



## Town of Baldwin, Maine Annual Town Meeting ~ March 14, 2015

### Meeting Minutes

To Brenda Bliss, a resident of the Town of Baldwin, in the County of Cumberland:

#### **GREETINGS:**

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said Town of Baldwin qualified by law to vote in said town affairs, to assemble at the Consolidated School, Baldwin in said town on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015 at eight o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following articles to wit :

#### **Article 1:**

To choose or elect a moderator to preside at the said meeting.

***David Strock was chosen to moderate the meeting.***

#### **Article 2:**

To elect by secret ballot the following Town officers:

- One Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor (3 year term)
- One Road Commissioner (3 year term)
- One School Board Director (3 year term)

**Polls will close at 12:30 pm. Annual meeting will reconvene at 1:00 pm or shortly thereafter to act on the remaining articles.**

***Votes were tallied as follows: Selectmen - Robert Flint 109 votes  
Road Commissioner – Brian Anderson 108 votes  
MSAD #55 – Betty Lawrence – 100 votes***

***Non residents were able to speak. Bill Diamond, State Representative spoke and introduced himself briefly and indicated there would be a public meeting the first of April in Baldwin. Our new selectmen's assistant was introduced, Danielle Taylor. Gary McNeil also spoke of the dedication of Arvilla Wentworth and John Sanborn. Gary presented a certificate and plaque to Marilyn Dolloff and the Women's Auxiliary for their service.***

#### **Article 3:**

To see if the Town will vote to accept, or act upon the report of its Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor, Clerk and Treasurer, and other town officers of the last year.

***Norman Blake spoke of the omission of part of the Planning Board's Report.  
Voted to accept.***

## **OFFICE AND TAXES WARRANT ARTICLES:**

### **Article 4: Account 02 – CONTINGENT FUND**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for contingent fund consisting of legal fees, interest, supplies, mileage, phone, insurance, Social Security, Workman's Compensation, audits, and operational items not specifically covered by other appropriations.

**Selectmen recommend that \$90,000.00 be raised and appropriated.**

*Article passes.*

### **Article 5:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to pay the Town Officers for the ensuing year

#### **Recommended Rate for 2015:**

- A. Selectmen annual stipend – to be determined
- B. Town Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector \$16.00 per hour (combined)
- C. Road Commissioner \$18.00 per hour

*Joe Pierce motions to pay first selectman \$10,000.00 and the other two selectmen \$8,000.00 annually. Gary McNeil spoke that Olin Thomas be first selectmen as he is not always able to be in the office. Joe Pierce objects to specify a particular selectmen.*

*Allan Dolloff inquired "does it include mileage" answer is no.*

*Ron Parker asked "why is there an increase in selectmen's pay?" Gary McNeil responded by implicating there are more hours.*

*Article passes.*

### **Article 6: Account 01 – OFFICE COMPENSATION**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance for Office Compensation for the ensuing year.

*Article passed.*

### **Article 7: Account 02-05 – EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate 80% of the cost of health insurance for full time Town employees. (Estimated cost for three employees \$21,600.00).

*Article passed.*

### **Article 8:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from excise tax into following accounts:

**Selectmen recommend:**

- \$30,000.00 to the Equipment Purchasing Fund (Account 61-07)
- \$15,000.00 to the Municipal Fire Fund (Account 61-06)
- the remaining balance of excise monies to Fund Balance

*Article passed.*

**Article 9:**

To see if the Town will vote to instruct or authorize the Selectmen to hire sums of money as necessary to pay the current expenses of the Town for the ensuing year, these loans made in anticipation of 2015 taxes.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 10:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town to sell or dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quit-claim deeds for such property.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 11:**

To see if the Town will fix a rate of interest to be charged on taxes unpaid after said date. Recommend that 7% per year or part there of beginning 60 days after commitment to tax collector.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 12:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budget amount in each budget category of the Baldwin annual budget during the period from January 1, 2016 to the March Annual Town Meeting.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 13:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of town - owned personal property under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable. (Bid process to be used when deemed advisable.)

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

***Brent Libby motioned to strike out the parenthesis part of the article. Motion to amend fails.***  
***Article passes as read.***

**Article 14:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. 506.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 15:**

To see if the Town will vote to have the Tax Collector apply money to back taxes instead of current taxes if back taxes are owed.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 16: Account 85-03 – Revaluation Fund**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate towards a revaluation fund.

**Selectmen recommend that \$5,000.00 be raised and appropriated.**

*Article passed.*

**SERVICES:**

**Article 17: Account 15-01 – SOLID WASTE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$72,000.00 for the Solid Waste Account.

**Selectmen recommend passage of article.**

*Norma Haines asked “why did this go down?” Everything is going good.*

*Article passed.*

**Article 18:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen acting as representatives for the Town of Baldwin on the Tri-Town Waste Facility Board to enter into a three to five year finance agreement to procure a \$53,000.00 loan for the purpose of purchasing a new truck for the Transfer Station. This truck would be purchased and titled in the Tri-Town Waste Facility name and be owned by all three towns equally. The procurement of the loan and purchase of the truck would only take place if all three towns voted in favor of the agreement. The first payment would be due one year from the date of the loan procurement.

*Jeremy Miller asked if it was our share? Selectmen respond indicating yes, just our share. Glen Haines asked if it was replacing a truck? Yes it is. Estimated cost of repairs? No, we don't have a list. What is the estimated payment per year? Maybe \$8,000.00. Article passed.*

**Article 19: Account 15-10 – TRI-TOWN EQUIPMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Tri-Town Waste Reserve account and authorize the Selectmen to withdraw funds from the reserve as needed for capital expenses at the Tri-Town Waste Disposal Facility.

**Selectmen recommend passage of article.**

*Glen Haines wants an explanation. Selectmen respond by indicating plans of a layout are in the office. Need to retire old compactor and other structures. More accessible for public use. Ron Parker asked if we can withdraw and open our own waste facility? The selectmen do not see this as an option. Too much time and money already put into what we already have. Article passed.*

**Article 20: Account 05-30 – STREET LIGHTS**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance for street lights and maintenance account for the ensuing year.

**Selectmen recommend appropriating \$9,000.00 from Fund Balance.**

*Where does the money come from when we overdraw? Chris Backman, Town Auditor explained it comes out of Fund Balance. Article passed.*

**PLANNING/CEO/ACO:**

**Article 21: Account 60-07 – HARVEST HILLS ANIMAL SHELTER**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the handling of Baldwin stray animals at the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter in Fryeburg.

**Selectmen recommend that \$1,525.00 be raised and appropriated.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 22: Account 60-14 – SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL PLANNING**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance a sum of money to the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission for 2015 dues.

**Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission is requesting \$418.00.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 23: Account 65 – PLANNING BOARD**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Planning Board Expense.

**Selectmen recommend raising \$500.00.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 24:**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the changes to the Baldwin Land Use Ordinance dealing with commercial shooting ranges, as presented by the Planning Board.

Planning Board recommends passage of article.

*See attached Ordinance. Norman Blake explains that we had no such ordinance in place and townspeople don't really want a shooting range in our area. Article passed and accepted.*

**CEMETERIES / PARKS / RECREATION:**

**Article 25: Account 30-01 – CEMETERIES**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the restoration and care of the existing cemeteries in Town.

**Selectmen recommend that \$ 9,000.00 be raised and appropriated.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 26: Account 60-13 – SAND POND**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the cost of patrolling Sand Pond Beach during summer months.

**Selectmen recommend that \$ 2,000.00 be raised and appropriated.**

*Why did we not spend much last year? Selectmen respond, the beach will be monitored more this year. Article passed.*

**Article 27: Account 60-01 – SACOPEE VALLEY RECREATION COUNCIL**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance a sum of money for the Sacopee Valley Recreation Council.

**Sacopee Valley Recreation Council is requesting \$3,500.00**

*Article passed.*

**Article 28: Account 40-05 – YOUTH LEAGUE**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Fund Balance for the purpose of supporting the Baseball and Softball Youth League Program for the Town's children.

**Baldwin Youth league is requesting \$ 4,000.00.**

*Article passed.*

**Article 29:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from the snowmobile registration fees and transfer to the Baldwin Belt Burners Snowmobile Club.

**The request is 100 % of the fees be transferred to the Snowmobile Club.**

*Article passed.*

**EMERGENCY:**

**Article 30: Account 72– FIRE COMPANIES**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance and transfer to the three fire companies for expenses and any unexpended balances to be transferred to respective departments capital reserve accounts.

Selectmen recommend appropriating from the Fund Balance \$15,000.00 to each of the three departments. (Total \$45,000.00)

*Jeremy Miller motioned to amend to \$20,000 per station. Larry Lord feels they only need \$15,000. Allan Dolloff explains the need to purchase new equipment. Is there some provisions to over spend money. Chris, the auditor, explains yes, no maximum contribution from state. Keith Stackhouse from West Baldwin Fire Department explains all of their expenditures and equipment purchased. Amendment passes. Article to Appropriate \$60,000 accepted.*

**Article 31: Account 72-04 – TOWN FIRE TRUCK MAINTENANCE**

To see what sum of money the Town will appropriate from Fund Balance for maintenance and repairs on the Town owned fire trucks.

Selectmen recommend appropriating \$10,000.00 from Fund Balance.

*Article passes.*

**Article 32: Account 05-01 & Account 05-05– FIRE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance for Fire Chief compensation (includes Town Fire Chief, and three Assistant Chiefs) for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend \$10,230.00 be transferred from Fund Balance.

*Article passes.*

**Article 33: Account 60-36 – FIREFIGHTER TRAINING**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance a sum of money to pay the Town firefighters for their training hours and calls. The training is required by the Department of Labor.

Selectmen recommend to raise/appropriate \$10,000.00 and appropriate \$10,000 from Fund Balance.

*Move to transfer from Fund Balance \$20,000.00 Article passes.*

**Article 34:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance \$21,000 to replace four expired breathing apparatus with four Scott 4.5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Selectmen recommend \$21,000.00 from Fund Balance.

*Article passes.*

**Article 35: Account 61-05 – STANDISH RESCUE UNIT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the Standish Rescue Unit for services.  
\*see page 59 for Standish Public Safety report.

**Standish Public Safety proposes an amount of \$27,178.80 (based on 142 calls from 2014)**

**Selectmen recommend to raise and appropriate \$16,000.00 and appropriate \$14,000.00 from Fund Balance.**

***Rob Caron from Standish Rescue speaks about experience which is really good! \$30,000 to be raised from taxation. How much money does Baldwin residents pay in subscriptions? Rob responds "we don't have an answer at this time". Article passes.***

**Article 36: Account 60-35 – CUMBERLAND COUNTY DISPATCH**

To see if the Town will vote raise and appropriated the sum of \$9,958.00 to continue our contract for 2015 with Cumberland County Dispatch for dispatching emergency fire and rescue calls.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

***Article passes.***

**Article 37: Account 07 – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance for Emergency Management Fund.

**Selectmen recommend \$2,500.00 to be appropriated from Fund Balance.**

***Article passes.***

**Article 38: Account 12 – FUEL**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a separate fuel account used for the Municipal Road Crew and Fire Trucks.

**Selectmen recommend that \$30,000.00 be raised and appropriated.**

***Article passes.***

**ROADS:**

**Article 39: Account 10-01 – TOWN ROADS**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the care of roads and bridges.

**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend that \$100,000.00 be raised and appropriated.**

***Mr. Fricker asked why the increase? The Road Commissioner is in need of another full time employee which would allow him to do more on the roads and clean up. Article passes.***

**Article 40: Account 75-15 – BACKHOE PAYMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,853.00 for the second payment and interest to Peoples United Bank for the backhoe.



**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 41: Account 10-10 – SNOW REMOVAL**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for snow removal for the ensuing year.

**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend that \$150,000.00 be raised and appropriated.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 42: Account R 01-31 – BLOCK GRANT**

To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to expend monies from Maine Dept. of Transportation Local Road Assistance for hot maintenance resurfacing of Town ways.

**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 43: Account 10-15 – PAVING**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to add to the monies received from Maine Dept. of Transportation Local Road Assistance for the hot top maintenance resurfacing of Town ways.

**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 44: Account 10-20 – TOWN GARAGE**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a Town Garage Maintenance account.

**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend raising \$5,000.00**

*Article passes.*

**Article 45:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to install a water well on the Town garage property for providing a source of water for garage and cemetery usage.

**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend raising \$7,500.00**

***We need a drilled well. Currently we have a dug well. Brian would like to keep the cost down as much as possible. He plans to hook into what is already existing.***

*Article passes.*

**Article 46:**

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 23 M.R.S.A. 2953.

**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend passage of this article.**

**Article 47:**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Order of Discontinuance of a Public Easement pertaining to a portion of the previously abandoned Weeman Road, which was issued by the municipal officers on March 3, 2015, with no damages awarded to any person by reason of discontinuance of said portion of the public easements as stated in the order.

**Selectmen and Road Commissioner recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 48: Account 10-26– RIVER ROAD PROJECT**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance \$5,000 and carry-over the appropriated \$10,000.00 from Fund Balance in 2014 for the ongoing construction on the River Road this fiscal year.

**Selectmen recommend \$15,000.00 to be appropriated from Fund Balance.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 49:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance for the engineering and necessary emergency repair work on Dearborn Road Bridge.

\*see page 50 - 53 for MaineDOT letter condemning the bridge and addressing its poor condition.

**Selectmen recommend \$100,000.00 from Fund Balance.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 50:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to enter into a 10 year or less finance agreement to procure a loan of up to \$90,000 for the replacement of an old town truck that is no longer operable. The dedicated purpose of the truck is for Town road snowplowing and maintenance.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 51:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to enter into a 10 year or less finance agreement to procure a loan of up to \$90,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new truck. The dedicated purpose of the truck is for Town road snowplowing and maintenance.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passes.*

**EDUCATION & PRESERVATION:**

**Article 52: Account 40-01– BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance for the support of the Brown Memorial Library.

**Library Trustees have made a request of \$8,000.00.**

***Our new Librarian was introduced, Tracey Batchelder. Article passes.***

**Article 53:**

To see if the Town will vote to pay the interest on Baldwin School Fund for 2015 to the Baldwin School.

**Selectmen recommend that the interest be paid to the Baldwin School.**

***Norman McKenney would like to change article to give fund amount to a Baldwin graduate next year. Norma Haines recognized Kathy Frost for her dedication to the Baldwin Consolidated School. (Due to the school closing in June the Article fails).***

**Article 54:**

To see if the Town will vote to dedicate all of the franchise fees received from Time Warner Inc. and any grants received through franchise negotiations to TV-2 for the purchase and maintenance of equipment and operating costs.

**Selectmen recommend 100% to TV2.**

***Article passes.***

**Article 55: Account 60-30– BALDWIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the support of the Baldwin Historical Society.

**Baldwin Historical Society is requesting \$2,250.00**

***Larry Lord took the time to recognize Sharon Thomas. Article passes.***

**Article 56:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for restoration of the Veteran's Monument Triangle.

\*see page 61 - 62 for the Soldier's Memorial information.

**Veteran Monument Committee is requesting \$1,000.00**

***Article passes.***

**Article 57: Account 60-08– SACO RIVER CORRIDOR**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance a sum of money toward the support of the Saco River Corridor Commission for its continued water quality monitoring program.

**Saco River Corridor Commission is requesting \$300.00**

*Laurie Downey gives us a report of last years. Article passes.*

**SOCIAL SERVICES:**

**Article 58: Account 60-04– SOUTHERN MAINE AGENCY ON AGING**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance a sum of money for the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging.

**Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging is requesting \$ 3,500.00.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 59: Account 60-06– HOME HEALTH VISITING NURSE**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance a sum of money for the Home Health Visiting Nurses.

**Home Health Visiting Nurses is requesting \$ 3,200.00.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 60: Account 60-02– OPPORTUNITY ALLIANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance a sum of money for Opportunity Alliance.

**Opportunity Alliance is requesting \$ 3,500.00.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 61: Account 25– GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance.

**Selectmen recommend that \$ 25,000.00 to be raised.**

*Article passes.*

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Article 62: To be voted on by Secret Ballot.**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Baldwin 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 this property tax levy limit.

*Article passes.*

**Article 63:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any revenues received, that are not dedicated or otherwise appropriated for other expenses, to reduce the Tax Commitment.

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passed and accepted.*

**Article 64:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$1,050,000.00 to establish and fund the following Reserve Accounts. Any expenditure of \$10,000.00 or more would require a special town meeting.

Road Maintenance Reserve:	\$250,000.00
Tax Stabilization Fund Reserve:	\$250,000.00
Tax Acquired Properties:	\$50,000.00
Contingency Reserve:	\$50,000.00
Town Equipment Reserve:	\$150,000.00
Town Building Reserve:	\$150,000.00
Town Vehicle Reserve:	\$150,000.00
 TOTAL:	 \$1,050,000.00

**Selectmen recommend passage of this article.**

*Article passes.*

**Article 65:** Motion to Adjourn. Adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Town of Baldwin Selectmen -

Jeffrey Sanborn, Gary McNeil, Olin Thomas

Respectfully submitted by Town Clerk, Deborah L. Wakefield

