TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MAY 28, 2013

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 28, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. then and there to act upon the articles of the Warrant.

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

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of various obsolete and/or inoperative equipment, scrap materials, etc., or to auction or sell any excess equipment that may be on hand in any Town Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to fix the salaries of all elected and appointed Town officers and to defray Town expenses for all departments including the Reserve Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014 and to determine how such sums of money should be raised, whether from the current tax levy, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the members of Boards and Committees of the Town of Blackstone to be compensated for their services and to set the amount of said compensation; said compensation set by town meeting to be paid in four (4) equal installments provided, however, that no such installment shall be paid a) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the respective Boards and Committees (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the twelve (12) month period prior to March, June, September and December, as the case may be, if such member has been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates; or b) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the various Boards and Committees (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior

to each of said dates if such member has not been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the members of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee to be compensated for their services as such members and to set the amount of said compensation at $1500.00 per member and $1,800.00 for the Chairman, such compensation to be paid in three (3) equal installments in the months of July, November and March provided, however, that no such installment shall be paid a) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the twelve (12) month period prior to July 1, November 1 or March 1, as the case many be, if such member has been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates; or b) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior to each of said dates; or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Superintendent of Schools)

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will vote to approve in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16G 1/2, the District establish a Stabilization Fund effective July 1, 2013, or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Superintendent of Schools)

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town of Blackstone will appropriate $687,002 for its net operating and capital assessment by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (the "District") for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2013, which is inclusive of $56,169 for the debt service associated with Blackstone's previously (2001) voted amount for the District's addition/renovation project, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District)

**ARTICLE 8.** 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 improvements of public ways and street drainage systems and to determine how such sums may be raised, whether by advancement from Town Treasury, or by borrowing in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or otherwise, by the Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of public ways, street drainage systems and sidewalks throughout the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money not to exceed $75,000 for a Feasibility Study and Preliminary Architectural Study for a new Senior Center, Community Facility and Public Safety Center, or take any other action relating thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain an easement or easements for the purpose of construction, installation, maintenance and repair of municipal drainage, sewer water systems, and roadways, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available funds a sum of money to fund such acquisitions, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 9A which provides that the Town will pay one-half of the amounts of the premium to be paid by a retired employee for group insurance benefits under the first sentence of section 9 of Chapter 32B, or take any other action related thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $35,000 for the purchase of a 2013 Ford Expedition Command Vehicle for the Fire Department, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $250,000 for the purchase of a new 2013 ambulance, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 15.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of maintaining Library copiers, printers and facsimile machines and purchasing supplies related thereto; the receipts from use of the Library copiers, printers and facsimile machines shall be deposited into said fund and expended under the direction of the Library Trustees up to the maximum amount of $1,000 during Fiscal Year 2014, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)

**ARTICLE 16**. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $382,000 for the purchase of replacement water meters, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 17**. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $160,000 for the purchase of a new 6-wheel dump truck plow and sander, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $60,000 for the purchase of a one ton 4-wheel drive dump truck with 9' snow plow, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 19**. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $500,000 for the painting of the water tank a lower Blackstone Street, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 20**. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed TO BE DETERMINED BY GRANT AVAILABILITY for the purchase of a new water filtration plant, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 21.** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c. 44, Section 20 to reauthorize for the purpose of the design and construction of Well #9, including all costs and expenses related thereto, the balance of funds, in an amount not to exceed $_____, previously authorized to be borrowed for the design and construction of Well #8, or take any action in relation thereto. *(Please confirm balance of unexpended borrowing proceeds and submit Article to Bond Counsel.)*

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $10,500 to purchase a generator for Elmwood Avenue sewer pump station, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 23.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $10,500 to purchase a generator for Montcalm Avenue sewer pump station, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 24.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money not to exceed $125,000 for the purchase of operating equipment for the recycling facility, or to take any other action thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed _____ to install and operate solar photovoltaic energy systems "Solar Energy System" at capped municipal landfill site at 14 Chestnut Street, furnish the Town with solar-generated electricity produced by the system at the current site as well as potential additional sites, and provide an analysis of energy efficiency solutions with smart metering technologies, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 26.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and authorize use of a portion of the Town-owned parcel of land commonly referred to as "Veterans Park", as more particularly described in the Quitclaim Deed to the Town of Blackstone, dated December 30, 1997 and recorded at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Book 19487, Page 121, for the purpose of lease for construction, operation and maintenance of a Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy Facility; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long term lease and other agreements in furtherance of this use upon such terms and conditions as the Selectmen shall deem to be in the interest of the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 27.** To see if the Town will vote to raise the Gross Receipts Limit eligibility requirements for a Clause 41C Exemption under Section 5 of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 59, as amended by Chapter 184 Section 51 of the Acts of 2002 from $18, 678 for a single person and $20,987 for a couple to $20,000 for a single person and $30,000 for a married couple, and to raise the Whole Estate Limit eligibility requirements for Clause 41C Exemption from $32,000 for a single person and $34,500 for a couple to $40,000 for single person and $55,000 if married, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 28**. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $55,000 for the purchase and installation of lights on the Little League Field and Soccer Field at Goulet Park, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 29**. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $30,000 for the repair/replacement of the pavilion roof at Roosevelt Park, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 30.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed $25,000 to complete a CCTV Improvement Project to allow the Police Department to monitor and record the outdoor gas pump, generator, ball fields, rear parking area, fire department bays, pump stations and water tanks, as well as the interior of the municipal center, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 31. Mixed Uses In the Village Overlay District**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 123.23.2 of the Zoning Bylaw by amending Subsection C, Use regulations, as shown below, with bold type indicating additions:

C. Use regulations. Within the Village Overlay District, the use requirements of 123-11, Use schedule, for the underlying districts shall to continue to apply, except that

**(1)** multifamily dwellings may be allowed on special permit from the Planning Board**; and**
**(2) within the Commercial "C" District portion, a mix of uses may be allowed without regard to Subsection F of Section 123-12**

provided that **in both cases** the development is determined to be village-compatible as specified in Subsection B above,

and to amend Subsection D - Dimensional regulations by adding "in the R-1 portion of the overlay district" to footnote a.

(Submitted by the Planning Board)

**ARTICLE 32. Soil Removal Fees**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 109 of the Town Code by: 1) deleting Section 109-4 (Limited operations), in its entirety, 2) deleting the words "except those qualifying under Section 109-4, Limited Operations," from the first sentence of Section 109-5, and 3) recodifying current Sections 109-5 through 109-15 to read "Sections 109-4 through 109-14", respectively; and, further, to amend the soil removal fee language of Section 109-5. C. to read as follows:

"C. The application or renewal fee shall be $500 per year of permit validity, plus $.15 per cubic yard of material to be removed for quantities up to 10,000 cubic yards and $.25 per cubic yard of material to be removed over 10,000 cubic yards, plus the cost of advertising, notice and engineering/surveyor services to be performed at the discretion of the Selectmen to certify compliance with this chapter.".

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 33. Stretch Energy Code**

To see if the Town will vote to enact Chapter 58 of the Town Code, entitled "Stretch Energy Code" for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy, pursuant to Appendix 115.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR, the "Stretch Energy Code," including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto,

(Submitted by the Planning Board)

**ARTICLE 34**. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money to the stabilization fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

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

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

Given under our hands this 9th day of April 2013.

SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE

Robert J. Dubois
Chairman

Ryan Chamberland
Vice-Chairman

Margaret Bik
Clerk

Paul Haughey
Member

Michael A. Catalano, Jr.
Member

A true copy attest:

Constable of Blackstone

Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, I have this 10th day of April, 2013 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:

Claudette Dolinski
Town Clerk