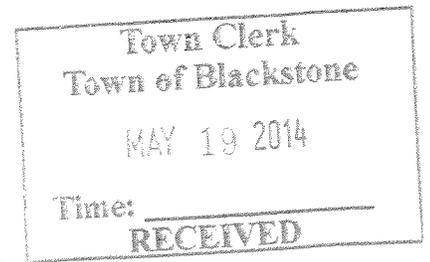


TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
May 13, 2014



PRESENT: Kevin DeLeo, Chairman Stephen Goudreau  
Paul Muller, Vice Chairman (via phone) Adrienne Nicoloro  
Steven Salois James Watson  
William Macy James Belisle

1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call was taken as noted above.

2: REVIEW AND ACCEPT ANY MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to accept the minutes of the April 30, 2014 meeting. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

3: AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENTS:

A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to pay the secretary \$64.30 for taking and transcribing meeting minutes of the April 30, 2014 meeting. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to pay the Woonsocket Call newspaper \$68.42 for printing the notice of the May 12, 2014 Public Hearing. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous.

4: CORRESPONDENCE:

An invitation was received from Debra Ristaino on behalf of the Library Board of Trustees to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration honoring the Blackstone Library's achievements, public service and growth over the years. The ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Library.

A letter was received from Ms. Mary Lou Branchaud, Chairperson of the Board of Library Trustees, informing all that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has authorized the second installment of grant funds under the State Aid to Public Libraries program in the amount of \$5,239.70, bringing the total grand award for FY 14 to \$10,181.51.

5: RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANTS:

Warrant For SPECIAL Town Meeting – May 27, 2014

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$254.52 to pay prior year bill payable to Citizens Bank for lock box charges, or take any action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: It was noted by Mr. Watson that funding for this Article will come from Free Cash.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 .

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$53,083.34 to pay the outstanding balance from MIIA (Blue Cross/Blue Shield), of take any action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum up to \$100,000 to balance the deficit of the snow and ice account, or take any action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

#### Warrant For ANNUAL Town Meeting – May 27, 2014

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.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 6-1 with Mr. Macy abstaining.

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.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

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, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 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.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Salois expressed concern that we are using Free Cash to help fund the budget itself and Mr. Watson saw no problem utilizing Free Cash as last year we used over \$200,000 for this purpose and the proposed \$9,900 would be a big improvement. It was noted that adjustments will be made on the floor the night of the Town Meeting, if necessary.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moderator: \$550 – A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Selectmen: \$70,990 - Concern was voiced about the large increase in Professional/Technical. It was explained that the increase will be used to hire an actuary. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Administration: \$158,176. Mr. Salois expressed concern about the increase in the salary line item of 6.17% for the Administrative Assistant when everyone received a 3% raise. He stated that if we keep going down this road, we are going to be spending more than we bring in. Ms. Hebert will provide a salary spreadsheet. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Finance Committee: \$9,300. Recommend decreasing the salary of the Part-Time Secretary from \$3,900 to \$3,000. It was also recommended to decrease Professional/Technical from \$8,000 to \$4,000. A request was made to add a "Supplies" line item for \$750. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Reserve Fund: \$75,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Capital Outlay: \$6,600. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Town Accountant: \$106,176. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Assessors: \$166,245. Mr. Watson suggested increasing the Professional/Technical line item from \$39,000 to \$49,000 in order to fund an appraisal of the power plant which has not been done for several years. Mr. Muller suggested making this issue a warrant article for next year. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Collector/Treasurer: \$145,955. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 6-1-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative and Mr. Muller abstaining.

Town Counsel: \$100,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Data Processing: \$140,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Copier: \$17,070. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Bonds and Insurance: \$196,508. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Town Clerk: \$129,578. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Elections: \$28,380. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Board of Registrars: \$6,150. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Conservation Commission: \$4,225. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Planning Board: \$26,331. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Zoning Board: \$8,389. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Economic Development: \$5,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. Mr. Muller noted that if these funds are not used they will revert back into the General Fund. Mr. Salois questioned the intent as it relates to the Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Hebert will discuss with Town Counsel and report back to this Committee. There was no further discussion and the vote was 6-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative and Mr. DeLeo recusing himself.

Central Mass Planning: \$2,250. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

General: \$172,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1

Public Building Maintenance: \$274,500. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Town Report: \$3,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Police Department: \$1,436,549. Mr. Salois stated he had a problem with the police cruisers being listed as a line item. He noted that the Capital Outlay Committee voted 5-1 to recommend this budget. Mr. Macy felt that there are too many vehicles in the police department that sit idle. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 5-3 with Ms. Nicoloro, Mr. Macy and Mr. Watson voting in the negative.

Police Dispatchers: \$213,260. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Fire Department: \$722,053. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Ambulance: \$53,261. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Municipal Inspector: \$57,761. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Plumbing Inspector: \$15,365. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Sealer of Weights/Measures: \$2,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Electrical Inspector: \$9,142. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Emergency Management: \$19,750. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Animal Control: \$24,257. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Forestry: \$23,450. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Education – B.M.R.: \$7,699,172. This is the amount recommended by the Board of Selectmen and this is the amount the Committee acted upon. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article as submitted by the Board of Selectmen. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0 to recommend.

Blackstone Valley Voc: \$740,341. The vocational school wants to expand their student capacity. Mr. DeLeo felt that it is creating two classes of students and it is unconstitutional. The cost of educating students in-town is \$6-7,000 per student per year as opposed to approximately \$14,000 in the specialized schools. It was noted that if 5 of the 13 towns vote this down, it will not pass. Mr. Salois noted that the Capital Outlay Committee voted 4-2 to approve. Mr. Watson noted that the vocational school will offer programs that are currently being provided by Tri-County in Franklin. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Vocational Tuition: \$336,940. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Engineering: \$15,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Public Works Supt: 27,131. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Highway Labor: \$238,565. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Highway Operational: \$34,858. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Snow and Ice: \$110,668. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Street Lighting: \$87,500. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Mechanical Repairs: \$64,200. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicolero voting in the negative.

Construction and Maintenance: \$252,500. It was recommended to DECREASE "Improvement Streets" from \$275,000 to \$250,000. The Committee felt that this line item increases too much every year. Every year the Committee asks for a list of streets that are on the "Improvement" list which is never forthcoming. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr.

Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Street Cleaning: \$2,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Waste Collection: \$523,223. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Board of Health: \$95,015. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Council on Aging: \$159,466. The department request of \$165,163 was not recommended. The Committee opted to recommend the Board of Selectmen's budget of \$159,466. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Veterans: \$141,370. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Library Department: \$362,375. The department request of \$368,545 was not recommended. The Committee opted to recommend the Board of Selectmen's budget of \$362,375. Major concerns were expressed over the cost of heating and electricity and the Committee asked for an energy audit. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 6-1-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative and Mr. Goudreau recused himself.

Parks: \$115,548. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 5-3 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Historical Commission: \$2,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Memorial Day/Independence Day: \$7,100. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Retirement of Debt: \$994,224. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Long Term Debt/Interest: \$403,917. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Short Term Debt/Interest: \$5,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Special Retirement: \$7,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 5-3 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

County Retirement: \$655,133. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Unemployment Compensation \$50,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Health Insurance: \$459,169. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Life Insurance: \$3,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Matching Medicare: \$59,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Compensated Balances: \$10,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Compensated Absence: \$7,500. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Capital Trust: \$1,890,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Sewer Reserve Fund: \$55,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Sewer Salaries: \$164,723. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Sewer Maintenance: \$158,864. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Sewer Woonsocket Regional: \$404,450. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Water Reserve Fund: \$50,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Water Department Labor: \$145,142. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Water Administration: \$70,081. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Water Constr. & Maintenance: \$449,955. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Water Retirement of Debt: \$45,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

Water Long Term Debt Interest: \$16,069. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Mass Fed Safe Drinking Wtr: \$2,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Recycling Reserve Fund: \$15,000. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Recycling Salaries: \$291,717. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Expenses: \$203,877. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Retirement of Debt Recycle: \$25,800. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Long Term Debt in Interest: \$2,524. It was recommended to have an oversight committee for Recycling Enterprise. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

Total Recycling: \$538,918. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1 with Ms. Nicoloro voting in the negative.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$22,088,338.

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 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.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the members of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee to be compensated their services as such members and to set the amount of said compensation at \$1,500 per member and \$1,800 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; or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, NOT TO RECOMMEND this Article. It was felt that the B.M.R. budget was not done in good faith nor in the best interest of B.M.R. Ms. Nicoloro was the Finance Committee's representative to the School Committee and she noted that nothing was ever really accomplished at the meetings she attended and was shocked when the budget numbers came out. She was never included in these discussions. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, NOT TO RECOMMEND this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 4-4.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to approve in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16G ½, the District establish a Stabilization Fund effective July 1, 2014, or take any action relative thereto.

DISCUSSION: As above.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, NOT TO RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 0-8.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town of Blackstone will vote to appropriate the total \$2.9 million debt authorized by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee on April 17, 2014 for costs of adding to, equipping, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the regional school, including all costs incidental and related thereto, with the Town's apportioned share of debt payments computed in accordance with the Regional Agreement and commencing in fiscal year 2016, or take any action relative thereto.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Watson noted that this is very expensive for the Town. Mr. Salois noted that Capital Outlay voted to recommend this Article. Mr. Macy stated that this will draw more students out of town and the cost per pupil will rise in these times when the average family income has been going down. He felt we don't need it. Mr. DeLeo again stated that we are creating two classes of students and B.M.R. is becoming second class.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, NOT TO RECOMMEND this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 5-3 to NOT RECOMMEND this Article.

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 or reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or otherwise, by the Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

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.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

ARTICLE 10: 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.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, S53E 1/2 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 \$1,500 during Fiscal Year 2015, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 5-2-1 with Mr. Goudreau abstaining.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Collector/Treasurer to increase Motor Vehicle Excise, Real Estate and Personal Property Demand fee to \$25, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Nicoloro stated that people are already struggling and this will handicap a lot of people who are already in deficit.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, NOT TO RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 6-2.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of General Laws Chapter 40U providing an alternative collection procedure for the collection of municipal fines imposed for violations of rules, regulations, orders or bylaws regulating housing, sanitary or snow and ice removal requirements, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to TAKE NO ACTION on this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to adopt procedures for the payment of municipal fines imposed for violations per GL, Chapter 40U, Section 3, schedule of fines to be established by bylaw per Section 11, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: This article is related to Article 13.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to TAKE NO ACTION on this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,673.56 to the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center Reserve Account as reimbursement to the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center Reserve Account for the overpayment of employee benefits in FY 12, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 6, Section 172B ½ to adopt the following by-law enabling the Police Department to conduct State and Federal Fingerprint Based Criminal History checks for individuals applying for or in possession of certain licenses including, but not limited to, those engaged in the business of Hawking and Peddling or other Door-to-Door Salespeople, Pawn Dealers, and Hackney Drivers, and to adopt appropriate policies and procedures to effectuate the purposes of this by-law, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 6-2.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$17,550 to replace five computers in five Police line cruisers, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Salois noted that the Capital Outlay Committee voted unanimously to recommend this Article. The source of funding would be Free Cash.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$14,300 to install a GPS tracking system into all Police line cruisers or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: The source of funding would be Free Cash.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$338,559 to replace the existing radio system or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Salois noted that the Capital Outlay Committee voted unanimously to recommend this Article. The funding source would be Free Cash.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$5,000 for Hepatitis B Booster, Hepatitis B series, Tuberculosis and such other testing for all Town personnel including Police, Highway, Board of Health and Fire Department employees, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: The source of funding would be Free Cash.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to accept the layout of Rolling Brook Lane off of Elm Street as a public way, as shown on the plan entitled " \_\_\_\_\_", dated \_\_\_\_\_ 2014, and prepared by \_\_\_\_\_, 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 so laid out, 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 Director of Public Works, or take any other action relating thereto.

DISCUSSION: This Article did not provide sufficient information.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to TAKE NO ACTION on this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 123.13.1 of the Zoning Bylaw by amending Subsection F Open Space as shown below with **bold type** indicating additions:

#### **Flexible Residential Development Open Space**

F Open space. Any proposed open space within the development shall **either** be conveyed to the Town and **accepted by it for park or open space use, or be conveyed** to a nonprofit organization **the principal purpose of which is the conservation of open space, or to be conveyed** to a corporation or trust owned by or to be owned by the owners of the lots or residential units within the development. **If such a corporation or trust is utilized, ownership thereof shall pass with conveyances of the lots or residential units. In any case where such land is not conveyed to the Town, a restriction enforceable by the Town, or, in any case where such land is conveyed to the Town, enforceable by a nonprofit organization the principal purpose of which is the conservation of open space, shall be recorded providing that such land shall be kept in an open or natural state and not be built for residential use of developed for accessory uses such as parking or roadway,** as provided by MGL c. 40A, S.9, the Zoning Act, or take any other action related thereto.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to purchase or otherwise acquire, any fee, easement, or other interest in all or any part of land shown as lots 8 and 21 on Assessors' May 26, now or formerly of Ronald Padula, consisting of approximately .35 and 4.00 acres respectively, said land to be placed in the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, and to transfer and appropriate a sum of money from the Open Space Fund or other available funds for the purpose of funding said acquisition, including survey work, appraisal and legal fees necessary therefore; and further, to authorize the Selectmen and/or Conservation Commission to place a conservation restriction on said land in perpetuity to be held by a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve open space, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend the provisions of the Blackstone Code, Chapter 114, (VEHICLES, OFF-ROAD) by deleting the existing Sections 114-1 and 114-2 and substituting therefore the following revised sections (please refer to Section 114-1 Written permission required for use in certain areas and Section 114-2 Enforcement for details).

DISCUSSION: Mr. Watson felt it put too much of a burden on the property owners.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, NOT TO RECOMMEND this Article. There was no further discussion and the vote was 4-4.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Blackstone by adding a Section 123-23.6 regarding Medical Marijuana Facilities, adding a definition of Medical Marijuana Facilities to Section 123-24 and adding Medical Marijuana Facilities to Section 123-11 Use Schedule. (Please refer to the new Section 123-23.6 for details).

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 6-2.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20 relative to establishment of an Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB") Liability Trust Fund, to designate the State Health Care Security Trust as custodian of said Fund, and to raise, transfer and appropriate a sum of money for said Fund, or take other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Watson suggested using the funds in the Overlay Account to start up the fund.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 7-1.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise, transfer and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the purpose of repairing the main sewer pumping station, including all design, construction and other costs related thereto, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Salois noted that the Capital Outlay Committee voted unanimously to recommend this Article. The funding source will be Water/Sewer Retained Earnings.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise, transfer and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to purchase a 4 x 4 water truck with plow and electric lift gate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Salois noted that the Capital Outlay Committed voted unanimously to recommend this Article. The funding source will be 1/3 Free Cash, 2/3 Water/Sewer Retained Earnings.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise, transfer and appropriate the sum of \$38,000 to purchase a 2014 – F150 4-wheel drive pick-up truck, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Salois noted that the Capital Outlay Committee voted unanimously to recommend this Article. The funding source will be Free Cash.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to extend its prior authorization pursuant to Clause 56 of G.L. c. 59, Section 5, authorizing the Board of Assessors to exempt up to 100% of real & personal property taxes assessed to Massachusetts National Guardsmen and Reservists for any fiscal year in which they are deployed on active duty overseas, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 6-2.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to accept the following Economic Development Committee (EDC) By-Law, or taken any other action in relation thereto. (Please refer to Chapter 34 Economic Development Committee).

DISCUSSION: None.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to RECOMMEND this Article. There was no discussion and the vote was 5-2 with Mr. DeLeo recusing himself.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money to the Stabilization Fun, or take any other action in relation thereto.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard article.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, not to recommend this Article. Mr. Watson felt it was the policy of the Town to raise the taxes by the maximum amount and is one of the reasons why the tax rate goes up. A motion was made by Mr. Salois, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to reconsider the vote on Article 32. There was no further discussion and the vote was 5-3 to RECOMMEND this Article.

6: GOOD AND WELFARE FOR THE PUBLIC:

None.

7. GOOD AND WELFARE FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. DeLeo noted that Blackstone has a systemic problem with the way the whole budget is decided. The revenue should be the first consideration and then the expense part will have to be worked out, but Blackstone has always done this backwards. Correcting this process should be discussed at the beginning of the fiscal year, not the end.

Mr. Watson stated that if you do not put the money in the Stabilization Account, when the tax assessors do the paperwork, the requirements are less, the amount of the levy is less and the tax rate goes down.

8: NEXT SCHEDULED FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:

Special/Annual Town Meeting – May 27, 2014

9. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ms. Nicoloro, seconded by Mr. Belisle, to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Boucher  
Recording Secretary

T-05-14-14

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Finance Committee Members  
Town Clerk