

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
49 YES 74 NO

Bruce Paterson, 14.5 Howard Street, asked how can the Sewer Department operate without any salaries in the line item.

Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, stated that the departments were originally split between the general fund and water and sewer, and now they are under the general fund, and zeroed out under water and sewer, but the transfer to the general fund was increased for this reason.

Bruce Paterson, 14.5 Howard Street, stated that nothing was presented to the Water and Sewer Department, and stated that the indirect costs should be moved to the payroll line item.

Tom Devlin, 172 Blackstone Street, asked if there are any new positions being added to this department.

Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, stated that there is one new position being added and that is the Assistant Superintendent for Water and Sewer, recommended by the Town Administrator, approved by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Jim Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, asked if the finances have already been approved in the general fund.

Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, stated that all of the positions under the water and sewer salaries are fully listed in the general fund budget, and offsets for those funded budgets show in the indirect line items for the transfer to the general fund.

The Moderator called for a vote on this line item.

60441	SEWER SALARIES			
	TOTAL SEWER SALARIES	21,800		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	21,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			68 YES	54 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
68 YES      54 NO

Bruce Paterson, 14.5 Howard Street, stated that he put the hold on this for the same reason as the sewer salaries.

Tom Devlin, 172 Blackstone Street, asked for clarification of the Assistant Superintendent line item, and if the budgets will remain separate for water and sewer.

Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, stated that the full \$40,000 is for a half a year, January through June of next year, and there is an offset of \$20,000 from the water department, and clarified that the water and sewer budgets would remain separate.

The Moderator called for a vote on these line items.

61450	WATER DEPARTMENT LABOR			
	Salary Total	30,000		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	30,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			70 YES	52 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
70 YES      52 NO

61451	WATER ADMINISTRATION			
	Salary Total	56,975		
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	56,975	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			77 YES	49 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

77 YES 49 NO

A motion was made to amend the Board of Selectmen budget from \$117,280 to \$87,280. The motion was seconded.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT

01122	SELECTMEN		
	Salary Total	30,680	
	Expense Total	56,600	
			MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	87,280	90 YES 32 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED  
90 YES 32 NO

**ARTICLE 3.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$30,542,393.00 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, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, and that said appropriations shall be funded as follows:

That	\$21,435,989	raised from FY '23 Taxation net Estimated Overlay (Abatements & Exemptions)
That	\$2,027,868	raised from FY '23 Projected State Revenue net State Offsets and State Charges
That	\$2,031,500	raised from FY '23 Estimated Local Receipts
That	\$1,390,844	transferred from Capital Trust
That	\$375,000	transferred from The Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$516	transferred from the Septic Loan Betterment Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$2,360,878	raised from FY '23 Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenues
That	\$-	transferred from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Certified Retained Earnings
That	\$579,258	transfer from Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Reimbursement
That	\$-	transferred from Stabilization
That	\$340,540	use of Free Cash
That	\$-	use of Overlay

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
92 YES 29 NO

**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 atleast 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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
85 YES      25 NO

**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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
86 YES      33 NO

**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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
106 YES      16 NO

**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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
114 YES      8 NO

**ARTICLE 8.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town establish a revolving fund pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, Section 53 E ½ for the purpose of maintaining Library copiers, printers and facsimile printers and facsimile machines shall be deposited into said fund and expended under the direction of the Library Trustees up to the maximum amount of \$3,000 during Fiscal Year 2023.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
107 YES      14 NO

**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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
109 YES      14 NO

**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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
105 YES      21 NO

**ARTICLE 11.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$120,000 to fund FY2023 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 FY2023 effective July 1, 2022.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
90 YES      31 NO

**ARTICLE 12.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$228,325 and from Water & Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$21,675 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 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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
89 YES      32 NO

**ARTICLE 13.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,660 into the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB Fund) of the Blackstone Millville Regional School District established under General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, said funds to be used only to pay some portion of health benefits for retirees from the Blackstone Millville Regional School District.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
89 YES      29 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 14. The motion was seconded.

Jim Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, explained that this article has been proposed for many years, and that it has failed on every occasion. He further explained that the Finance Committee recommended this Article with a 4-3 vote, explaining that it is less than the 2/3 majority vote needed to pass at the town meeting. He explained that in years past, the elected Collector/Treasurer have come and left to work for other higher paying jobs. He stated that he hoped it would be voted against.

Matthew Ryan, 14 Rayner Street, stated that this article is taking away the right of 6,000+ voters of the town to vote for whoever they want for this position.

Tanya Polak, 10 Meadow Lane, stated that this was a recommendation from the financial management letter from the Department of Revenue to approve the financial accountability; to improve our financial accountability and to make sure the person in this position is qualified, and that there should be a process in place to hire a qualified individual to this position as there are for other positions in town. She further stated that if this does pass it wouldn't take effect until 3 years from now once this elected term is over.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that this has been voted on in the past, and that it should be kept an elected position.

Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, expressed his concern with the elected person being hired by a different town for more money. He stated that he'd rather have someone from the town in this position.

Dan Keefe, 269 Main Street, gave a brief history of the last 3 Collector/Treasurers, and stated that there is a large pool of great citizens to choose from for this position.

The Moderator called for a vote on Article 14.

**ARTICLE 14.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town propose an amendment to the Blackstone Home Rule Charter for consideration by the voters of the Town in accordance with M.G.L. c. 41, § 1B 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.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)  
32 YES      91 NO

**ARTICLE 15.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of paying costs of a feasibility study for the location of the Blackstone Senior Center/Council on Aging.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
52 YES      72 NO

**ARTICLE 16.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$34,000 to replace garage doors at the Department of Public Works.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
89 YES      33 NO

**ARTICLE 17.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$22,000 for software implementation, upgrades, and equipment for Tyler Technologies (MUNIS).

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
80 YES      37 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 18. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, asked what departments would be using this software, and if this \$25,000 was a yearly cost or to license the software in perpetuity, and would this work through the town website.

Dori Vecchio, Town Administrator, stated that the software program is going to be used by the Town Administrators office, the Collector/Treasurer's office, the Assessor's office, and Inspectional Services, especially the Building Department. She clarified that there will be a link to this on the town website, and that the \$25,000 is for the purchase of the software, and there is an annual update.

The Moderator called for a vote on Article 18.

**ARTICLE 18.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 for software, upgrades, and all related costs associated with implementation of an Online Permitting/Licensing program.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

90 YES      37 NO

**ARTICLE 19.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town change Clause 37 to Clause 37A regarding local property tax exemptions for Legally Blind Persons under M.G.L. c.59, § 5 Clauses 37 and 37A. The current Legally Blind Exemption is Clause 37 which allows an exemption amount of \$437.50, to individuals who meet specific occupancy and ownership requirements. If the Legally Blind Persons exemption is changed to 37A, the exemption amount will be raised to \$500.00. This warrant is a request, under local option, to change Clause 37 to Clause 37A.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

112 YES      8 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 20. The motion was seconded.

Robert Kluchevitz, 20 Dawes St, explained that he has asked at Selectmen's meetings for a presentation from the vendor, Civic Plus; and that there is no plan in place and they have not been in to present. He is asking that this be voted down.

Ryan Chamberland, 234 Main Street, stated that there were 3 quotes from 3 different companies to re-do the website as within the state procurement laws, the lowest bidder would be selected then the redesign process would begin.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, expressed his concern regarding 5 items on the agenda for IT issues and that funding was turned down earlier to feed the website, and that a plan needs to be in place to be able to feed the website if it is going to be redone. He stated that he thinks this is premature and that the town should get expert advice to help move the town forward to evolve the technologies that are being funded.

Dori Vecchio, Town Administrator, clarified that there has been a lot of work done regarding the IT in town, and that it has been a top priority for her since she has been here. She further stated that information is at risk since things have not been upgraded, and that there are a lot of items here that are really important.

A motion to move the question was made and seconded. A majority vote moved the question  
The Moderator called for a vote of Article 20.

**ARTICLE 20.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000 for the redesign and upgrade of the Town website.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
57 YES      68 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 20. The motion was seconded.

Ryan Chamberland, 234 Main Street, stated that this Article was put on by the Board of Selectmen and that everything else was voted down without and plan, and hoped that this Article get voted down as well.

Robert Kluchevitz, 20 Dawes Street, stated that this Article was put on to replace a 2011 Ford Escape with well over 100,000 miles, and the cost to maintain the vehicle is more than it is worth. He encouraged the passing of this Article, as there is a need for this vehicle for the seniors.

Laurie Keefe, 269 Main Street, stated that this vehicle is desperately needed for the senior center. She further explained that the DOT grants are for very specific vehicles, and would not allow for the purchase of an SUV.

**ARTICLE 21.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$35,000 for the purchase of a sport utility vehicle for the Senior Center.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
114 YES      13 NO

**ARTICLE 22.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of Senior Center equipment and supplies.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
99 YES      25 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 23. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that this is a very large appropriation, with one page of support for this expenditure, which was a list of hardware items, firewall and computer equipment, and was told later that some numbers were estimates and some were hard numbers. He stated that his understanding was that this was voted on by the Finance Committee without a report from the towns' current Information Technology provider.

Robert Kluchevitz, 20 Dawes Street, stated that this Article is desperately needed, and that information is at risk. He urged the voters to vote yes on this Article.

Ross Nicol, 39 Glenside Drive, stated that the information is at risk, and that the information that was provided was very technical, and that there have been some municipalities that have had cybersecurity attacks and malware attacks. He wants to make sure that the Town's data is protected.

**ARTICLE 23.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$241,000 for information technology upgrades, including replacement of servers, for all Town Departments.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
89 YES      32 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 24. The motion was seconded.

Robert Kluchetivz, 20 Dawes Street, stated that this article is to replace the furniture in the Selectmen's room, and said that the furniture works fine, and asked the voters to vote no on this Article.

**ARTICLE 24.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000 for furniture or repair and upgrades for municipal buildings.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
19 YES      87 NO

**ARTICLE 25.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 to purchase and install an electronic card pass or token access system for Municipal Buildings.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
30 YES      91 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 26. The motion was seconded.

Ryan Chamberland, 234 Main Street, stated that Article 26 and 27 are one in the same, and that this Article should be passed over; per legal counsel, only Article 27 would need to be passed. The reason for this Article was needed because the Council on Aging Director was never added to the Charter, and this would add it.

A motion was made and seconded to pass over Article 26.

MAJORITY VOTE TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 26  
91 YES      17 NO

~~ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws, Chapter 162, §162-4. Officers; elections; vacancies to add a new Paragraph E to read as follows:~~

~~E. There shall be a Director of the Council on Aging appointed by the Town Administrator. The Town Administrator shall hire all other staff positions for the Council on Aging. The Director shall be supervised by and shall report directly to, the Town Administrator.~~

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 26. The motion was seconded.

Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, asked for clarification as to how the Council on Aging Director would be appointed.

Christopher Brown, Legal Counsel, stated that the Article would amend the Charter and add the Director of the Council on Aging to the Town Administrator appointments.

**ARTICLE 27.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend the Blackstone Home Rule Charter, Article V, Section C5-2A(1), to add the Director of the Council on Aging.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)  
75 YES      40 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 28. The motion was seconded.

Mar Gregoire, 205 Mendon Street, Vice Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, he stated that if this passes, 2 members of the current board that have years of experience and institutional knowledge would be removed. He stated that having a connection with the Planning Board is a bonus. He stated that he has been on the board since 2007, and there have been two occasions where there have been long vacancies on the board. He urged the voters to vote no on this Article.

Owen Bebeau, 37 Bellingham Road, Vice Chair of the Planning Board, wanted to echo Mr. Gregoire's statements. Having members of the Zoning Board on the Planning Board is beneficial, and he also urged the voters to vote no on this Article.

**ARTICLE 28.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend General Bylaws, Part II, General Legislation, Chapter 123 Zoning, to add at the end of Section 123-3.A, a new sentence reading: "No Planning Board member may serve concurrently on the Blackstone Zoning Board of Appeals" such that Section 123-3.A as revised will read: Establishment. There is hereby established a Board of Appeals which shall consist of five members and two alternate members, who shall be appointed by the Selectmen and shall act in all matters under this chapter in the manner prescribed by Chapters 40A, 40B and 41 of the General Laws. No Planning Board member may serve concurrently on the Blackstone Zoning Board of Appeals. and to amend Charter Article IV, Section C.4-1 to add a new Paragraph C reading "No Planning Board member may serve concurrently on the Blackstone Zoning Board of Appeals".

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)  
20 YES      92 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 29. The motion was seconded.

Daniel Keefe, 269 Main Street, stated that the town currently has a Zoning By-Law that was passed in 2019, that put restrictions on marijuana establishments and marijuana retailers, it also defined marijuana establishments and marijuana retailers. This Article, as written, contradicts the existing marijuana By-Law; and if this passes, the town will end up with two marijuana by-laws that

contradict each other. He understands the intent to limit the amount of marijuana retailers and cultivation centers, and stated that the existing Article should be amended that defines marijuana establishments and marijuana retailers.

Christopher Brown, Legal Counsel, stated that the two provisions that are being voted on to be put in this bylaw are based on definitions set forth in state law, not the zoning by-law.

Daniel Keefe, 269 Main Street, stated that the definitions could have been added to the existing definitions, and this Article would be creating two more definitions. He also expressed that future potential revenue would be cutoff.

**ARTICLE 29.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter 96, "Marijuana Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers".

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
31 YES      80 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 30. The motion was seconded.

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that this article would already be dead, so it should be voted down.

**ARTICLE 30.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter 96, Section 96-1, contingent upon approval of the voters of the town at the annual Town election in accordance with M.G.L. c. 94G, § 3(e), as follows: § 96-1: "The number of Marijuana Retailers in the Town of Blackstone, as defined under 935 CMR 500.002 shall not exceed three."

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
21 YES      88 NO

**ARTICLE 31.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town, contingent upon approval of the voters of the town at the annual Town election in accordance with M.G.L. c.94G, § 3(e), to add a new Chapter 96, Section 96-2, as follows: § 96-2: "The number of Marijuana Cultivators in the Town of Blackstone, as defined under 935 CMR 500.002, shall not exceed two."

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
35 YES      63 NO

**ARTICLE 32.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Water & Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$400,000 to replace water mains on Valley Street.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
78 YES      15 NO

**ARTICLE 33.** 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 pavement reconstruction and paving on

Blackstone Street.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

83 YES      20 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 34. The motion was seconded.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that this was to replace a 2004, 18 year old tractor, that is being replaced.

**ARTICLE 34.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$22,000 to purchase an EXMARK tractor/mower with bagger attachment.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

85 YES      19 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 35:

**ARTICLE 35.** To see if the Town will vote to file a Home Rule petition to add Section 3 and 4 to Article 39, HOME RULE PETITION TO REGULATE CERTAIN INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR APPOINTED AND ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE or take any action in relation thereto.

**SECTION 3.** Section 1 shall apply starting with the successor to each incumbent stipend elected or appointed official at the time this act takes effect and shall not affect the eligibility or contribution rate for any current stipend elected or appointed officials of the Town of Blackstone for the Town's contributory health and life insurance plans so long as such officials hold their current position.

**SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect upon its passage. Or take any other action in relation thereto..

The motion was seconded.

Brian Scanlan, 5 Reilly Ave, made a motion to amend Article 35 as follows:

**ARTICLE 35.** 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. Section 1 shall apply starting with the successor to each incumbent stipend elected or appointed official at the time this act takes effect and shall not affect the eligibility or contribution rate for any current stipend elected or appointed officials of the Town of Blackstone for the Town's contributory health and life insurance plans so long as such officials hold their current position.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Or take any other action in relation thereto.

The motion to amend was seconded.

Brian Scanlan further explained that an elected or appointed official that receives a stipend, besides the Town Clerk and Collector/Treasurer, which are full time positions, are eligible for health insurance. If this passes, anybody not taking the health insurance now would not be eligible, but anyone who currently has the health insurance would not be affected unless they chose not to seek election or appointment again.

The Moderator called for a vote to amend Article 35.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT  
81 YES      31 NO

A motion was duly made and seconded to vote on Article 35 as amended.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE ARTICLE 35 AS AMENDED  
78 YES      28 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 36. The motion was seconded.

Charlie Sullivan, 136 Summer Street, asked why, as an abutter, the abutters weren't notified of this proposed action, and what is the proposed access to this area.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, Chairperson Parks and Recreation, stated that the abutters weren't approached yet because there isn't an exact plan on what is going to happen. This Article came about because of a survey that went out and hiking, biking, and conservation were top items that people wanted to be done. They are at the beginning stages of this project. The access at this point would be old Lincoln Street.

Charlie Sullivan, 136 Summer Street, stated that the access, Old Lincoln Street, as far as he knows, is an abandoned road, and is unsure as to how it can be used as access.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that the Town Counsel said that this is a paper road, not an abandoned road.

Charlie Sullivan, 136 Summer Street, presented a document filed in 1937 by the Board of Selectmen, and is in the Registry of Deeds, that indicates this is an abandoned route. He inquired as to whether or not Town Counsel has seen this document.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that in order for a road to be abandoned, it has to be brought forth to a town body to be voted on, and the records that they have don't have anything that states it's an abandoned road.

Christopher Brown, Legal Counsel, stated that in order to be abandoned, there needs to be a Town Meeting vote, and there is no record of such a vote.

Charlie Sullivan, 136 Summer Street, asked whether or not this should be tabled, and said there wasn't transparency on this article, and urged everyone to vote no on this article.

Kayla Lomax, 148 Lincoln Street, said that the abutters should have been notified, and that the road directly abuts them, and that the road has not been maintained by the town, and urged the voters to vote no.

Steve Frechette, 140 Lincoln Street, said that they have to get through 3 properties to get to their lot, and that there are trails a pond and foot traffic, and asked for this to be voted no on.

Wesley Lomax, 148 Lincoln Street, shared the same concerns as the other abutters, including increased traffic in that area, he also inquired about plans for going through wetlands.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, said that the trails are used, and it is easy to maneuver through the area. She further stated the road would not be a paved road at this time, and if a road or parking lot would be in there it would be more of a natural ground. The wetlands are not where anything would be built.

Wesley Lomax, 148 Lincoln Street, asked what the definition would be for a nature trail, and how is that a solid enough surface for cars to pass.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that there are wetlands in the woods, but they don't want to be interfering with abutters land, and when she visited the property to walk, she could barely see a house. She urged the voters to vote yes on this so they could move forward with the project for the town.

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that the notification of the Town Meeting is available, a public hearing was held, and there were neighbors and abutters for this property, and a week later, the Finance Committee took into consideration what the nearby abutters had to say.

A motion was made and seconded to move the question. This vote passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 36.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 for Signage, trail demarcation, and engineering for a small bridge for the trail project at the McCooey property.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
48 YES      63 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 37. The motion was seconded.

Robert Kluchevitz, 20 Dawes Street, asked why the Article reads \$15,000 and the recommendation reads \$10,000. He stated that the \$10,000 for benches and tables should be sought by donations.

The Finance Committee Chairman clarified that the amount was amended with the Finance Committee recommendations.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that this park doesn't have many tables, benches, or trash receptacles, and that there are many people that use this park on a daily basis, and they want to get away from the wooden picnic tables that end up getting ruined from the weather, this would allow for composite tables and benches be purchased.

**ARTICLE 37.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 for picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles for Valati Park.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
73 YES      41 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 38. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, asked if Roosevelt Park is at the JFK Complex.

The Moderator answered that Roosevelt Park is behind the Town Hall.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that in the Open Space and Recreation Survey that was done, children's playgrounds was the most important thing the residents wanted to be focused on. This is for one piece of equipment, and is similar to the park by Family Grocer, and for children that are a little bit older, something for kids up to age 12.

**ARTICLE 38.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000 to purchase playground equipment for Roosevelt Park Playground.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
79 YES      28 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 39. The motion was seconded.

Ryan Chamberland, 234 Main Street, said that this can be voted down since the website re-do Article passing there is no point to the Article.

Tanya Polak, 10 Meadow Lane, stated that the position that was going to be added to the Selectmen's budget was going to manage this software, and since that was voted down there would be nobody to manage it, so it should be voted down.

**ARTICLE 39.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000 for the purchase and implementation of parks and recreation management software and related services.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
9 YES 95 NO

**ARTICLE 40.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 to the Stabilization fund.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
70 YES 27 NO

The Moderator made the following Finance Committee Appointments:

Brad Weissman – 3 year term to expire ATM 2025

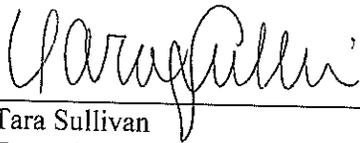
Ryan Barry – 3 year term to expire ATM 2025

Mary Noble – 3 year term to expire ATM 2025

Zachary Zielinski – unexpired 3 year term to expire ATM 2024

A motion was made and duly seconded, it was voted to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting and adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE



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Tara Sullivan  
Town Clerk of Blackstone