

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL 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 Special 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 Dively, 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. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,150.61 to balance the deficit of the snow and ice account.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)

219 YES 44 NO

ARTICLE 2. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$139.90 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Haldeman Hydraulics.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)

225 YES 13 NO

ARTICLE 3. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,861.52 to pay prior year Town Administrator's Office bill to Tellstone & Son, Inc.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)

201 YES 18 NO

ARTICLE 4. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$170.00 to pay prior year Council on Aging bill to Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
234 YES 19 NO

ARTICLE 5. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Water & Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$159,663.64 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Treatment.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
207 YES 42 NO

ARTICLE 6. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$298.92 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Riley Brothers Asphalt.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
231 YES 13 NO

ARTICLE 7. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$472.37 to pay prior year Fire Department bill to Shred-It.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
204 YES 34 NO

ARTICLE 8. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$249.95 to pay prior year Town Clerk's bill to Amazon.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
192 YES 72 NO

ARTICLE 9. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$226.82 to pay prior year Police Department's bill to Amazon.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
175 YES 74 NO

ARTICLE 10. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for services related to filling the Chestnut Street landfill and related expenses.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)
160 YES 87 NO

A motion was made by Selectmen Keefe to reconsider Article 5. The motion was seconded. Selectmen Keefe explained that Article 5 for the Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Bill, and it comes from the Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, this is the final portion of last year's bill. If we didn't pay this bill, we would be in violation of the Town's contract with the City of Woonsocket. He urged everyone to pass this bill.

Warren Pisani, 7 Rivers Edge Road, asked if there was any interest on the bill.

Mr. Keefe said that the City of Woonsocket didn't bill us quarterly, and understand that the Town had to wait until the Special Town Meeting to pay the bill, so there is not interest.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 5
246 YES 26 NO

The Moderator read Article 5 as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded.

ARTICLE 5. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Water & Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of \$159,663.64 to pay prior year Department of Public Works bill to Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Treatment.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
255 YES 28 NO

A motion was made to Reconsider Article 10. The motion was seconded.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Chamberland, 234 Main Street, explained that Article 10 has to do with the DEP order the Town will be fined by the State. This is necessary to do the work on the Chestnut Street Landfill.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 10
217 YES 51 NO

Tom Tenerowicz, 5 Handy Road, asked how much the fine would be if this Article doesn't pass.

Chairman Chamberland said that he does not have an answer to that question.

ARTICLE 10. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for services related to filling the Chestnut Street landfill and related expenses.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (2/3 vote required)
218 YES 65 NO

A motion to Reconsider Article 7 was made. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Chamberland explained that these are past bills that need to be paid. If they are not paid, the accounts will be shut down. He explained that Shred-It is a company used often to dispose of documents at the Town Hall. He urged the voters to vote to approve these Articles moving forward.

Daniel Keefe stated that the bills are less than \$1,000 in total, and they can't be paid without Town Meeting approval. It could cost the Town a lot more if the Town has to go to litigation to get the bills paid.

Paul Frade, 28 Clyde Street, stated that Shred-It takes care of sensitive patient data that is in the Fire Department, and they will also take care of biohazard waste.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 7
248 YES 32 NO

ARTICLE 7. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$472.37 to pay prior year Fire Department bill to Shred-It.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
245 YES 24 NO

A motion was made to Reconsider Article 8. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 8
226 YES 39 NO

ARTICLE 8. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$249.95 to pay prior year Town Clerk's bill to Amazon.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
237 YES 28 NO

A motion was made to Reconsider Article 9. The motion was seconded.

MAJORITY VOTE TO APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 9
236 YES 46 NO

ARTICLE 9. A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote NOT to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$226.82 to pay prior year Police Department's bill to Amazon.

MOTION FAILS
MAJORITY VOTE NOT TO APPROVE (9/10 vote required)
232 YES 37 NO

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting. The Special Town Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.



Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk of Blackstone