



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 30, 2023
7:30 PM

Worcester, SS:

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

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone, qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium in said Town of Blackstone on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. then and there to act upon the articles of the Warrant.

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

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Town has accepted M.G.L. c. 41, § 38, which provides that the Town may authorize its collector of taxes to use all means of collecting taxes which a town treasurer may use when appointed a collector of taxes. These means are dictated by M.G.L. c. 60, § 90, which allows the collector to issue warrants to collect to a deputy collector in the same form and conferring the same powers as warrants by assessors to collectors.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to fix the salaries of all elected and appointed Town officers and to defray Town expenses for all departments, including the Reserve Fund, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024 and to determine how such sums of money should be raised, whether from the current tax levy, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Towns are required to set the salary and compensation of all elected and appointed officers of the town at the annual town meeting and determine the Town's operating budget for the fiscal year.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to compensate the members of Boards and Committees of the Town of Blackstone 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; orb) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the various Boards and Committees (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior to each of said dates if such member has not been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Article IX, §C9-14 of the Town Charter provides that "All Town officials who receive remuneration shall be compensated in an amount approved annually by Town Meeting."

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to compensate the members of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for their services as such members and to set the amount of said compensation at \$1,500.00 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 is not in attendance of at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such members 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) months or more months prior to each of said dates; or b) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior to each of said dates, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Article IX, §C9-14 of the Town Charter provides that "All Town officials who receive remuneration shall be compensated in an amount approved annually by Town Meeting."

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to overlay town streets and roads to be determined by the Board of Selectmen, or for the construction, reconstruction and improvement of public ways and street drainage systems and to determine how such sums may be raised, whether by advancement from Town Treasury, or by borrowing in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or otherwise, by the Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may determine for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of public ways, street drainage systems and sidewalks throughout the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Per M.G.L. c. 40, § 4, the Town has the power to make contracts on terms and conditions authorized by Town Meeting, as long as such contracts are a legal exercise of the Town's corporate powers.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, or eminent domain an easement or easements for the purpose of construction, installation, maintenance and repair of municipal drainage, sewer water systems, and roadways, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available funds a sum of money to fund such acquisitions or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Two Thirds Vote Required

Article Summary:

M.G.L. c. 40, § 14 allows the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase or eminent domain, any easement within the town for any municipal purpose. The statute requires Town Meeting to authorize and appropriate funds for the acquisition.

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

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Town voted in 2019 to accept M.G.L. c. 44, § 53F^{3/4}, which authorizes the Town to establish as separate revenue account known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and cable-related revenues. Moneys in the Fund may only be appropriated for cable-related expenses consistent with the franchise agreement, including, but not limited to: (i) support of public, educational, or governmental access ("PEG access") cable television services; (ii) monitor compliance of the cable operator with the franchise agreement; or (iii) prepare for renewal of the franchise license.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to 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 the interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter into 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:

Publicly declares 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, with 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 electricity alternatives they desire and, further, to take such other action relative hereto as may be appropriate and necessary.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry. If an aggregation of electricity load is implemented in Blackstone, individual residents and businesses would retain the right to opt out of the aggregation with no penalty and to choose any other competitive supplier or stay with the default utility.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to 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.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Two-Thirds Vote Required

Article Summary:

This article will allow the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by eminent domain if necessary, the rights needed to improve stormwater drainage in the area of Bellingham Road and Marie Drive, which has been the subject of litigation filed against the Town. Such easement rights are necessary to remedy the stormwater drainage issues which have been raised by the property owner in the litigation.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to 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.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This article will allow the Board of Selectmen to accept approximately 13.80 acres of land in the area for 298 Blackstone Street, which are to be donated to the Town to be used for park or open space purposes pursuant to the Planning Board's Special Permit for the development of residential lots at 298-306 Blackstone Street.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide 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.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate a sum of money to pay the costs incurred by a contract to install and operate a Voice over IP system in Town offices. This would be an upgrade over the current telephone system as the VoIP system allows communications services to be delivered over the Internet rather than the telephone network. This would allow Town offices to utilize more, and improved, communications options.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or 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.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to 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, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Board of Selectmen to hire a designer and pay related expenses to create plans for

the redesign of Town Hall. The funding for this article will come from two prior town meeting articles that were unexpended, no additional appropriation will be needed.

ARTICLE 15. 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.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required (Two-Thirds if Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds, including by borrowing, for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$520.00 to pay prior year Forestry bills to Stanley Tree Service or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Accountant)
4/5th Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to pay a prior fiscal year bill for the treatment of a tree payable to Stanley Tree Service.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to 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 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, and/or transfer from available funds an additional \$155,513.24 for such purpose, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required (Two-Thirds if Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds, including by borrowing, for the stated purposes. Additionally, in 2021, Annual Town Meeting authorized an appropriation or borrowing of \$500,000 for the purchase of a fire truck and related equipment, but the Town only used a partial amount of that appropriation. This Article would rescind the \$409,486.67 remaining from that appropriation, and the authorization to borrow for the same purpose.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$35,000 for the purchase of structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$37,000 for the purchase of brush Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$215,000 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 22. 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.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$70,000 for the purchase of EMS equipment for the Fire Department ambulance service, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$70,000 for the purchase of fire equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to 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 ½ up to the maximum amount of \$3,000 during Fiscal Year 2024 or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

M.G.L. c 44, § 53E½ gives towns the power to establish departmental revolving funds. A revolving fund established under this Section is accounted for separately from other town funds and is funded by fees, charges or other receipts from the departmental programs or activities supported by the revolving fund. Interest earned on revolving fund revenue goes to the town's general fund. The Town has a Library Revolving Fund for receipts from the use of Library copiers, printers, and facsimile machines. Section 53E½ requires Town Meeting to vote on the limit on the total amount that may be expended from each revolving fund.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds 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.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow 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.

(Submitted by the Director of Public Works)
Majority Vote Required (Two Thirds if Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds, including by borrowing, for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow 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.

(Submitted by the Historical Commission)
Majority Vote Required (Two Thirds if Borrowing)

Article Summary:

The Historical Commission received reports from Weston & Sampson evaluating the floor framing and foundation of the Blackstone Historical Museum building. The reports indicated that repairs are necessary to ensure the building structure is in a good condition, including reinforcing decayed floor joists and beams, restoring the mortar coating the interior foundation wall, installing a dehumidifier, reattaching the brick chimney to the building frame and repointing masonry over a crack in the chimney, replacing the existing sidewalk and ramp with a new sidewalk and ADA-compliant ramp. The report also recommended follow-up building condition evaluations every 3 to 5 years.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to 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"):

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.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Town is required to re-accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 32B, § 20 as that Section was amended in 2016, to establish an OPEB Trust fund for Town retirement benefits.

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$250,000 as the Town's investment into the State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund ("SRBT Fund");, or take other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund (SRBTF) is an investment vehicle established by Massachusetts law that enables government entities of the Commonwealth to invest funds set aside to fulfill other-post-employment-benefits (OPEB) for retirees such as healthcare or dental coverage in retirement.

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds 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.

(Submitted by the Blackstone Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to the Blackstone Millville Regional School District OPEB Fund, which is separate from the Town's OPEB fund referenced in previous articles.

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to 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 G½ 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.

(Submitted by the Blackstone Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

M.G.L. c. 71, § 16G½ allows regional school districts to establish a stabilization fund with the approval of a majority of the Town Meetings of the member Towns. Therefore, both Blackstone and Millville must approve the establishment of a stabilization fund in order to create the fund.

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to 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.

(Submitted by the Parks & Recreation Commission)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Article 25 approved by the May 2013 Annual Town Meeting appropriated funds for the purpose, design, restoration and/or construction of athletic fields at Veteran's Park. Only \$6,132.75 of the appropriated \$75,000 has been spent. This Article would allow the remaining \$68,867.25 to be spent for the renovation of the current playground equipment either with replacement pieces or new pieces and any other related site work.

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds 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.

(Submitted by the Parks & Recreation Commission)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply to the PARC Grant Program for the renovation Turbesi Park. The PARC Grant is a reimbursement program, so it is necessary to first appropriate the funds for the cost of the renovations.

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.

(Submitted by the Parks and Recreation Commission)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise and appropriate or transfer funds for the stated purpose.

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds 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.

(Submitted by the Parks and Recreation Commission)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise and appropriate or transfer funds for the stated purpose.

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

(Submitted by Citizens Petition by Vicki Wojcik and 13 others)

ARTICLE 38. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money to the stabilization fund or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Stabilization funds are in the nature of rainy day funds typically used for unforeseen or high cost expenditures, because a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required to later transfer money out of such funds.

ARTICLE 39. To see if the Town will vote to 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.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required
(Potentially Two Thirds if road not shown on subdivision plan or appropriation is required to obtain necessary easements)

Article Summary:

Accepting Sycamore Lane as a public way will allow the Town to maintain the roadway and afford the public access to the road.

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote to modify Chapter 5 Section 15 Manner of Voting to read: At each Town Meeting, the electronic voting system will be tested with a test vote. If the test votes prove the electronic voting system is operable, all voting should be done with this method. If the test proves that the electronic voting system is not working properly, the Moderator will begin an equally secretive type of voting process such as paper ballots. Hand voting should never be used.

(Submitted by Citizens Petition by 12 petitioners)

ARTICLE 41. To see if the Town will vote 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;

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.

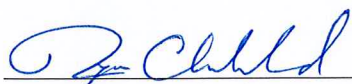
(Submitted by Citizens Petition by Samir Patel with 41 signatures)

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

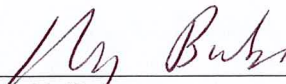
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up true and attested copies thereof in each of the following names and places in Blackstone fourteen (14) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street and at Fire Station #2, Rathbun Street and the A.F. Maloney School on 200 Lincoln Street and also by publication no less than fourteen (14) days before the day fixed for such meeting in that newspaper having the largest circulation in the Town .

Given under our hands this 9th day of May in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty -three.

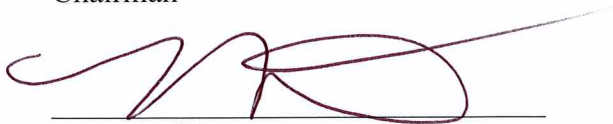
SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE



Ryan Chamberland
Chairman



Mary E. Bulso
Vice-Chairman



Tanya Polak
Clerk

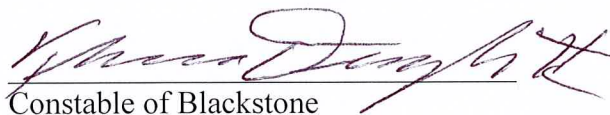


Brian Scanlan
Member



Daniel P. Keefe
Member

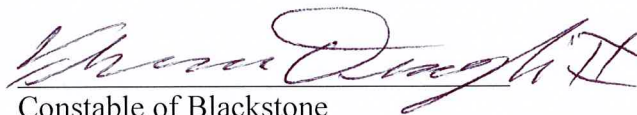
A true copy attest:



Constable of Blackstone

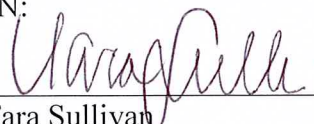
Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, I have this 10th day of May 2023 notified the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone by posting up true and attested copies of the within warrant at the within named places and by publication as within directed.



Constable of Blackstone

A TRUE COPY OF THE WARRANT AND RETURN:



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk