

TOWN OF BENTON
MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 10, 2017 & March 11, 2017

To Richard Lawrence, a resident of the Town of Benton, in the County of Kennebec and the State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine you are required to notify and warn the voters of said Town of Benton, in said County, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Benton Town Office, in said Town on Friday, the 10th day of March, A.D. 2017 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. local time to act on the following Articles:

Article 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting, and from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

TOWN MEETING opened by Susan E. Rodrigue, Town Clerk at 1:00 PM, March 10, 2017. Nominations for moderator opened. Patrick Turlo nominated, seconded, nominations closed, Patrick Turlo elected by vote of 4-1 and was sworn in. Mr. Turlo appointed David E. Bernier and Karleen Proctor as Deputy Moderators.

Article 2. To elect all town officers to be elected by written secret ballot as described in Section 38 to 52 inclusive of Chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes of 1930, together with Acts additional thereto and amendatory thereof, provisions of which were adopted by vote of the Town, Article 8, at the regular meeting held at the Benton Grange Hall on the 11th day of March, A.D. 1935.

ELECTION RESULTS:

<u><i>Position</i></u>	<u><i>Candidate</i></u>	<u><i>Votes</i></u>	<u><i>Write Ins</i></u>	<u><i>Blanks</i></u>
<i>Selectman</i>	<i>Melissa Patterson</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Road Commissioner</i>	<i>Leroy Littlefield</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>School Board</i>	<i>None</i>		<i>23*</i>	<i>30</i>

**** Write Ins***

<i>Sarah Kate Flood- Gerow</i>	<i>9 (Elected School Board)</i>
<i>June Caron</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Darcy Dow</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5 with 1 vote each</i>	

And Saturday, the 11th of March, A.D. 2017 to meet at the Benton Grange Hall, in said Town, at 10:00 a.m. local time, to act on the following articles, to wit:

Deputy Moderator David E. Bernier sworn in by Patrick A. Turlo, Moderator. Mr. Bernier administered oaths to newly-elected Melissa Patterson.

Article 3. To see if the voters of the Town will authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town through non-payment of taxes thereon, subject to the advertising of same for three consecutive days in a local paper, on terms such as they deem advisable and to execute quitclaim deeds for such property; except, the Board of Selectman may allow the immediate previous owners or heirs (one generation) to recover such property on the payment of all taxes and assessments including personal property taxes and sewer assessments past due plus interest and costs.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on taxes remaining unpaid after a certain date; also to set the date and rate of interest.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes. September 30th and 7%.
(same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 5. To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for services of the Town Clerk and Registrar for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,500 (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 6. To see what hourly rate the Town will vote to pay the Town Clerk for services as Town Clerk and Registrar for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$800, same as Road Commissioner, plus \$21.00 per hour, and the current federal rate for mileage/car expense when on Town business, and that all fees collected by the Town Clerk be retained by the Town.

(same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 7. To see what salary the Town will vote to pay the Tax collector, Excise tax Collector, and Treasurer for services as Town Officer for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$14,500.00 for the combined office of Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Excise Tax Collector, plus the current federal rate for mileage/car expense when on Town business and that all fees collected be retained by the town. (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 8. To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the (3) Office Personnel for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$83,009.00 for up to 35 hours for (2) people per week for 52 weeks and up to 20 hours per week for the third person (\$19.07 for the Senior Office Person and \$18.04 per hour for the 1st Junior Office staff and \$17.00 per hour for the 2nd Junior Office person) plus paid holidays, vacation and other paid leave as per the Town of Benton Personnel Policy.

Office Personnel will have the choice to use earned vacation hours or to be reimbursed for these hours at each person's hire anniversary date. The expense for any days so used is to be paid from Excise Tax receipts. Employees will have the option to roll over a maximum of 60 accumulated sick days. Such days will not be reimbursed if the employee resigns or is terminated. A doctor's note will be required after 3 days of missed employment in order to receive paid sick leave benefits.

New hire rates and salary details are contained in the Town of Benton Personnel Policy. Upon filling in for Treasurer, Town Clerk and/or Office Staff positions, said person will receive pay commensurate with Senior Office Staff wage.

(\$74,178.31 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 9. To see what salary the Town will vote to pay the Selectmen for their services for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,100.00 for Chairperson; \$6,000.00 each for the other 2 selectperson(s), plus current federal rate for mileage/car expense when on Town business, and meal expense when out of Town on business for all three.

(same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to join with other participating municipal and quasi-municipal employers in a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement for the provision of employee health benefits, as authorized by 24-A M.R.S.A.~6601et seq., said Arrangement to be known as the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust ("Health Trust"); and for that purpose and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements among participating employers, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Participation Agreement on behalf of the Town and take whatever other actions may be necessary. The authority granted herein shall continue until revoked.

Budget Committee recommends: Yes

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enroll the (3) Office Personnel in the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust, and raise and appropriate a sum of money to fund participation in the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust.

Budget Committee recommends: \$75,057.36

MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED.

Motion to amend family plan to employee only plan. \$33,000 for three employees.

WITHDRAWN

Motion to amend as follows: Employee only, 2 full time and 1 half time employee at half funding \$27,500.

SECONDED. DEFEATED.

by hand vote.

Motion to move the question.

SECONDED. DEFEATED

by hand vote

Motion to amend to family plan with Town contributing 80% and Employee contributing 20%. \$60,464.

SECONDED. DEFEATED

by hand vote.

Motion to amend by reducing funding amount to \$60,000 for insurance.

SECONDED.

After much discussion, motion made to move the question.

SECONDED. PASSED.

by hand vote.

Article as amended (\$60,000) voted on.

PASSED.

by hand vote

Article 12. To see what salary the Town will vote to pay the Road Commissioner for services as a Town Officer for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$800.00 plus State Highway Crew Supervisor II wages for actual hours worked, plus the current federal rate for mileage/car expense when on Town business. (same as last year)

MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED

by hand vote.

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay Town Officers for the ensuing year (Treasurer/Tax Collector, Selectmen, and Road Commissioner only.)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$34,400.00.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for services for Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$15,900.00 plus current federal rate for mileage/car expense when on Town business and that all fees collected by the officer be turned in to the Town. (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 15. To see what rate the Town will vote to pay for labor performed on the highways and bridges by men, trucks, and equipment for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: Same as State wages, except Laborer's wage of \$15.90 per hour, and that all be paid from excise tax receipts. (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to pay for Winter Roads Maintenance, including the expense of the contract for snowplowing and sanding including the stockpiling of sand, and for the removal of snow from Town fire hydrants from the excise receipts, for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a specified sum of money for the Town's share of Social Security/Medicare costs for covered employees for the ensuing year, any excess to be taken from surplus.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$16,000.00 (\$12,330 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Unemployment Compensation coverage for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,000.00 (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum for the repair and summer maintenance of the Town highways for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$55,000 to be taken from excise tax receipts plus other receipts from State highway aid. (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a specified sum to be expended for paving the Town roads in the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$128,000 to be taken from excise tax and block grant (URIP) receipts.

(\$125,323 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a specified amount toward the support of the Police Athletic League (P.A.L.), which is open to Benton youngsters, and in which many of them participate. (P.A.L. requests \$14,000.00)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$14,000.00 (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,605.00 for repair and restoration of the Benton PAL field, as requested by PAL.

Budget Committee recommends: Yes, from TIF funds

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to apply all taxes or fees paid to the oldest outstanding real estate, property taxes, or sewer fees owed by that taxpayer.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 24. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to hire qualified persons or firms to keep the Town maps and property valuations updated as of April 1, cost to be taken from general government accounts.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 25. To see if the voters of the Town wish to publish in the Annual Report the valuations and tax assessed thereon of all properties in Town.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a specified sum of money for the Animal Control Officer, also to set the rate of pay.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,000.00; hourly rate of pay same as road commissioner, plus the current federal rate for mileage/car expense when on Town business. (\$5909 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 27. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for general government expenses of the Town for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: Any amount needed to be taken from surplus.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a specified sum of money for municipal planning and appeals for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,500.00, each member to be paid \$20.00 for each meeting attended, including special meetings, on-site inspections, workshops and seminars; expenses for said seminar and workshops shall include the current federal rate for mileage/car expenses when conducting travel for said seminars and workshop. No more than \$500.00 shall be expended for seminars and workshops without prior approval from the Selectmen. (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to be added to the Parks and Recreation Fund established in 1989, and authorize use of the fund by the Park and Veterans Committee with the approval of the Selectmen.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,000 from surplus for tree work and general maintenance. (\$1,752 expended last year)

***Motion to amend to use money from TIF.
SECONDED, PASSED. By hand vote.***

Vote as amended.

MOVED. SECONDED. PASSED. By hand vote.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectman under Maine Statutes, Chapter 12, Section 6131 and amendments thereto, to promulgate such regulations compatible with the General Laws of the State, to govern the time when and the manner in which river herring shall be taken therein.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell surplus river herring for one or more years, or take any action relative to the same.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for conceptual design of a fish harvesting facility near the Benton Falls fish lift in order to make harvesting of river herring easier and more effective.

Budget Committee recommends: Yes, \$11,000.00 from TIF fund

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to endorse the Alewife Festival, authorize the Treasurer to receive donations for this purpose and appropriate such donations for use of the Alewife Festival Committee, upon proper disbursement warrants by the Selectboard.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum to be used for the Benton Alewife Festival.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes, \$1,800 from TIF revenue.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 35. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for membership in the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,773.00, from TIF revenue.

(\$3,608 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$500 to support fish restoration in Outlet Stream, recognizing that a million more spawning alewives in the Sebasticook River may enhance our income in future years.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes, from TIF revenue

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 37. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for membership in the Maine Municipal Association.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,215.00.

(\$3016 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 38. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for street lighting this year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$17,000.00. (\$17,388 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 39. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for hydrant rental for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$34,000.00 (\$32,100 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum to pay for fire protection and rescue service.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes, raise \$180,000 and appropriate any additional needed from surplus. (\$172,347.00 expended last year).

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum to pay for fire and rescue dispatching services from the Somerset County Safety Answering Point call handling agreement (PSAP).

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,600.00 (\$3,579.00 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum to pay for Law Enforcement Dispatch Services provided by the Maine Department of Public Safety.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$19,000.00.

Selectmen recommend: amount needed be appropriated from Excise Tax receipts. (\$7,880.00 expended last year, for half year).

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 43. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Insurance, including Worker's Compensation, Public Officials' Liability, and Property & Casualty Insurance.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$13,000, plus any additional needed to be taken from general government accounts. (\$11,436 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 44. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay Benton's assessment from the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: Amount needed to be taken from general government accounts.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a specified sum of money for maintenance of existing sewer lines.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$13,000 (\$5,513 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 46. Shall an amendment to the "Public and Private Sewer and Drains Ordinance" as written below be enacted?

Article IV, Section 1, subparagraph (a). Beginning January 1, 2018, any users who have connected their roof drains, perimeter drains, yard drains or sump pumps to the sanitary sewer system will be assessed an inflow fee of \$30.00 per quarter. Users will contact the Town for a "verification inspection" when they can prove they are disconnected, or pay the fee if they do not want to disconnect. Upon application to the Town for an inspection, all fees will be suspended pending an inspection.

Budget Committee recommends: Leave to the action of the meeting.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum for improving and maintaining the office computer system.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,000 from excise tax receipts and appropriate \$3,000 from general funds. (\$13,347 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 48. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the disposal of solid waste for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$100,000, plus \$5,000 from Excise Tax Receipts. (\$89,393 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 49. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the support of the poor for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$11,000.00. (\$405.00 expended last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 50. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to honor the graves of all War Veterans who are buried in the Town of Benton for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$300.00 to the organization placing flags.
(same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 51. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay for the care of cemeteries, under the direction of the Cemetery Committee, for the ensuing year.
Budget Committee Recommends: \$12,000.00 including \$500 from cemetery trust fund interest and that cemetery work be put out to bid if necessary.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 52. To see if the Town will vote to accept any Trust Funds presented for the perpetual care of the cemetery lots within the Town.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 53. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money toward the 2017 operating cost of the animal shelter.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,988.72 to be taken from surplus.
(\$3995.82 last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 54. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum to have shade trees and brush which are within the bounds of the Town roads sprayed, pruned, maintained, removed or replaced for the control of insects or disease, or for safety reasons should it be advisable.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$8,000 from excise tax receipts.
(same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to receive payment of taxes prior to the Tax Commitment.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 56. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise or appropriate to pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.

Selectmen recommend: Any amount needed from surplus.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 57. To see if the Town will vote to pay interest on abatements for overpayment of taxes at the rate of 4.75% per annum, or lowest legal rate, after April 1, 2017.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 58. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a specified sum of money to be added to the Capital Improvement Fund already established.

Budget Committee Recommends: Raise \$10,000.00 (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 59. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to take any overdrafts incurred in the ensuing year, up to 5% of last year's budget by account, from surplus.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 60. To see what sum the Town will vote to apply to the budget from surplus in order to maintain or reduce the tax rate for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$200,000.00. (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 61. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed three twelfths (3/12) of the budget amount in each budget category of the 2017 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2018 to the 2018 Annual Town meeting.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 62. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. sec 2953.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 63. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 50% of the money received from the registration of snowmobiles to snowmobile club(s) in Benton for the purpose of maintaining their trails, to be open for public use, and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with any such club(s), under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable for that purpose.

Budget committee Recommends: Yes. (same as last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 64. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to supplement the interest on the Guy Patterson Memorial Trust Athletic Scholarship which is given each year to a Lawrence High School student who is a resident of Benton.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 65. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate up to \$2,000 to supplement the interest on the Poulin Trust Scholarship which is given each year to a Lawrence High School student who is a resident of Benton.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 66. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate up to \$200 to supplement the interest on the Pillsbury Trust Scholarship which is given each year to a Lawrence Junior High School student who is a resident of Benton.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 67. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$750 for the Sgt. Brian L. Buker Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the town meeting

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Motion to combine Articles 68 - 88 and pass en masse.

***SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Motion to pass/accept combined Articles 68 - 88.

***SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 68. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$300 as requested by the Seabasticook Regional Land Trust.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the town meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 69. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,255 as requested by the board of the Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(\$5,000 last year)

Article 70. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the Benton Family Holiday Assistance Program's Christmas Gifts for the Needy Fund.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 71. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$2,200 as requested by the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program in support of Child Development Day Care - Head Start.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of Town Meeting. (same as last year)

Article 72. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$850.00 as requested for the American Red Cross.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 73. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$400 as requested by the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program Transportation Services.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(\$200 last year)

Article 74. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 as requested by the Family Violence Project.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(\$4,025 as last year)

Article 75. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$3,500 as requested by Kennebec Behavioral Health.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 76. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1366.00 as requested by the Children's Center (Early Intervention & Family Support).

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(\$1390.50 last year)

Article 77. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,709 as requested by Spectrum Generations, the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to action of Town Meeting. (same as last year)

Article 78. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 1,025 as requested by Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 79. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(\$1,000.00 last year)

Article 80. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$200 for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Kennebec Valley.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 81. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500 as requested by the Boys and Girls Club & YMCA Camp Tracy.

Budget Committee Recommends: Raise \$1,500 and appropriate up to \$4,000 to pay for Benton resident children, \$60 per child. (same as last year)

Article 82. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$927 as requested by Crisis and Counseling Center.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(\$1,517 last year)

Article 83. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$155 as requested by Community Health and Counseling Services.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(\$215 last year)

Article 84. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 as requested by United Cerebral Palsy of Northeast Maine.

Selectmen Recommend: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 85. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 as requested by Kennebec-Messalonskee Trails.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting, from TIF funds (same as last year)

Article 86. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$955.50 as requested by the Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(Last year's request \$956.20)

Article 87. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$200 as requested by the Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 88. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$683 as requested by The Lifeflight Foundation.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.
(same as last year)

Article 89. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$500 as requested by The Health Equity Alliance.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting. (new request)

***MOVED as written. SECONDED. DEFEATED.
by hand vote.***

Article 90. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for the Library Fund to support our residents' use of any area library.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$2,200 to provide \$40 per household toward privileges at any area library. (expended \$1,900 last year)

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 91. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$457,073.00 established for the Town of Benton by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. [Written ballot required by law]

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

***MOVED. SECONDED
VOTED on by WRITTEN BALLOT. YES-15; NO-2. PASSED.***

Article 92. To see what sum the Town will vote to pay the deputy moderator for services at the meeting.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$150.00 to be taken from surplus.

***MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

***MOTION TO ADJOURN. SECONDED. PASSED.
by hand vote.***

The polls were opened Friday, the 10th day of March 2017, at the Benton Town Office from 1:00 PM and continued open until 6:00 PM in the evening when they were closed. The absentee ballots were opened at 2:00 PM. The business meeting opens at 10:00 AM on Saturday, the 11th day of March 2017.

Attested as a True Copy.

Susan Rodrigue, Town Clerk.

SELECTMEN OF BENTON

Daniel Chamberlain

Melissa Patterson

Robin Cyr