

TOWN OF BENTON

MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 8, 2019 & March 9, 2019

To James Mayo, 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 8th day of March, A.D. 2019 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. local time to act on the following Articles:

ADMINISTRATIVE

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 8, 2019. Nominations for Moderator opened, Patrick Turlo nominated, seconded, nominations closed. Patrick Turlo elected by vote of 3 – 1 and was sworn in. Mr. Turlo appointed Philip Curtis 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 10th day of March, A.D. 1935.

ELECTION RESULTS:

<i>POSITION</i>	<i>CANDIDATE</i>	<i>VOTES</i>	<i>WRITE INS</i>	<i>BLANKS</i>
<i>SELECTMAN</i>	<i>Robin Cyr</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>ROAD COMMISSIONER</i>	<i>Leroy Littlefield</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>SCHOOL BOARD</i>	<i>None</i>		<i>45*</i>	<i>20</i>

****Write Ins***

<i>Roy White</i>	<i>26 (Elected School Board)</i>
<i>Bruce Macarthur</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Scattered Other</i>	<i>9</i>

And Saturday, the 9th of March, A.D. 2019 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 Philip Curtis sworn in by Susan E. Rodrigue, Town Clerk. Mr Curtis administered oaths to newly-elected Robin Cyr, Leroy Littlefield, and Roy White.

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.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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 4.75%.
(same as last year) (State maximum: 9%)

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

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to increase hourly rates by 4% for Office Staff; and increase the Treasurer's annual salary to \$20,000. Updated rates will be reflected in the Benton Personnel Policy as adopted by the Town in Article 5, at the regular meeting at the Benton Grange Hall, on the 10th day of March, A.D. 2018.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

Article 6. To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to cover salaries/compensations.

01 – Town Clerk	\$10,500	
02 – Office	\$86,330	
03 – Treasurer	\$20,000	
04 – Chairperson	\$ 7,100	
05 – 2 Selectpersons	<u>\$12,000</u>	(\$6,000 per Selectperson)
	Total \$135,930	

Budget Committee Recommends: \$\$135,930

[Last Year's Expenditures as follows:

01 – Town Clerk	\$10,500	
02 – Office	\$83,009	
03 – Treasurer	\$14,500	
04 – Chairperson	\$ 7,100	
05 – 2 Selectpersons	<u>\$12,000</u>	(\$6,000 per Selectperson)
	Total \$127,109]	

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

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum to cover related employee Maine Municipal Health Trust benefits for the Office Personnel.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$60,000 (same as last year)

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

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum to cover the current federal rate for mileage/car expenses when staff are on Town Business. For the purposes of this article the approved staff to receive reimbursement for this expense are: Town Clerk, Office Personnel, Selectpersons, Treasurer, Planning Board, Road Commissioner, LPI/CEO.

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

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

Article 9. 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.

(\$10,985 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$16,000 (same as last year)

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

Article 10. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Unemployment Compensation coverage for the ensuing year.

(\$15.60 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,000 (same as last year)

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

Article 11. 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.

(\$13,003 expended last year)

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

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

Article 12. 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 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise or appropriate to pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.

Budget Committee Recommends: Any amount needed from Surplus (same)

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

Article 14. 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, 2019.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes (state maximum 10%) (same)

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

Article 15. 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 (same as last year)

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

Article 16. 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 (same as last year)

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

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed the quarterly (25%) budget amount in each budget category of the 2019 annual budget during the first quarter of the 2020 budget year (January 1, 2020 to the Annual Town Meeting in March 2020).

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

Article 18. 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 19. 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: amount needed to be taken from surplus.

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

COMPREHENSIVE & ECONONMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Article 20: 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 (same as last year)

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

Article 21: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum to support final design of Neck Road expansion of public sewer system specifics outlined below.

- a. Topographic survey of the full road right of way limits to include utilities, culverts, buildings with sill elevations (within 100' of the road right of way) and any monument observed.
- b. Topographic and boundary survey of the two (2) proposed pump station lots, to include corner pins and property descriptions.
- c. Core drill testing to determine extent of ledge on the Neck Road.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$28,000, from surplus and TIF funds where feasible.

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

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$135,000 from TIF revenue for expansion and maintenance of the existing sewer facility (pump station) located at the corner of Bridge and Crummett Streets.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes (this money was appropriated but largely unspent last year)

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

Article 23. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum to accomplish the following objectives at the property located at the corner of Bridge and Crummett Streets, currently housing the Town of Benton sewer facility (pump station):

- 1) Develop a parking area for the Kennebec walking trail adjacent to the pumping station. This will require proper parking lot soil base, pavement, parking stripping and signage.
- 2) Create a public park area in front of the parking spaces to support picnic tables overlooking the Kennebec River, with fence along the river bank for public safety.

- 3) Upgrade, as required, soil base and pavement; and add fencing around the area designated for housing the current and planned upgrades to the pumping station, as approved by the Town in March 2018 (Article 85).
Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000 from TIF

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

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum for improving and maintaining the office computer system. (\$24,900 expended last year)
Budget Committee Recommends: \$20,000 from excise tax receipts and additional needed from surplus.

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

Article 25. 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 26. 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.
(\$1,409 from TIF expended last year)
Budget Committee Recommends: \$6000 from TIF funds

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

Article 27. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the support of the poor for the ensuing year
(\$0 expended last year)
Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,000 (\$5,000 last year)

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

Article 28. To see if the Town will appropriate a sum to upgrade the Town Office with modern meeting and presentation equipment.

Budget Committee Recommends \$2,500 from TIF revenue

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

Article 29. To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,375, from TIF revenue to provide necessary emergency lighting in the Town Office to be installed by licensed electrician.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND APPEALS

Article 30. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Code Enforcement Officer, Plumbing Inspector and Health and Safety Officer; when the Code Enforcement Officer is on Town business.

(\$17,354 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$15,900, plus the current federal rate for mileage, and that all fees be retained by the Town.

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

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum for the municipal planning board for the ensuing year:

- a. Each Member – Paid \$25.00 for each meeting attended, including special meetings, on-site inspections, workshops and seminars.
(increase from \$20.00 last year)

- b. Each Member – Expenses for seminar and workshops shall include the current federal rate for mileage expenses when conducting travel for said seminars and workshops not held in the Town or within five (5) mile radius. No more than \$500.00 shall be expended for seminars and workshops without prior approval from the Selectmen.
(same as last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$6,000

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

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum for the municipal appeals board for the ensuing year:

- a. Each Member – Paid \$25.00 for each meeting attended, including special meetings, on-site inspections, workshops and seminars.
(increase from \$20.00 last year)
- b. Each Member – Expenses for seminar and workshops shall include the current federal rate for mileage expenses when conducting travel for said seminars and workshops not held in the Town or within five (5) mile radius. No more than \$500.00 shall be expended for seminars and workshops without prior approval from the Selectmen. (same as last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,500

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

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum for comprehensive planning and economic development committees for the ensuing year, to be funded by TIF revenue:

- a. Each Member – Paid \$25.00 for each meeting attended, including special meetings, on-site inspections, workshops and seminars.
- b. Each Member – Expenses for seminar and workshops shall include the current federal rate for mileage expenses when conducting travel for said seminars and workshops not held in the Town or within five (5) mile radius. No more than \$500.00 shall be expended for seminars and workshops without prior approval from the Select Board.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,500 from TIF Funds

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

Article 34. To see if the voters of the Town will vote to direct the Selectpersons to establish a property tax abatement program for senior citizens who serve the Town of Benton as volunteers in accordance with M.R.S. 36 Section 6232 which allows the Town to grant property tax abatements of up to \$750.00 per household to persons over 60 years of age who work for the Town in a volunteer capacity and who have occupied their homestead for at least the previous two years. Such abatement cannot exceed 50% of the current property tax amount due. Both homeowners and renters are eligible for this abatement.

Residents serving on Town of Benton Boards or Committees which receive compensation for meetings, including meeting preparation time, special meetings, on-site

inspections, workshops and seminars, may choose either the abatement program or what is allowed for meeting and preparation compensation, but may not receive both.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the meeting

MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED.

Motion to amend as follows: Strike - Renters are eligible for the Abatement.

SECONDED, PASSED by hand vote

Article as amended voted on

DEFEATED by hand vote.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

Article 35. 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. (\$5,515 expended last year) (same as last year).

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

Article 36. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for hydrant rental for the ensuing year.

(\$34,971 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$36,000 (same as last year)

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

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum to pay for fire protection and rescue service.

(\$185,220 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$185,000, and any additional from surplus

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

Article 38. 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).

(\$3,770 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,800

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

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum to pay for Law Enforcement Dispatch Services provided by the Maine Department of Public Safety.

(\$16,742 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$19,000 from Excise Tax receipts

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

Article 40. 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

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

PUBLIC UTILITIES MANAGEMENT

Article 41. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for street lighting this year.

(\$16,640 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$18,000

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

Article 42. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay Benton's assessment from all utilities 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 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum for maintenance of existing sewer lines.

(\$10,858 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$15,000

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

Article 44. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to negotiate and enter into or renew a multi-year contract for the disposal of solid waste and recyclables.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

Article 45. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the disposal of solid waste for the ensuing year.

(\$92,716 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$75,000, plus \$5,000 from Excise Tax receipts

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

ROAD MANAGEMENT

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 to 23 M.R.S.A. sec 2953.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

Article 47. 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 48. 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 \$16.90 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 49. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to negotiate and enter into or renew a multi-year contract for winter roads maintenance.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to pay for Winter Roads Maintenance from the excise tax receipts, for the ensuing year, including:

- a. the expense of the contract for snowplowing and sanding,
- b. the stockpiling of sand
- c. removal of snow from Town fire hydrants.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes, Contract amount for 2019 - \$180,134 including \$35,000 for the sand/salt pile.

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

Article 52. 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. taken from excise tax receipts plus other receipts from State Highway aid.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$55,000 from Excise Tax Receipts, plus other receipts from State highway aid

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

Article 53. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a specified sum to be expended for paving Town roads in the ensuing year.

(\$246,267 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$235,000 from excise tax and block grant (URIP) receipts

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

CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

Article 54. 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.
(\$14,833 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$14,000, 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 55. 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 56. To see if the Town will appropriate a sum to remove bushes and trees along a proposed fence line and install a chain link fence along the trail on the back side of the Falls Cemetery.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$11,000 from TIF revenue

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

Article 57. To see if the Town will vote to accept the land donation abutting the borders of the Brown cemetery, which will allow the Town appropriate area to maintain the cemetery.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

Article 58. 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.
(\$300 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$300

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

ALEWIFE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Article 59. 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 60. 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 61. 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 62. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum to be used for the Benton Alewife Festival.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$2,500 from TIF revenue.

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

Article 63. 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, from TIF revenue.

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

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

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Article 64. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for membership in the Maine Municipal Association.

(\$3,250 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,348, as requested

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

Article 65. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for membership in the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, from TIF revenue.

(\$3,756 expended last year) (\$3,930 requested for 2019)

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Meeting

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

Article 66. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the Library Fund to support our residents’ use of any area library.

(\$1,450 expended last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$2,200 to provide \$40 per household toward privileges at any area library.

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

Article 67. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following donations. Voters may review, approve, modify or reject each donation separately or may move to adopt as a group:

#	Donations	2018 Actual	2019 Requested	Funding
a	Snowmobile Club Trail Donation Trail Maintenance – Open for Public Use	50% of Registration	50% of Registration	
b	Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) – Open to Benton Residents - Many Participate	\$14,000	\$14,000	
c	Boys and Girls Club & YMCA Camp Tracy	\$5,500	\$5,500	
d	Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry	\$5,255	\$5,255	
e	Family Violence Project	\$4,000	\$4,000	
f	Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$3,500	\$3,500	
g	Kennebec Valley Community Action Program Child Development Day Care – Head Start	\$2,200	\$2,200	
h	Central Maine Area Agency on Aging	\$1,711	\$1,711	
i	Kennebec-Messalonskee Trails	\$1,500	\$1,500	
j	Children’s Center (Early Intervention	\$1,330.50	\$1,353	

	& Family Support			
k	Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area	\$1,025	\$1,025	
l	Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter	\$1,000	\$1,000	
m	United Cerebral Palsy of Northeast Maine	\$1,000	\$1,000	
n	Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center	\$955.50	\$955.50	
o	Crisis and Counseling Center	\$927	\$1,025	
p	The Lifeflight Foundation	\$683	\$683	
q	Benton Family Holiday Assistance Program's Christmas Gifts Fund for the Needy	\$500	\$500	
r	Benton Grange Hall	\$500	\$500	
s	American Red Cross	\$850	\$850	
t	Kennebec Valley Community Action Program Transportation Services	\$400	\$400	
u	Sebasticook Regional Land Trust	\$300	\$300	
v	Community Health and Counseling Services	\$250	\$250	
w	Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Kennebec Valley	\$200	\$200	
x	Maine Public Broadcasting Network	\$100	\$100	
z	Waterville Humane Society	4,043	\$4,316.56	

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Meeting

MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED.

Motion to accept as a group SECONDED, PASSED

Article as a group voted on

PASSED

by hand vote.

Article 68. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following scholarships. Voters may review, approve, modify or reject each scholarship separately or may motion to adopt as a group:

#	Scholarships	2018 Actual	2019 Requested	Funding
a	Guy Patterson Memorial Trust Athletic Scholarship (LHS Student- Benton Resident)	\$2,000	\$2,000	
b	Poulin Trust Scholarship (LHS Student- Benton Resident)	\$2,000	\$2,000	
c	Pillsbury Trust Scholarship (LJHS Student- Benton Resident)	\$200	\$200	
d	Sgt. Brian L. Buker Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$750	\$750	

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes, to all

MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED

by hand vote.

LOCAL ORDINANCE MODIFICATIONS

The following articles #69-#74 will be presented for review at a Public Hearing on **02/27/2019 at 6:00 p.m. EST, with 02/28/2019 at 6:00 p.m. EST as snow date.**

Article 69. To see if the Town will vote in favor of approving modifications of the Land Use Ordinance, Town of Benton Maine, last revised March 2016, with the required modifications labeled “Part 1” designed to 1) incorporate the goals and objectives of the Town of Benton 2018 Comprehensive Plan adopted by the people on March 10, 2018, and 2) to address missing or outdated content in the document. (Approval is contingent on the Select Board confirming the modification was reviewed in accordance to the Town of Benton, local ordinance creation or Modification Policy #08, to ensure the Town staff, board members, elected and appointed staff outlined in this policy have the opportunity to review and collaborate on ordinance creation and modifications.)

Part 1 modifications include:

- 1) Modification to Section I: Preamble
- 2) Modification to Section II: Definitions

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

Article 70. To see if the Town will vote in favor of approving modifications of the Land Use Ordinance Town of Benton Maine, last revised March 2016, with the required modifications labeled “Part 2” designed to 1) incorporate the goals and objectives of the Town of Benton 2018 Comprehensive Plan adopted by the people on March 10, 2018, and 2) to address missing or outdated content in the document. (Approval is contingent on the Select Board confirming the modification was reviewed in accordance to the Town of Benton, local ordinance creation or Modification Policy #08, to ensure the Town staff, board members, elected and appointed staff outlined in this policy have the opportunity to review and collaborate on ordinance creation and modifications.)

Part 2 modifications include:

- 1) Modification to Section III: Administrative, Enforcement, Fees

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

Article 71. To see if the Town will vote in favor of approving the updated Shoreland Zone Ordinance and map to be consistent with state and federal requirements and the Town of Benton 2018 Comprehensive Plan, such approval conditional on the following criteria:

1. Review and approval by the State of Maine, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.
2. Inclusion of only non-substantive changes requested by the State of Maine, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection which may include; update of content to satisfy the State's guidelines and update or addition of statistical information and maps.
3. Final adoption by the Town of Benton Select Board once State's approval is secured.
4. Inclusion of updates to note Shoreland Zone Ordinance adoption and updated map to the Town of Benton 2018 Comprehensive Plan.
- 5.

Approval is contingent on the Select Board confirming the modification was reviewed in accordance to the Town of Benton, local ordinance creation or Modification Policy #08, to ensure the Town staff, board members, elected and appointed staff outlined in this policy have the opportunity to review and collaborate on ordinance creation and modifications.

***MOVED, SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.***

Article 72. To see if the Town will vote in favor of adopting one of the three options provided in the State of Maine statewide Timber Harvesting standards for shoreland zoning ordinance, guidance from Chapter 1000 guidelines. Under this option the Bureau of Forestry will administer the regulation of all forestry activities within the municipality.

Approval is contingent on the Select Board confirming the modification was reviewed in accordance to the Town of Benton, local ordinance creation or Modification Policy #08, to ensure the Town staff, board members, elected and appointed staff outlined in this policy have the opportunity to review and collaborate on ordinance creation and modifications.

MOVED, SECONDED.

Motion to amend as follows—To see if the Town will vote to give the Selectmen the authority to choose one of the three options

WITHDRAWN

Motion to amend the article to choose option 3 as provided in the State of Maine statewide Timber Harvesting standards for shoreland zoning ordinance.

SECONDED, PASSED by hand vote

OTHER

Article 73. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an increase to the amount originally allotted for the lot cleanup at the corner of Bridge and Crummett Street, for the sewer facility pump station upgrade project, currently housing the Town of Benton sewer facility (pump station). The increase is required to address issues found during the excavation of the condemned building including; 1) fill needed to fill in an additional foundation hole, and 2) to remove additional trees and stumps to ready the lot for the sewer facility pump station upgrade project, and to support parking for the Kennebec Walking Trail.

Increase of \$3,020 from TIF Funds

MOVED, SECONDED. PASSED
by hand vote.

Article 74. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$481,990 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]
(\$469,003 last year)

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

MOVED, SECONDED
VOTED on by WRITTEN BALLOT. YES-18; NO-7

Article 75. To see what sum the Town will vote to pay the deputy moderator for services at the meeting.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$150 to be taken from surplus
(same as last year)

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN. SECONDED, PASSED
By hand vote.

The polls were opened Friday, the 8th day of March 2019 at the Benton Town Office at 1:00 PM and remained open until 6:00 PM when they were closed. The absentee ballots were opened at 2:00 PM. The business meeting opened at the Benton Grange at 10:00 AM on Saturday, the 9th day of March 2019.

Attested as a True Copy.

Susan Rodrigue, Town Clerk.

Selectmen of Benton

Robin Cyr

Douglas Dixon

Melissa Patterson