

**TOWN OF BENTON**

**MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**March 09, 2018 & March 10, 2018**

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D. 2018 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 09, 2018. Nominations for moderator opened. Patrick Turlo nominated, seconded, nominations closed, Patrick Turlo elected by vote of 6 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 Statues 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D. 1935.

***ELECTION RESULTS:***

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Write Ins</u>	<u>Blanks</u>
<i>Selectman</i>	<i>Douglas Dixon</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Road Commissioner</i>	<i>Leroy Littlefield</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

And Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, A.D. 2018 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 Douglas Dixon and Leroy Littlefield..*

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 30<sup>th</sup> and 7%.  
(same as last year)

**MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED  
Motion to amend as follows: 4.75%**

**SECONDED. MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by hand vote. MOTION TO ACCEPT  
ARTICLE AS AMENDED. SECONDED. PASSED. by hand vote**

Article 5. To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum to cover salaries/compensations.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$127,109 which consists of:

01- Town Clerk	\$ 10,500	
02- Office	\$ 83,009	
03- Treasurer	\$ 14,500	
04- Chairperson	\$ 7,100	
05- 2 Selectpersons	\$ 12,000	\$6,000 per Selectperson

Article 5 replaces previous Articles 5,6,7,8,9,13

*Notes: The following staff hours and hourly rates will be added and maintained in the Town of Benton Personnel Policy:*

- *Full-Time office personnel, 35 hours per week for 52 weeks*
  - *Senior Office Person hourly rate - \$19.07*
  - *1<sup>st</sup> Junior Office Person hourly rate - \$18.04*
  - *2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Office Person hourly rate - \$17.00*
- *Town Clerk*
  - *\$800 (same as Road Commissioner) plus \$21.00 hourly rate  
(all same as last year)*

**MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED**  
**Motion to amend as follows: Up to that amount**

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

**MOTION TO ACCEPT ARTICLE AS AMENDED. SECONDED. PASSED**  
**by hand vote.**

Article 6. 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.

*Notes: The following conditions will be added and maintained in the Town of Benton Personnel Policy regarding the Maine Municipal Health Trust Benefit:*

*1. Funds appropriated to pay for the Maine Municipal Health Trust will be allocated to Office Personnel as follows:*

- Full-Time office personnel annual benefit of \$24,000*
- Part-Time office personnel annual benefit of \$12,000*

*2. Office Personnel may select their plan of choice through the approved Maine Municipal Health Trust.*

*3. Any additional funds needed to cover costs which exceed the annual benefit per employee, will be covered by the Office Personnel.*

*4. Office Personnel opting to use a portion or none of the funds, will not receive compensation for the funds not used in lieu of this benefit.*

*5. Maine Municipal Health Trust benefits will not be provided to elected, appointed, temporary or contracted individuals.*

Budget Committee Recommends: \$60,000

**MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED**

**Motion to amend as follows: Two Full Time personnel to receive \$12,000 each and One Part Time to receive \$6,000. SECONDED**

**Motion made to move the question. Debate cut off.**

**SECONDED. DEFEATED . by hand vote.**

**MOTION TO PASS ARTICLE AS RECOMMENDED BY BC (\$60,000) SECONDED.**  
**PASSED by hand vote.**

**\*MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD ARTICLE 85 AFTER ARTICLE 6. SECONDED.**  
**PASSED**

**by hand vote.**

Article 85. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$135,000 (from TIF revenue) for expansion and maintenance of existing sewer facility (pump station) located at corner of Bridge and Crummett Streets.

**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 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, Selectperson(s), Treasurer, Planning Board, Road Commissioner, LPI/CEO.

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

Article 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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 12. 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 (10,746 expended last year)

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

Article 13. 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 14. 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 15. 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: \$235,000 to be taken from excise tax and block grant (URIP) receipts.

(\$126,910 expended last year)

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

Article 16. 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 17. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum for updating and digitizing existing Town tax maps.

Budget Committee recommends: \$16,000, from TIF funds

**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 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 20. 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: No. Information is available on the website and printable copies are available upon request.

**MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED**

**Motion to amend as follows: No additional cost for copies**

**SECONDED. MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by hand vote. MOTION TO ACCEPT  
ARTICLE AS AMENDED. SECONDED. PASSED. by hand vote**

Article 21. 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. (\$6,141 expended last year)

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

Article 22. 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 23. 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 24. 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 TIF revenue.  
(\$2,720 expended last year)

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

Article 25. 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 26. 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 27. 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 28. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum to be used for the Benton Alewife Festival.

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

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

Article 29. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for membership in the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,756, from TIF revenue.  
(\$3,773 expended last year)

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

Article 30. 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 31. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for membership in the Maine Municipal Association.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,250.

(\$3,215 expended last year)

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

Article 32. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for street lighting this year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$18,000. (\$17,551 expended last year)

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

Article 33. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for hydrant rental for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$36,000 (\$33,303 expended last year)

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

Article 34. 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. (\$180,865 expended last year).

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

Article 35. 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: \$3,800.00 (\$3,770 expended last year)

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



Article 36. 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.

Selectmen recommend: amount needed be appropriated from Excise Tax receipts. (\$16,228 expended last year).

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

Article 37. 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. (\$12,290 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 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.***

***Motion to amend as follows: Amount needed to be taken from General Government Accounts and direct the Select board to study the sewer user fees and recommend changes for the 2019 Annual Meeting.***

***SECONDED.***

***Motion to amend as follows: To include all utilities***

***SECONDED. WITHDRAWN***

***MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by hand vote. MOTION TO ACCEPT ARTICLE AS AMENDED. SECONDED. PASSED by hand vote***

Article 39. 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 (\$6,853 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 for improving and maintaining the office computer system.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$16,000 from excise tax receipts and appropriate \$3,000 from general funds. (\$13,341 expended last year)

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

Article 41. 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. (\$86,093 expended last year)

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

Article 42. 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: \$5,000. (\$725 expended last 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 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 44. 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: \$14,000.00 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 45. 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 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money toward the 2018 operating cost of the animal shelter.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$4043.36 to be taken from surplus. (\$3,988.72 last year)

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

Article 47. 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 48. 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 49. 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 50. 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, 2018.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

Article 51. 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 52. 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 53. 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 54. To see what sum the Town will vote to apply to the MSAD #49 School Appropriations from the State supplemental subsidy in order to maintain or reduce the tax rate for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$81,870.60

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

Article 55. 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 2018 annual budget during the first quarter of the 2019 budget year (January 1, 2019 to the 2019 Annual Town Meeting in March 2019).

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

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

Article 56. 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 57. 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 58. 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 59. 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 60. 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 61. 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.***

Article 62. 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)

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

Article 63. 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.  
(\$5,255 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 \$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)

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

Article 65. 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)

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

Article 66. 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)

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

Article 67. 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.  
(\$400 last year)

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

Article 68. 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.  
(\$4,000 as last year)

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

Article 69. 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)

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

Article 70. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,330.50 as requested by the Children's Center (Early Intervention & Family Support).

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.  
(\$1,366.00 last year)

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

Article 71. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,711 as requested by Spectrum Generations, the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to action of Town Meeting.  
(\$1,709.00 last year)

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

Article 72. 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)

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

Article 73. 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)

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

Article 74. 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)

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

Article 75. 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, \$65 per child. (\$60 per child last year)

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

Article 76. 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.  
(same as last year)

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

Article 77. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$250 as requested by Community Health and Counseling Services.

Budget Committee Recommends: Leave to the action of the Town Meeting.  
(\$155 last year)

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

Article 78. 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)

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

Article 79. 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)

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

Article 80. 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.  
(same as last year)

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

Article 81. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$100 as requested by the Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

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

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

Article 82. 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)

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

Article 83. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$500 for the Benton Grange Hall.

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

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



Article 84. 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.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$2,200 to provide \$40 per household toward privileges at any area library. (expended \$1,440 last year)

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

\*Article 85. Moved forward, after Article 6..

Article 86. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 and allow the Select Board to accept a land donation, which borders the Brown Cemetery, for purposes of supporting maintenance of the cemetery. Funds to be used for survey, title search, deed preparation and filing.

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

Article 87. To see if the Town will vote in favor of approving the Town of Benton 2018 Comprehensive Plan, such approval is conditional on the following criteria:

1. Review and approval by the State of Maine and required State of Maine Departments, for consistency with the goals and guidelines of the *Growth Management Act* (30-A M.R.S.A. §§ 4312- 4350), and that the plan includes all of the applicable required elements of the Maine Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule (07-105 CMR 208).
2. Inclusion of only non-substantive changes requested by the State of Maine Planning Office 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.

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes.

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

Article 88. To see if the Town will vote to approve the updated shoreland zone ordinance and map to be consistent with state and federal requirements.

**MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED**

**Motion to amend as follows: Flood Plain to replace Shoreland**

**SECONDED. MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by hand vote. MOTION TO ACCEPT  
ARTICLE AS AMENDED. SECONDED. PASSED by hand vote**

Article 89. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$469,003.00 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-24; NO-2 PASSED**

Article 90. 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.

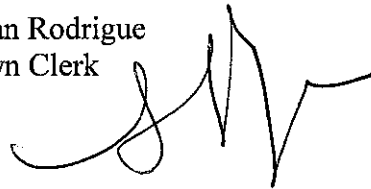
**MOVED TO FOLLOW BC RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED. PASSED  
by hand vote.**

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

The polls will be open Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018 at the Benton Town Office from 1:00 PM and continue to be open until 6:00 PM in the evening when they will be closed. The absentee ballots were opened at 2:00 P.M. The business meeting opens at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday , the 10th day of March 2018.

A True Copy:

Attest: Susan Rodrigue  
Town Clerk



*Selectmen of Benton*

Robin Cyr

Douglas Dixon

Melissa Patterson