



## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Town of Baldwin**

**534 Pequawket Trail, West Baldwin, Maine 04091**

**March 12, 2016**

To Brenda L. 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 Town of Baldwin, qualified by law to vote in said town affairs, to assemble at the Baldwin Consolidated School, Baldwin in said town on the 12th day of March 2016 at eight o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following articles to wit.

Art 1. To choose or elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

*David Strock was nominated to moderate the meeting.*

*Becky Stocks and her son spoke about Gary McNeil on how proud and dedicated her father is especially after having a double knee replacement. He will be sadly missed by all. Kurt spoke briefly of the School Committee. He hopes to use the multipurpose room and kitchen by next year in March. Senator Bill Diamond spoke of how diligent the town is doing and making progress. He will post a list of unclaimed money to be viewed by all. A moment of silence was then dedicated in honor of all who have passed in 2015 as well as Dale Locke who was mistakenly omitted from the Town Report. (He was not listed on the State of Maine Report).*

Art 2. To Elect by secret ballot the following Town Officers:

- One Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor (3 yr term)  
Jeffrey Sanborn 125, Mark Wentworth 89
- One Town Clerk, Tax Collector & Treasurer (3 year term)  
Deborah Wakefield 195
- One School Board Director (3 year term)  
Wes Sunderland 189

Polls will close at 12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter to act on the remaining articles.

Art 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.

*Articles passes.*

Art 4. 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, workman's compensation, audits, and operational items not specifically covered by other appropriations. Selectmen recommend that \$120,000.00 be raised and appropriated.

*Article passes \$120,000.00.*

Art 5. BUILDING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for building maintenance consisting of building insurance, phone, internet, electricity, alarm system, and all operational items and repairs pertaining to the building. Selectmen recommend that \$50,000 be raised and appropriated.

*Article passes \$50,000.00.*

Art 6. ELECTED OFFICERS SALARY & WAGES

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

Selectmen annual stipend: Chairman: \$10,000 Select Board: \$8,000

Town Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector \$17.00 per hour (combined)

Road Commissioner \$18.00 per hour

*Allan Dolloff made a motion to amend the Town Clerk's salary to \$18.00 per hour and was seconded. Suzette asked if they can separate the positions? What is the going rate? Bob indicated from MMA it is \$17.00. Norm Blake spoke of how important it is to have Debbie and keeping good people when we have them. He supports the amendment. All in favor of paying officers \$18.00. Article amended and passes to \$18.00 per hour. Chairman \$10,000.00 Select Board \$8,000.00 and the Road Commissioner \$18.00 per hour.*

Art 7. OFFICE COMPENSATION

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

Selectmen recommend that \$120,000.00 be raised and appropriated.

***Article accepted \$120,000.00***

Art 8. 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 four employees \$31,200.00).

***Motion to amend article to no more than 4 employees and seconded. Amendment fails. Motion to limit a max of \$21,600.00 and seconded. Motion to move amendment and seconded. Passes. Amendment fails. Article passes as read.***

Art 9. REVENUES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an estimated \$786,495.00 from the following non-property tax revenues to reduce the tax commitment.

Estimated State Revenue Sharing \$45,000.00

Estimated Homestead Reimbursement \$23,300.00

Estimated BETE Reimbursement \$6,500.00

Municipal Revenues (includes portion of FB) \$711,695.00

***Motion to move as read. Accepted***

Art 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Tax Stabilization Fund to be used to reduce the tax commitment.

***Article accepted.***

Art 11. 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 2016 taxes.

***Article accepted.***

Art 12. TAX-ACQUIRED PROPERTY

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.

***Article accepted.***

Art 13. INTEREST RATE

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.

***Article accepted. Do we have to charge the full 7% (no) it is the State Standard to charge the 7%.***

Art 14. 3/12 BUDGET LIMIT

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, 2017 to the March Annual Town Meeting.

***Article accepted.***

Art 15. DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

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).

***Article accepted.***

Art 16. TAX PREPAYMENTS

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.

***Article accepted.***

Art 17. BACK TAXES

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.

***Article accepted.***

Art 18. 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 be raised and appropriated.

***Article accepted.***

Art 19. TRI-TOWN WASTE OPERATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000 towards Tri-town waste operations.

*Article accepted. \$70,000.00*

Art 20. TRI-TOWN RESERVE ACCOUNT

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.

*Article accepted. \$15,000.00.*

Art 21. TRI-TOWN TRUCK PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,371.00 for the first of five payments on the Tri-Town Waste Truck.

*Article accepted. \$11, 371.00.*

Art 22. RECREATION & CEMETERY ARTICLES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums to cover Recreation and Cemetery Expenses.

Requested: Cemeteries \$9,000.00/Sand Pond \$2,000.00

Sacopee Valley Rec. Council \$3,500.00/Youth League \$4,000.00.

*Motion to amend cemeteries to \$6,000.00. Fails. Article accepted in all recommended amounts.*

Art 23. BALDWIN BELT BURNERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

To see if the Town will vote to dedicate all of 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 accepted.*

Art 24. INGALLS POND

To see if the Town will vote to accept a gift of property (Map 12 Lot 13), from the Francis Small Heritage Trust. The same containing that portion of Ingalls Pond which is on the west side of Rt 113. The property borders Brookfield Renewable Energy's Hiram Dam property on the south, the Saco River on the west, the Town of Hiram on the north, and Rt 113 on the east.

*Kurt Olafsen, Chair of the Committee explains why we should purchase? It would be a benefit to the Town and to the citizen's of Baldwin. It is unbuildable. Further*

*discussion was made between Norman and Laurie. After much discussion Article was accepted.*

Art 25. FIRE COMPANIES

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the three fire companies for expenses and any unexpended balances to be transferred to respective departments capital reserve accounts. Selectmen recommend to raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 to each of the three departments.

*Article accepted. \$60,000.00.*

Art 26. FIRE EQUIPMENT FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Fire Equipment Fund.

*Article accepted. \$15,000.00*

Art 27. FIRE TRUCK MAINTENANCE

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for maintenance and repairs for the fire department vehicles.

*Article accepted. \$10,000.00*

Art 28. FIRE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

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

*An error in the Town Warrant. It is supposed to be 10,227.00 Article accepted.*

Art 29. FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

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

*Article accepted. \$20,000.00*

Art 30. FIREFIGHTER SAFETY GEAR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,500. 00 for a set of four air pacs for breathing apparatus'

*Article accepted. \$22, 500.00*

Art 31. QUAKER BROOK FIRE HYDRANT INSTALLATION  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,992.19 to be applied to the contingency reserve account. This amount was withdrawn from the contingency reserve for the installation of a fire hydrant in Quaker Brook.

*Article accepted. \$8,992.19*

Art 32. 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.

*Article accepted. \$24,000.00*

Art 33. CUMBERLAND COUNTY DISPATCH  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,263.00 to continue our contract for 2016 with Cumberland County Dispatch for dispatching emergency fire and rescue calls.

*Article accepted. \$10,263.00*

Art 34. RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 for the maintenance, repair and purchase of new radios as needed.

*Article accepted. \$8,000.00*

Art 35. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Emergency Management.

*Article accepted. \$1,000.00*

Art 36. FUEL  
To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a fuel account used only for the Municipal Road Crew and Fire Trucks.

*Article accepted. \$20,000.00*

Art 37. STREET LIGHTS  
To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for street lights and maintenance account for the ensuing year.

***Article accepted. \$10,000.00***

Art 38. LIFE FLIGHT

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Life Flight services for the ensuing year.

***A motion to amend to \$763.00 Article passed and accepted.***

Art 39. TOWN ROADS

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

***Issues concerning Saddleback Road. Need to speak to the Road Commissioner. David Lourie (town attorney) says Selectmen have no control over the Road Commissioner. A motion was made to designate \$20,000.00 of the \$100,000.00 to the improvement of dedicated road. Don Brown (former Rd Commissioner) doesn't feel this be a good amendment. Amendment fails. Motion to move the Article. Accepted and article passes as read.***

Art 40. BACKHOE PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10, 853.00 for the third of five payments and interest to People's United Bank for the backhoe.

***Article accepted. \$10, 853.00***

Art 41. TOWN TRUCK PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38, 618.00 for the first of five payments including interest to Saco Biddeford Savings for two town trucks dedicated for road work and plowing.

***Article accepted. \$38, 618.00***

Art 42. SNOW REMOVAL

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

***Article accepted. \$150,000.00***

Art 43. LOCAL ROADS ASSISTANCE PROGRM (LRAP) OR BLOCK GRANT

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

*Article accepted.*

Art 44. 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 Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance (LRAP) for hot maintenance resurfacing of Town ways.

*Article accepted. \$40,000.00*

Art 45. TOWN GARAGE

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

*Article accepted. \$5,000.00*

Art 46. ROAD CLOSURES

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.

*Article accepted.*

Art 47. DEARBORN BRIDGE REPAIR

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 for the engineering and necessary repair work on Dearborn Road Bridge. This is in addition to the \$100,000.00 already appropriated last year.

*Article accepted. \$100,000.00*

Art 48. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums to cover

Education and Preservation Expenses:

Brown Memorial Library \$12,000.00

Baldwin Historical Society \$2,500.00

Saco River Corridor \$300.00

*Article accepted. In all amounts , accepted.*

Art 49. BALDWIN SCHOOL FUND

To see if the town will vote to provide scholarships from the Baldwin School Fund to Baldwin residents attending a post secondary program. Scholarships to be awarded IAW policies and procedures developed by the Baldwin School Fund Committee.

*Article accepted.*

Art 50. TV-2

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.

*Article accepted.*

Art 51. SOCIAL SERVICES ARTICLES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums to cover Social Service Expenses:

Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging \$3,500.00

Home Health Visiting Nurse \$3,200.00

Opportunity Alliance \$3,500.00

General Assistance \$25,000.00

VNA Home, Health, Hospice \$250.00

*Article accepted. Article accepted in all amounts.*

Art 52. ORGANIZATION ARTICLES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums to cover Organization Expenses.

Harvest Hills Animal Shelter \$1,525.00

So. ME Planning & Development Commission \$457.00

Planning Board \$500.00

*Article accepted. Article accepted in all amounts.*

Art 53. To see whether the Town will take all rights of re-entry, and reversionary interests of the Heirs of Harry C. Dyer in the Baldwin Consolidated School under the deed of Harry C. Dyer to the inhabitants of Baldwin Dated March 8, 1952, which is recorded in the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds in Book 2078, Page 161. The owners of record so far as they can be reasonably determined are as stated in an Affidavit recorded in the Cumberland County Registry in Book 32878, Page 177. The location by metes and bounds is as stated in said Deed of Harry C. Dyer. The amount of damages determined by the municipal officers to be just compensation for the property or interest herein

taken is determined to be \$1.00, which sum shall be paid to the heirs of Harry C. Dyer in full compensation for their interest in the property.

*Article accepted.*

Art 54. RIGHT- OF- WAY EASEMENT TO F.E. WOOD NATURAL ENERGY  
To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to grant an easement from Rt 113 to the property designated as Tax Map 5, Lot 43F. The easement shall be located adjacent to the Baldwin Consolidated School facility as requested by F.E. Wood Natural Energy and as presented at the 27 February 2016 public hearing. The easement shall be appurtenant to the property designated as Tax Map 5, Lot 43F, and shall be held in common with the Town and others authorized to use the road and utility facilities from time to time. The easement shall be on such additional terms as the Selectmen deem advisable for the purpose of constructing and operating a wood processing facility on Tax Map 5, Lot 43F, and shall require the owner of Tax Map 5, Lot 43F to complete construction of a sufficient road and to install utilities, each to standards approved by the Selectmen within a 3 year period. Immediately upon completion, the owner of Tax Map 5, Lot 43F shall convey ownership of the roadway and utility facilities to the Town, but the roadway shall not become a town way. The owner of Tax Map 5, Lot 43F shall remain responsible for all expenses for repair, and maintenance (including winter maintenance) of the roadway. The easement shall replace the easement authorized by Baldwin voters on 20 September 2014.

*Several residents expressed concerns such as how close it would be with proposing the new entrance to the school? Tony Wood explained it would be approximately 150' to the edge of easement and parking lot. It was also asked by a resident as to how far it would be to the septic? Does it interfere and is there enough space? Tony replied saying he does not have a site plan currently and it can be designed around it. Concerns were expressed having children who are playing ball and having large vehicles going in and out It would be a safety concern Kids will be kids. It was explained they would continue to keep the existing 15 m.p.h. signs in place for slower safe traffic and no Jake Brakes in consideration of residents and noise level. Also it would be a significant change to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and changes would have to be made accordingly.*

*Motion to do written ballot. 32 voted YES & 39 voted NO. Article is defeated.*

Art 55. CUMBERLAND COUNTY BLOCK GRANT

*Motion to withdraw the article. Withdrawal accepted.*

Art 56. 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.

*Motion to do a straw vote, accepted. Article passes.*

Art 57. Motion to adjourn.

*Motion to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Wakefield, Baldwin Town Clerk