

FISCAL CENTS
By Paul Muller
Finance Committee Chairman

On October 17 a special town meeting will be held at the Blackstone Millville High School in the Molony-Sullivan auditorium. There are six warrant articles being presented for consideration.

Articles 1 and 5 are for emergency generators. The town hall generator requires replacement. The water department is requesting a back up generator for the two most productive water wells in Blackstone.

Article 2 and 3 is asking the voters to transfer money from expenses to salaries to fund an additional position for the newly created recycling department. This program is new to the town and was created to control the cost of waste disposal in Blackstone. In addition, the recycling program is generating additional revenue to make itself self-sufficient. As with many new start up businesses, the recycling center has to reallocate some of their resources. This requires additional manpower to handle the amount of recyclables in town and some surrounding communities. Their plan is to add one additional staff member and pay for this position by transferring the money from their expense budget.

Article 4 is to pay medical expenses for an injured officer. Most municipalities are not covered by Worker's Compensation, but are self-insured. As long as the officer is out on medical disability, the town will need to pay disability expenses.

Article 6 is to cover the town's cost of legal expenses for the tax abatement filed by the ANP power plant in Blackstone.

The finance committee will meet on Monday, September 19 to review the articles, to find the funding sources and to find out if there would be any repercussions by passing the articles. On September 26, we will hold a public hearing to discuss these articles and to hear from our townspeople on their concerns and comments. At the end of the meeting, we will make our recommendations and bring these recommendations to the special town meeting on October 17. We hope to see you there!