

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MAY 30, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Daniel Doyle, who declared a quorum. There were 308 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: Christopher Brow, Esq., Ethan Divley, Miyares and Harrington LLP, Lauren Taylor, Town Accountant, Patricia Salamone, Assistant Assessor, Lisa Cheever, Library Director, Gregory Gilmore, Chief of Police, Bill Kessler, Fire Chief, Vincenzo Tirone, Building Commissioner, Karen Testa, Senior Center Director, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools, Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, and Samir Pater and Brian Fualk, Esq., Petitioner and Legal Counsel for Citizens Petition on Article 41.

**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**

218 YES      28 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: Town Accountant, Education-Blackstone Millville-Regional School District, Public Works Superintendent, Recycling, Council on Aging, and Water Administration.

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

01114      MODERATOR

Salary Total

900

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	900	252 YES	31 NO
01122	SELECTMEN			
	Salary Total	31,180		
	Expense Total	67,280	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	98,460	252 YES	31 NO
01123	ADMINISTRATION			
	Salary Total	213,528		
	Expense Total	28,950	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	242,478	252 YES	31 NO
01131	FINANCE COMMITTEE			
	Salary Total	1,500		
	Expense Total	1,850	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,350	252 YES	31 NO
01132	RESERVE FUND		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	100,000	252 YES	31 NO
01133	CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE			
	Salary Total	1,000		
	Expense Total	300	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,300	252 YES	31 NO
01141	ASSESSORS			
	Salary Total	154,378		
	Expense Total	30,300	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	184,678	252 YES	31 NO
01145	COLLECTOR/TREASURER			
	Salary Total	143,588		
	Expense Total	45,750	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	189,338	252 YES	31 NO
01151	TOWN COUNSEL			

	Expense Total	180,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	180,000	252 YES	31 NO
01155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
	Expense Total	219,620	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	219,620	252 YES	31 NO
1158	COPIER			
	Expense Total	28,130	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	28,130	252 YES	31 NO
1159	BONDS & INSURANCE			
	Expense Total	241,200	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	241,200	252 YES	31 NO
1161	TOWN CLERK			
	Salary Total	141,039		
	Expense Total	14,925	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	155,964	252 YES	31 NO
1162	ELECTIONS			
	Salary Total	17,000		
	Expense Total	9,400	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	26,400	252 YES	31 NO
1163	BOARD OF REGISTRARS			
	Salary Total	1,950		
	Expense Total	5,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,450	252 YES	31 NO
1171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION			
	Salary Total	15,000		
	Expense Total	715	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	15,715	252 YES	31 NO

1175	PLANNING BOARD			
	Salary Total	56,640		
	Expense Total	15,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	71,640	252 YES	31 NO
1176	ZONING BOARD			
	Salary Total	1,440		
	Expense Total	3,350	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,790	252 YES	31 NO
1182	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
	Salary Total	1,500		
	Expense Total	1,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,500	252 YES	31 NO
1184	CENTRAL MASS PLANNING			
	Expense Total	2,840	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,840	252 YES	31 NO
1190	GENERAL			
	Expense Total	186,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	186,500	252 YES	31 NO
1192	PUBLIC BUILDING MAINTENANCE			
	Salary Total	56,520		
	Expense Total	443,100	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	499,620	252 YES	31 NO
1195	TOWN REPORT			
	Expense Total	4,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,000	252 YES	31 NO
1210	POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	Total Salary	1,839,142		
	Expense Total	248,050	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,087,192	252 YES	31 NO
1211	POLICE DISPATCHERS			
	Salary Total	281,174		
	Expense Total	3,750	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	284,924	252 YES	31 NO
1220	FIRE DEPARTMENT			
	Salary Total	1,311,931		
	Expense Total	126,900	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,438,831	252 YES	31 NO
1231	AMBULANCE SERVICE			
	Expense Total	64,400	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	64,400	252 YES	31 NO
1241	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES			
	Salary Total	190,892		
	Expense Total	1,986	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	192,878	252 YES	31 NO
1244	SEALER WEIGHTS/MEASURES			
	Expense Total	2,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,500	252 YES	31 NO
1291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT			
	Salary Total	3,500		
	Expense Total	17,750	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	21,250	252 YES	31 NO
1292	ANIMAL CONTROL			
	Expense Total	50,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	50,000	252 YES	31 NO
1294	FORESTRY			

	Salary Total	8,800		
	Expense Total	17,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	26,600	252 YES	31 NO
1301	BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL			
	Salary Total	1,500		
	Expense Total	787,937	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	789,437	252 YES	31 NO
1303	VOCATIONAL TUITION			
	Expense Total	820,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	820,000	252 YES	31 NO
1412	ENGINEERING			
	Expense Total	15,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	15,000	252 YES	31 NO
1421	HIGHWAY LABOR			
	Salary Total	659,359	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	659,359	252 YES	31 NO
1422	HIGHWAY OPERATIONAL			
	Expense Total	42,650	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	42,650	252 YES	31 NO
1423	SNOW & ICE REMOVAL			
	Salary Total	27,500		
	Expense Total	83,177	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	110,677	252 YES	31 NO
1424	STREET LIGHTING			
	Expense Total	109,375	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	109,375	252 YES	31 NO
1428	MECHANICAL REPAIRS			

	Expense Total	100,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	100,000	252 YES	31 NO
1429	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE			
	Expense Total	330,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	330,000	252 YES	31 NO
1432	STREET CLEANING			
	Expense Total	3,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,500	252 YES	31 NO
1433	WASTE COLLECTION			
	Expense Total	766,657	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	766,657	252 YES	31 NO
1510	BOARD OF HEALTH			
	Salary Total	37,353		
	Expense Total	93,256	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	130,609	252 YES	31 NO
1543	VETERANS			
	Salary Total	10,250		
	Expense Total	142,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	152,250	252 YES	31 NO
1610	LIBRARY DEPARTMENT			
	Salary Total	363,741		
	Expense Total	276,310	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	640,051	252 YES	31 NO
1650	PARKS			
	Salary Total	128,730		
	Expense Total	51,658	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	180,388	252 YES	31 NO

1691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION			
	Expense Total	2,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	252 YES	31 NO
1692	MEMORIAL DAY			
	Salary Total	1,800		
	Expense Total	10,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	11,800	252 YES	31 NO
1710	RETIREMENT OF DEBT			
	Expense Total	716,826	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	716,826	252 YES	31 NO
1751	LONG TERM DEBT/ INTEREST			
	Expense Total	236,105	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	236,105	252 YES	31 NO
1752	SHORT TERM DEBT/ INTEREST			
	Expense Total	203,940	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	203,940	252 YES	31 NO
1810	CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS			
	Expense Total	44,678	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	44,678	252 YES	31 NO
1911	COUNTY RETIREMENT			
	Expense Total	1,186,079	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,186,079	252 YES	31 NO
1913	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION			
	Expense Total	25,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	25,000	252 YES	31 NO
1914	HEALTH INSURANCE			
	Expense Total	900,410	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	900,410	252 YES	31 NO
1915	LIFE INSURANCE			
	Expense Total	4,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	4,000	252 YES	31 NO
1916	MATCHING MEDICARE			
	Expense Total	82,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	82,000	252 YES	31 NO
1918	COMPENSATED BALANCES			
	Expense Total	10,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,000	252 YES	31 NO
1919	COMPENSATED ABSENCE			
	Expense Total	7,500	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	7,500	252 YES	31 NO
1960	CAPITAL TRUST			
	Expense Total	2,581,475	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,581,475	252 YES	31 NO
	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	29,499,696	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			252 YES	31 NO
	WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE			
60132	SEWER RESERVE FUND		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	TOTAL TRANSFER	50,000	252 YES	31 NO
60441	SEWER SALARIES			
	TOTAL SEWER SALARIES	21,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	21,800	252 YES	31 NO
60442	SEWER MAINTENANCE			
	Expense Total	317,275	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	

	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	317,275	252 YES	31 NO
60500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND			
	Expense Total	305,837	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	305,837	252 YES	31 NO
60501	TRANSFER TO WATER			
	Expense Total	45,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	45,000	252 YES	31 NO
60443	SEWER WOONSOCKET REGIONAL			
	Expense Total	572,800	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	572,800	252 YES	31 NO
	TOTAL SEWER	1,312,712	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			252 YES	31 NO
WATER ENTERPRISE FUND				
61132	WATER RESERVE FUND		MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	TOTAL TRANSFER	50,000	252 YES	31 NO
61450	WATER DEPARTMENT LABOR			
	Salary Total	30,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	30,000	252 YES	31 NO
61452	WATER CONST & MAINTENANCE			
	Expense Total	548,565	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	548,565	252 YES	31 NO
61500	TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND			
	Expense Total	431,681	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	431,681	252 YES	31 NO
61710	WATER RETIREMENT OF DEBT			
	Expense Total	105,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	105,000	252 YES	31 NO

61751	WATER LONG TERM DEBT INTEREST			
	Expense Total	1,050	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	1,050	252 YES	31 NO
61752	WATER SHORT TERM DEBT			
	Expense Total	56,678	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	56,678	252 YES	31 NO
61820	MASS FED SAFE DRINKING WTR ASSESSMENT			
	Expense Total	2,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	2,000	252 YES	31 NO
	TOTAL WATER	1,329,974	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
			252 YES	31 NO
	WATER / SEWER ENTERPRISE TOTAL	2,642,686		
			MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND / WATER & SEWER	32,142,382	252 YES	31 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE ALL NON-HELD BUDGET  
252 YES      31 NO

Board of Selectmen Chairman Ryan Chamberland, 235 Main Street, made a motion to the amend Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant Salary Line item to \$125,000, for the Salary Total to read \$189,560, and for a Department Total of \$201,710. The motion was seconded. Chairman Chamberland explained that the Board of Selectmen asked for extra help in the Town Administrator office, which was voted down last year. He stated that the Town Accountant position was changed from Town Accountant to Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant, which is a better value for our tax dollars. He explained that the Town Accountant was already doing the work of the Assistant Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen voted in favor of this 5-0 and that the salary increase is the right amount for this position, she is invaluable, and they are trying to make an investment in the staff of the town. He further stated The Town doesn't have a lot of room for bigger salaries, but this is necessary for the workload.

Acting Town Administrator, Ross Atstupenas, stated that the salary increase should be passed, the Town Accountant is doing the extra work of the Assistant Town Administrator, and that if the new Town Administrator were to leave, we wouldn't have to bring in an additional Acting Town Administrator. He continued that if she were to leave and go to another town, she could be making that salary, and in the long run, the town would be losing money.

Kasey Bik, 128 Farm Street, prefaced that her comments were not about the individual employee, she stated that in one meeting the Board of Selectmen reviewed and approved a job description, gave that title to the employee, and voted to enter into contract negotiations when funding has not been secured. She continued that the legal opinion is not the creation of a new position, and she disagrees with it, there has never been a person in that position before, and she has concerns that this position is being created and leaves open a lot of loopholes. She also stated that she has concerns about creating a position around a person, and summarized that approval of this funding, the salary total for that department will be over \$360,000.

Anita Robertson, 61 Edgewater Drive, stated that \$364,000 for the Administration for a town that has a budget of \$32 million dollars, and removing the school budget, \$360,000 to manage \$24 million dollars is nothing, if looking at percentages, administrations for non-profits would have a salary of 20-25% of their budgets. She further stated that this position in this town is an essential position, and that the town was lucky to have somebody in that position for as long as the town has.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that this is an important vote, and that this vote is not only for the salary, but to approve the job description.

A motion to move the question was made and seconded.

MOTION FAILS  
 MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT  
 128 YES      138 NO

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Town Accountant budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

01135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT		
	Salary Total	155,600	
	Expense Total	12,150	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	167,750	199 YES      76 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
 199 YES      76 NO

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, member of the Finance Committee, stated that he held the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District budget because it was a large budget and suggested discussion, and that the Additional Contribution has increased since last year, and another Warrant Article is a proposal for \$500,000, for building a new school. He stated that if there were questions on this then vote no.

There was no motion on the floor to amend. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1300	EDUCATION - BLACKSTONE MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		
	Expense Total	11,250,893	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	11,250,893	197 YES      90 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
197 YES      80 NO

The hold for the Public Works Superintendent was rescinded. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Public Works Superintendent budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1420	PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT		
	Salary Total	109,412	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	109,412	230 YES      43 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
230 YES      43 NO

The hold for the Recycling was rescinded. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Recycling budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1434	RECYCLING		
	Salary Total	144,203	
	Expense Total	70,393	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	214,596	226 YES      49 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
226 YES      49 NO

Diana Simonini, 25 Fox Run Road, stated that she can't believe that the Council on Aging budget was being reduced, stated that the Senior Center hasn't been this great until the Director came along.

Chairman Chamberland stated that the 2.5% increase is what was given to all the department heads based on the union contracts, what was removed was the increases from the salary survey, and that the Directors budget wasn't being reduced. He supports all department budgets that were held, but was removing the holds, and that the votes were for the salaries as recommended by the Finance Committee.

There was no motion on the floor to amend the Council on Aging budget. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Council on Aging budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1541	COUNCIL ON AGING		
	Salary Total	234,311	

Expense Total	25,520	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	259,831	222 YES	50 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
222 YES 50 NO

Jeff Langerin, 30 Carrington Street, was curious about the salary increase for 125%.

Chairman Chamberland stated that the increase was due to the Water Filtration Plant not being online yet, the FY23 budget was \$40,000, they thought that position would be filled for half of the fiscal year. It was always intended for this to be increased, and a job description was created and it will be posted.

There was no motion on the floor to amend the Water Administration budget. A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the Water Administration budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

61451	WATER ADMINISTRATION		
Salary Total	105,000	MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE	
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	105,000	228 YES	51 NO

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
228 YES 51 NO

**ARTICLE 2.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$32,142,382 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, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, and that said appropriations shall be funded as follows:

That	\$22,483,140	raised from FY '24 Taxation net Estimated Overlay (Abatements & Exemptions)
That	\$2,016,185	raised from FY '24 Projected State Revenue net State Offsets and State Charges
That	\$2,031,500	raised from FY '24 Estimated Local Receipts
That	\$1,554,429	transferred from Capital Trust
That	\$375,000	transferred from The Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$-	transferred from the Septic Loan Betterment Receipts Reserved Fund
That	\$2,642,686	raised from FY '24 Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenues
That	\$-	transferred from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Certified Retained Earnings
That	\$737,515	transfer from Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Reimbursement
That	\$-	transferred from Stabilization
That	\$301,924	use of Free Cash
That	\$-	use of Overlay

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
228 YES 52 NO

**ARTICLE 3.** 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.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

212 YES      49 NO

The Moderator called for a vote to waive the Moderator's re-reading of each article. The motion was seconded.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

**ARTICLE 4.** 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

210 YES      49 NO

**ARTICLE 5.** 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

238 YES      28 NO

**ARTICLE 6.** 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

233 YES      24 NO

**ARTICLE 7.** 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 (2/3 vote required)

216 YES      41 NO

**ARTICLE 8.** Upon a motion made and seconded, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$150,000 to fund FY2024 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 FY2024 effective July 1, 2023.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

202 YES      60 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 9. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland clarified that this would allow the town to be able to bundle our electric rates to get a better rate. If this is passed, this is an option for residents for their electric costs, and this is a creative way to get some of the costs down.

**ARTICLE 9.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town grant the Board of Selectmen authority to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 Section 134 and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and business to opt-out of the aggregation, or take any other action in relation thereto, and, further, to adopt the following resolution:

*WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has engaged in a process to establish a competitive marketplace through the restructuring of the electricity market; and*

*WHEREAS, citizens of Blackstone have a substantial economic and social interest in terms of greater customer choice and opportunities for savings in this restructured market; and*

*WHEREAS, the Town of Blackstone hereby finds that it may be in there interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter in to appropriate agreements with consultants, experts and attorneys in connection with the establishment and operation of an electricity aggregation plan.*

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Blackstone hereby:*

*Public declare its intent to become an aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and business electric customers and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended; and*

*To negotiate and enter into such contracts for power supply pursuant to the plan or services for such plan, the understanding that if a power supply contract is executed, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate in the aggregation plan and, instead, to choose any electric alternatives they desire and, further, to take such other action relative hereto as may be appropriate and necessary.*

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
251 YES      15 NO

**ARTICLE 10.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain temporary and permanent easements and/or rights in a portion of the property known and numbered as 1 Marie Drive (Assessors' Parcel 20-54) for the purposes of locating and constructing a system of stormwater drainage on such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town; and to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of money for the purpose of such acquisitions.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)  
231 YES      36 NO

**ARTICLE 11.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, as a gift of land as provided in the Blackstone Planning Board's Flexible Residential Development Special Permit for 298 Blackstone Street, the property located on Blackstone Street identified as Assessors Plat 30, Lot 9, for park or open space purposes and on such other terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
238 YES      34 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 12. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland stated that this will move everyone except Police and Fire to Voice Over IP telephones and save about \$6,000-\$8,000 per year.

**ARTICLE 12.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$20,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of paying the cost of a contract with a qualified vendor for the purchase of Voice Over IP telephone system equipment and related implementation services and operational charges for the first year of said contract.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
211 YES      49 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 13. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that he will be voting no on this, there has been no documented security issues at the Town Hall, town offices are in the same building as the police department, there are 24/7 security cameras in place. This was voted down last year at town meeting, and he urged everyone to do the same.

Mary Noble, 48 Edgewater Drive, urged everyone to vote yes on this article, we shouldn't wait until something happens to have this type of security in the building.

**ARTICLE 13.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town NOT transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to purchase and install an electronic card pass or token access system for Municipal Buildings or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE  
115 YES      144 NO

**ARTICLE 14.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend Article 18 of the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$25,000 to be repurposed for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to amend Article 1 of the January 2018 Special Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$75,000 to be repurposed for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform said services.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
141 YES      116 NO

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, made a motion to advance article 34 to be discussed after Article 14. She asked for this Article to be moved up in the agenda because they should be discussed back-to-back. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

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 a survey was done, and Turbesi Park has been on the top of the list for upgrades for Parks and Recreation. There were several roadblocks, there was no Open Space and Recreation Plan, now that there is an updated plan, Parks and Recreation were able to look for grants to update Turbesi Park, which will hopefully provide \$100,000, which is a reimbursement grant. The funds need to be expended, and then the Town will be reimbursed. She also shared facts about the Parks and Recreation budget, it is .61% of the overall budget, not including Water and Sewer. She respectfully asked that the Turbesi Park plan be approved.

Carolyn Sullivan, 49 Miller Street, stated that she lives close to Turbesi Park, and that she goes to the park almost everyday and sees other people utilizing the park everyday, as long as there

isn't snow or ice on it. She stated that the park really needs to be updated, and expressed her support to pass this Article.

**ARTICLE 34.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$293,000 to renovate the playground equipment and surface area of Turbesi Park, which is dedicated to active recreational purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary under the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program (301 CMR 5.00) and the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to on behalf of the town to affect said project, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

227 YES      55 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 15. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland, stated that on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, made a motion to amend Article 15 to read as follows:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing and upgrading playground fitness equipment, ground surfacing, fencing, picnic tables, and any other related site work at Roosevelt Park or take any other action relative thereto.*

The motion was seconded.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, urged the voters to vote against this Article, and vote with the Finance Committee's Recommendation.

Tanya Polak, 10 Meadow Lane, Board of Selectmen, stated that she sponsored this Article, and that there is a plan for this Article, and it will be discussed if the vote to approve the amendment is passed.

MOTION FAILS

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT

98 YES      173 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, re-read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 15. The motion was seconded.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that this plan was not submitted by Parks and Recreation, and were not included in the plan. She urged the voters to vote with the Finance Committee's Recommendation.

Tanya Polak, 10 Meadow Lane, Board of Selectmen, stated that she attended the workshop for this, and that there was a joint meeting between the Parks and Recreation and Board of

Selectmen, and wanted to work on both parks. She expressed her concerns, that both playgrounds should be done as they are neglected. She further expressed her support for upgrading both parks.

Chairman Chamberland stated that this Article is important, and that the Open Space Plan was approved by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen. It shows the results of the survey, indicating the need for playground updates, including Roosevelt Park. He read statistics from the survey for context. He stated that this funding is coming from Free Cash. He said that the Town's children deserve parks, and both areas need work. Both of these projects have to go out to bid, the project could change, all that has been presented are plans. He asked that this Article be voted down, once it gets voted down, it can be brought back up.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, stated that voting yes votes with the Finance Committee, and clarified that voting yes will not approve this Article, voting no will cause this Article to be brought up again.

MOTION FAILS  
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE ARTICLE 15  
113 YES      160 NO

Chairman Chamberland made a motion to Amend Article 15 as follows:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing and upgrading playground fitness equipment, ground surfacing, fencing, picnic tables, and any other related site work at Roosevelt Park or take any other action relative thereto.*

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland stated that a yes vote would pass this Article.

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that when this motion first came on the floor it was voted down, and now it is coming back up again. He urged voters to vote no on this Article.

Brian Scanlan, 6 Reilly Ave, Board of Selectmen, stated that he is in support of both parks. He stated that there is an opportunity to use Free Cash to get this done, and these playground upgrades can help our Economic Development.

MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 15  
158 YES      101 NO

The Moderator read Article 15 as Amended.

Carolyn Sullivan, 49 Miller Street, stated that she went to Roosevelt Park for the first time in about 10 years, and asked about the plan.

Chairman Chamberland clarified that her area of concern was identified in the plan, and it is something that can be looked into.

Mary Bulso, 4 Patricia Drive, Board of Selectmen, stated that she was in favor of both articles and hard work went into the plans. She stated that Roosevelt Park needs to be updated for Economic Development, and can help bring in tourism.

**ARTICLE 15.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing and upgrading playground fitness equipment, ground surfacing, fencing, picnic tables, and any other related site work at Roosevelt Park.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE ARTICLE 5 AS AMENDED  
165 YES      86 NO

**ARTICLE 16.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$520.00 to pay prior year Forestry bills to Stanley Tree Service.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (4/5 vote required)  
189 YES      26 NO

**ARTICLE 17.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend the purpose of the vote under Article 23 of the May 25, 2021 Annual Town Meeting from the purchase of "one 2021 1500 GMP Pumper Fire Truck" to the purchase of "one Fire Truck", and that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust an additional \$155,513.24 for such purpose.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)  
150 YES      72 NO

**ARTICLE 18.** 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 structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
175 YES      38 NO

A motion was made and seconded to consolidate Article 19, Article 20, Article 21, Article 23, and Article 24.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE CONSOLIDATION

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 19, Article 20, Article 21, Article 23, and Article 24. The motions were seconded.

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that if there were any individual Articles that needed discussion, vote this down.

**ARTICLE 19.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,000 for the purchase of backup sets of structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the career members of the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
171 YES      52 NO

**ARTICLE 20.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$37,000 for the purchase of brush Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
171 YES      52 NO

**ARTICLE 21.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$215,000 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) for the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
171 YES      52 NO

**ARTICLE 23.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000 for the purchase of EMS equipment for the Fire Department ambulance service.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
171 YES      52 NO

**ARTICLE 24.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000 for the purchase of fire equipment for the Fire Department.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
171 YES      52 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 22. The motion was seconded.

Kevin Roy, 14 Pickering Road, Deputy Fire Chief, made a motion to amend Article 22 as follows:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$60,000 to purchase a command vehicle for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.*

The motion was seconded.

Deputy Chief Roy stated that the current command vehicle is 10 years old, and that it has had 3 breakdowns in the last 10 months including engine issues and electrical issues. He stated that it could take up to 2 years to receive a new vehicle.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 22

154 YES      67 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read Article 22 as amended. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that the Finance Committee asked the Fire Chief if he would be willing to lease a command vehicle, and stated that the vote the Finance Committee took was taken on that basis. The original vote the Finance Committee took was on leasing a vehicle instead of buying it outright.

Chairman Chamberland stated that the Police and Fire Department's needs need to be taken care of, and urged everyone to vote in favor of this.

A voter stated that he had to call the Fire Department, and that he hopes no one ever has to call the Fire Department, they need vehicles. The cost of vehicles are minor compared to the cost of a home.

Diana Simonini, 25 Fox Run Road, stated that leasing a vehicle isn't a good idea because of the mile usage.

Patrick Roy, 10 Pickering Road, stated that leasing a vehicle isn't a good idea, the car needs to last years. He has seen first hand the issues the current command vehicle has had, and that it is important to have this vehicle.

**ARTICLE 22.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$60,000 to purchase a command vehicle for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED

173 YES      49 NO

**ARTICLE 25.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was Voted that the Town set an expenditure limit on the Library Revolving Fund set forth in § 5-33.1 of the General Bylaws in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53 E 14 up to the maximum amount of \$3,000 during Fiscal Year 2024 or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

182 YES      20 NO

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

Mary Lou Branchaud, 5 State Street, Library Board of Trustees, stated that the two of the boilers and one of the pumps has failed. The replacement of these items will be covered by the American Resuce Plan Act Funds (ARPA Funds), the software for the boiler and pump required to run it does not qualify for ARPA Funds, and needs to be approved.

**ARTICLE 26.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$ 45,000 for the purpose of HVAC software and any related work at the Blackstone Public Library or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

165 YES      19 NO

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

Judith Decasse, 11 Reilly Ave, stated that she was told when she first moved to Reilly Ave, it was designed to connect Mendon Street and Main Street with a S-Curve to keep drivers slow, but drivers are going faster, driving on the wrong side of the road, and is concerned that if they hit a pot hole, they may lose control and somebody could get hurt.

**ARTICLE 27.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$500,000 for pavement reconstruction, paving, and sidewalks on Reilly Ave and surrounding streets and cul-de-sacs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

136 YES      71 NO

**ARTICLE 28.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from the Capital Trust a sum of \$150,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for engineering designs, bid documents, construction, reconstruction, repair, and future evaluation of the Blackstone Historical Museum foundation, flooring, sidewalks and ramp, for the purpose of preserving the building's structural condition, increasing allowable floor load capacity, and complying with the ADA; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)

135 YES      63 NO

**ARTICLE 29.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted the Town adopt the following resolution to re-accept M.G.L. c. 32B, § 20, relative to the establishment of the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund ("OPEB Trust Fund") as follows:  
RESOLVED: That, the Town of Blackstone hereby accepts the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Chapter 218, Section 15 of the Acts of 2016 (the "Act"), and establishes an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (the "OPEB Fund");

*RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the Act, the Town hereby designates the Treasurer of Blackstone to serve as Custodian of the OPEB Fund (the "Custodian");*

*RESOLVED: That the balance of the existing account be appropriated as the initial investment into the OPEB Fund;*

*RESOLVED: That the following person(s) be designated as Trustee(s) of the OPEB Fund:*

*[Insert either:*

*(a) The Custodian of the OPEB Fund; OR*

*(b) The name of 5-13 individuals, at least one with investment experience, one citizen of the Town, one employee of the Town, one retiree of the Town, and one officer of the Town.]*

*RESOLVED: That the Treasurer of Blackstone, as Custodian of the OPEB Fund, be, and hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver the Investment Agreement with the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund board of trustees on behalf of the Town for the purpose of making the representations and warranties, acknowledgements, and agreements on the part of the Town to be made and performed thereunder.*

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

154 YES      33 NO

**ARTICLE 30.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$226,400 and from Water and Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$23,600, totaling \$250,000, as the Town's investment into the State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund ("SRBT Fund");, or take other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

140 YES      37 NO

**ARTICLE 31.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$74,610 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 or take any other action relative thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

151 YES      37 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 32. The motion was seconded.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, stated that this vote is premature, and that the full amount of the feasibility study should be voted on when the full amount is known. The amount being presented now is only partial funding.

Keri Gaudette, 78 Glenside Drive, member of the BMRSD School Committee, stated that the purpose of this Article is to create an account and transfer money into this account for a possible feasibility study. The money is earmarked only, and the vote is only to simply open this account.

James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, stated that the money is coming from a line item in the BMRSD School Budget, he stated that this Article is only authorizing the school to create this account.

Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, stated that the cost of feasibility studies range from \$850,000-\$1.2 million. The School Committee would like to use their E&D funds to offset the cost of a possible feasibility study.

Jeff Silverstein, 134R Summer Street, asked if Millville has approved their portion of this.

Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, stated that Millville passed this at their Town Meeting several weeks prior.

**ARTICLE 32.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town authorize the Blackstone Millville Regional School District School Committee to establish a Stabilization Fund for capital planning relative to the School Building Project pursuant to Chapter 71 sec. 16 GL? for the purpose of funding a feasibility study in the amount of \$500,000.00 to be funded by the District's Excess and Deficiency fund.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
138 YES      61 NO

**ARTICLE 33.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town amend Article 25 of the May 2013 Annual Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$68,867.25 to be repurposed from Veteran's Park to Turbesi Park and/or Roosevelt Park to be used for renovation and/or replacement of the playground equipment and any other related site work, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
157 YES      38 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee's recommendation and motion regarding Article 35. The motion was seconded.

Celeste Langlois, 4 Castagnaro Way, Parks and Recreation Commission, asked that this Article be passed over.

A motion was made and seconded to pass over Article 35.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 35

~~**ARTICLE 35.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$40,000 to purchase playground equipment to replace aging equipment, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.~~

**ARTICLE 36.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,000 for a utility trailer to replace the current 2003 utility trailer, to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE  
177 YES      26 NO

The Moderator read the motion for Article 37. There was no second.

A motion was made and seconded to pass over Article 37.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 37

~~ARTICLE 37. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a General Bylaw making Blackstone a “right to farm” community.~~

**ARTICLE 38.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$100,000 to the stabilization fund or take any other action in relation thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

158 YES      41 NO

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

Gail Van Dyke, 106 Elm Street, was wondering if there will be signage and adequate public entrance to the open space.

James Sullivan, 77 Florence Drive, Public Works Superintendent, said that there is no signage there now, but there was on the plans.

**ARTICLE 39.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Town accept the layout of Sycamore Lane as a public way, as shown on the plan entitled “Sycamore Park Estates”, As-Built Plan and Profile of “Sycamore Lane in Blackstone, MA, Scale: 40 Feet to an Inch (Horiz.), Scale: 4 Feet to an Inch (Vert.), Date: July 20, 2020, Rev. September 3, 2020, and prepared by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc., Engineering & Land Surveying, 333 West Street, Milford, MA 01757”, which layout shall have been filed in the Office of the Town Clerk not later than seven days prior to the date of the vote hereunder and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain taking any land necessary for the purpose of such way as laid out, including Parcels A and B shown on said plan and contemplated by the subdivision approval for Sycamore Lane, and, as necessary, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to assess betterments to the owners of the land abutting the way; provided, however, that the construction of said road is acceptable to the Planning Board and Superintendent of Public Works, or to take any other action relating thereto.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE

158 YES      30 NO

Finance Committee Chairman, Ross Nicol, read the Finance Committee’s recommendation and motion regarding Article 41. The motion was seconded.

Attorney Faulk, representing Samir Patel, petitioner of Article 41, asked for a motion be made to approve Article 41 as written in the Warrant. He stated that Mr. Patel planned to open a grocery store at 2 Main Street, and this would allow him to petition for another liquor license, most of the store would be food sales, but a portion of the store would be alcohol sales, similar to a Trader Joes style store.

There was discussion against Article 41 by Daniel Keefe, 269 Main Street, Cameron Jolliffe, 240 Lincoln Street, Mary Bulso, 4 Patricia Drive, John Wozniak, 194 Farm Street, and James Watson, 5 Fairway Lane, took place.

**ARTICLE 41.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted NOT to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a Home Rule petition with the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on behalf of the Town of Blackstone, for a special act as set forth below; and further, to authorize the General Court to make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition as follows:

***AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE TO GRANT ADDITIONAL LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF ALL ALCOHOL BEVERAGES, NOT TO BE DRUNK ON THE PREMISES.***

*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 the provisions of section 17 of chapter 138 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the licensing authority of the Town of Blackstone may grant one (1) license for the sale of all alcohol beverages not to be drunk on the premises under the provisions of section 15 of said chapter 138. The license shall be located at 2 Main Street. Such license shall be subject to all of the provisions of said chapter 138 except section 17; provided, however, that said licensing authority shall not approve the transfer of said license within one year after the date of issuance of such license by said licensing authority; and provided further, that such use is allowed by right or by special permit in such applicable zoning district.*

*SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage; or take any other action relative thereto.*

**MOTION FAILS**

**MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE ARTICLE 41**

**47 YES      157 NO**

Chairman Chamberland asked to go back to one item, Article 2, and made a motion to reconsider the Assistant Town Administrator/Town Accountant budget. The motion was seconded.

Brian Scanlan, 6 Reilly Ave, Board of Selectmen, stated that if we were to lose the person in that position now, the cost to replace them would be spent either way.

Susan Dowrey, 9 Dorena Drive, asked for clarification of what the line item under Administration, Assistant to the Town Administrator, in the amount of \$61,000 by itself.

Chairman Chamberland clarified that the Assistant to the Town Administrator is an executive assistant position, clerical, and non-union. It is not a managerial role, department head, HR, or finance related, and it is a completely different position.

Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, urged this salary increase to be voted in favor of.

Chairman Chamberland further clarified that our Acting Town Administrator can only work 20 hours per week, the full salary will be paid to the future Town Administrator, and the Assistant Town Administrator position is necessary for the Town to run successfully.

**MOTION FAILS**

**MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO RECONSIDER ARTICLE 2**

**85 YES      90 NO**

The Moderator made the following Finance Committee Appointments:

Jeffrey Silverstein – 3-year term to expire ATM 2026  
James Watson – 3-year term to expire ATM 2026  
Kasey Bik – 3-year term to expire ATM 2026  
Timothy Howell – unexpired 3-year term to expire ATM 2025

A motion was made and duly seconded, it was voted to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting and adjourn at 10:50 p.m.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE



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Tara Sullivan  
Town Clerk of Blackstone