

TOWN OF MILLVILLE
RESULTS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021

MILLVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

PRESENT WERE

Board of Selectmen: Andrew Alward, Jennifer Gill, Adrienne Pettit, Todd Trottier

Finance Committee: Aubrey Buono, Gary Gill, Brian Pacheco, Angela Prizio, Ken Tubman

Town Administrator: Peter Caruso

Town Counsel: Brian Riley

Town Moderator: Jackie Lima

Town Clerk: Diane Lockwood

Sixty-two (62) Registered voters were present, which is 2% of the voter population.

ARTICLE 1. MONETARY INCREASES.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize that any motion or amendment to increase any monetary articles or line items as recommended by the Finance Committee, presented at this Town Meeting, shall be Out of Order unless such motion or amendment states the source of funding as being from available free cash, or the line item, article, or other funding source that will be reduced by the same amount; or take any other action in relation thereto. *Submitted by: Finance Committee*

Explanation: This article requires that any individual making or amending a motion, which will increase any budget line item that has not been recommended by the Finance Committee, must also provide the source of funding for said increase.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0

Finance Recommend: 5-0

A motion was made and duly seconded to authorize that any motion or amendment to increase any monetary articles or line items as recommended by the Finance Committee, presented at this Town Meeting, shall be Out of Order unless such motion or amendment states the source of funding as being from available free cash, or the line item, article, or other funding sources that will be reduced by the same amount.

Moderator declared: Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 2. BILLS OF PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c.44, §64 to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary for the purpose of paying outstanding bills from prior fiscal years, and/or take any other action relative thereto. ***Submitted by: Town Accountant***

Explanation: This annual article seeks authorization Town Meeting authorization to pay prior years' bills, if any, which is required pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §64. Passage of this article requires a 4/5th's majority.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0

Finance Recommend: 5-0

A motion was made and duly seconded that the town take no action on this article.

Moderator declared a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 3. SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum of monies from the Free Cash or available funds to fund deficits incurred with the Snow/Ice budget per M.G.L. Chapter 44; Section 31D; or take any other action in relation thereto. ***Submitted by: Finance Committee & Highway Surveyor***

Explanation: This annual article seeks a transfer from Free Cash or other available funds, including General Stabilization funds, in order to pay the deficit in the Snow/Ice account, which can be lawfully overspent pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0

Finance Recommend: 5-0

A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$73,648.70 from the General Stabilization Fund to fund the deficit incurred with the Snow/Ice budget per MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D.

Moderator declared a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority vote.

ARTICLE 4. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – CHAPTER 90.

To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend such sum or sums of money allotted or to be allotted to the Town from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 90 or under any other state roadway reimbursement programs for fiscal year 2022, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division for such purposes; and, further, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in anticipation of 100% reimbursement of said amounts; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Highway Surveyor & Finance Committee

Explanation: This is an annual article, which allows the Town to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer funds in anticipation of reimbursement revenues from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for road repair assistance under M.G.L. c.90, said funds not to exceed the Town's apportionment.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0

Finance Recommend: 5-0

A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to accept and expend such sum or sums of money allotted or to be allotted to the Town from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of MGL Chapter 90 or under any other state roadway reimbursement programs for the fiscal year 2022, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division for such purposes: and, further, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in anticipation of 100% reimbursement of said amounts.

Moderator declared a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 5. CABLE LICENSE FEES.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the PEG Access and Cable Related Funds account the sum of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$7,500.00)** to forward to the Superintendent of Schools of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District for use by the Director of Library and Media Services to enhance the curriculum offerings that are available in the School District; or take any other action in relation thereto. ***Submitted by: Board of Selectmen and Cable Advisory Committee***

Explanation: This is an annual article, which allows the Town to forward a certain sum of money from fees collected pursuant to the Town's Cable Franchise License Agreement with Charter Communications to the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District. A similar arrangement exists with the Town of Blackstone as well.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0

Finance Recommend: 5-0

A motion was made and duly seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the PEG Access and Cable Related Funds account the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$7,500.00) to be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District for use by the Director of Library and Media Services to enhance the curriculum offerings that are available in the School District.

Moderator declared a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 6. FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, to borrow, or to transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to defray Town expenses for all departments, including debt and interest and compensation for Town Officers, and to provide for the Reserve Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022; or take any other action in relation thereto. *Submitted by: Town Administrator, Town Accountant & Finance Committee*

Explanation: This annual article provides for all tax-supported Town operations and activities including the operating budgets of the schools and general government. Please see the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Document.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0

Finance Recommend: 5-0

A motion was made and duly seconded the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ **6,642,611** as deemed necessary to defray Town expenses for all departments, including debt and interest and compensation for Town Officers, and to provide for the Reserve Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, with such appropriation to be funded as follows: Raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,594,911, and to transfer the sum of \$40,820 from the Septic Title V account, and to transfer the sum of \$6,880 from the General Stabilization Fund, for a total of \$6,642,611 as set forth in the budget document presented to Town Meeting.

Moderator declared motion passes with a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote.

ARTICLE 7. CAPITAL ITEMS - FIRE DEPARTMENT TURNOUT GEAR

To see if the town would vote to appropriate \$16,000 to purchase new Fire Department Turnout Gear from the Public Safety Stabilization fund. *Submitted by: Capital Program Committee*

Explanation: The fire department periodically has to replace the Turnout Gear (firefighting safety apparel) for its members. This is to replace 4 outdated sets of gear. It is the recommendation of the Capital Program Committee to allocate these funds to ensure the Fire Department has the equipment they need to maintain the efficient daily operation of the department. This requires a 2/3rd's vote.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0 Finance Recommend: 5-0 Capital Recommend: 6-0

A motion was made and duly seconded that the town vote to appropriate \$16,000 to purchase new Fire Department Turnout Gear from the Public Safety Stabilization fund.

Moderator declared a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 8. CAPITAL ITEMS – SENIOR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the town would vote to appropriate \$17,500 to fund facility improvements at the Senior Center from the Capital Stabilization fund. *Submitted by: Capital Program Committee*

Explanation: The Senior Center has bundled a number of critical and necessary improvements to its facility for safety and general facility repair and maintenance upgrade purposes, including specifically identified building repairs, carpeting and flooring, and lighting. It is the recommendation of the Capital Program Committee to allocate these funds to ensure the Senior Center has the resources they need to maintain the facility used for the efficient daily operation of the department. This requires a 2/3rd's vote.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0 Finance Recommend: 5-0 Capital Recommend: 6-0

A motion was made and duly seconded that the town vote to appropriate \$17,500 to fund facility improvements at the Senior Center from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Moderator declared a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 9. CAPITAL ITEMS – LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the town would vote to appropriate \$30,000 to fund facility improvements at the Library from the Capital Stabilization fund. *Submitted by: Capital Program Committee*

Explanation: The Library also has bundled a number of critical and necessary improvements to its facility for safety and general facility repair and maintenance upgrade purposes, including specifically identified building repairs and improved storage. At the time this Article was approved and submitted it included \$13,450 for the shared cost of a furnace replacement included in a pending Green Community Grant application. The Library furnace portion of the grant was subsequently withdrawn so a revised capital request of \$16,550 will be made at Town Meeting. It is the recommendation of the Capital Program Committee to allocate these funds to ensure the Library has the resources they need to maintain the facility used for the efficient daily operation of the department. This requires a 2/3rd's vote.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0 Finance Recommend: 5-0 Capital Recommend: 5-0

A motion was made and duly seconded that the town vote to appropriate \$16,550 to fund facility improvements at the Library from the Capital Stabilization fund.

Moderator declared a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote.

ARTICLE 10. BMR SCHOOL COMMITTEE STIPENDS

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 annual amount of said compensation at \$1500.00 per member and \$1800.00 for the Chairman, or take any other action in relation thereto. *Submitted by: Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee*

Explanation from BMR District School Committee: This article seeks to accept the compensation, as defined, to be provided to members of the Regional School District Committee.

Selectmen Recommend: 1-2 Finance Recommend: 4-1

A motion was made and duly seconded that the town 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 annual amount of said compensation at \$1500.00 per member and \$1800.00 for the Chairman.

Moderator declared the vote passed.

ARTICLE 11. TOWN BYLAW – ELECTIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaw, Chapter 30, §30-1. A. Annual Town Elections as follows, with deleted terms indicated as strike through and new terms underlined, or take any action relative thereto:

Town Elections. The Annual Town Election for all purposes except Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Committee Member Elections shall be held on the first Monday in the month of ~~April~~ June of each year. ***Submitted by: Board of Selectmen***

Explanation: This article changes the date of non-school committee elections to take place after Annual Town Meeting (ATM). It is believed that voters being asked to vote on major capital items and other ballot box issues will be better informed to make decisions after capital, budgetary, and other warrant article issues have been explained and deliberated on by voters at ATM. It is also believed that newly elected officials will be better informed and able to contribute to their roles after ATM rather than being thrust into and having to take “ownership” of the various often-time complex budgetary and regulatory decisions needing to be made leading up to ATM.

Selectmen Recommend: 1-2

A motion was made and duly seconded that this article be struck from the Warrant.

Moderator declared that the motion to strike Article 11 passed.

ARTICLE 12. CABLE APPROPRIATIONS

To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$25,000 from the Peg Access and Cable Fund available fund balance to fund the cable operation for FY2022, starting July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 under the direction of the Cable Coordinator said funds to be spent on professional wages in the amount of \$8,000, part time wages \$12,000 and expenses \$5,000. ***Submitted by: Town Accountant and Cable Advisory Committee***

Explanation: This article appropriates sufficient amounts to fund the operations of the Cable Coordinator and team from funds collected in the Peg Access and Cable Fund pursuant to the Town’s Cable Franchise License Agreement with Charter Communications.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0

Finance Recommend: 5-0

A motion was made and duly seconded that the town vote to appropriate \$25,000 from the Peg Access and Cable Fund available fund balance to fund the cable operation for FY2022, starting July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 under the direction of the Cable Coordinator said funds to be spent on professional wages in the amount of \$8,000, part time wages \$12,000 and expenses \$5,000.

Moderator declared a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 13. CITIZENS' PETITION ARTICLE

To see if the town would vote to appropriate \$50,000 to purchase a new police cruiser from the Public Safety Stabilization Fund. *Submitted by: Citizens' Petition*

Explanation: This article provides funding for replacement of the oldest of four police cruisers used daily. The one being replaced has nearly 100,000 miles on it and is over 6 years old. It is the recommendation of the Capital Program Committee that the Town plans to purchase a new police car every 2 years which will enable the Police Department to manage the usage across the fleet of police cars so that each is replaced with approximately 100,000 miles. Funding for this is anticipated to substantially come from prior year capital appropriations no longer needed, including \$19,372 previously set aside for cruiser purchase needs, \$10,000 previously set aside for Taser purchase needs, and \$20,000 previously set aside for ambulance purchase needs.

Selectmen Recommend: 3-0 Finance Recommend: 0-5 Capital Recommend: 4-1

A motion was made and duly seconded that the town vote to appropriate \$49,372 to purchase a new police cruiser from the reserve for continuing appropriations fund related to capital purchases no longer needed, including \$19,372 previously set aside for police cruiser purchase needs, \$10,000 previously set aside for Taser purchase needs, and \$20,000 previously set aside for ambulance purchase needs.

Moderator declared the vote passed.

A motion was made and duly seconded to dissolve the Warrant. The moderator declared the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



**Diane C. Lockwood
Town Clerk**