

2023 Annual Town Official Warrant Results

June 2, 2023

Article results are noted as follows:

- 'X' in the Pass or Fail column reflects the voter's action on the warrant article(s).
- Where the Moderator requires a hand count the highest number in the Pass or Fail the voter's action on the warrant article(s).
- Modified Article column reflects any final adjustment to the article language.

| # | ARTICLE | ARTICLE RESULTS | | MODIFIED ARTICLE |
|-----------|--|-----------------|------|------------------|
| | | PASS | FAIL | |
| Article 1 | To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting. | | | |
| Article 2 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$312,163 for the General Government Budget and to appropriate from additional funding sources; \$7,395 from ARPA Funds, \$10,000 from Building & Plumbing Permits, and \$235 from TIF(10). Providing a total General Government Budget of \$329,793 . Select Board Recommends: Yes (2) No (1) <i>*General Government is for the operation of the Town Office services. Examples include, Vehicle Registration, Licenses, Assessing Services, Tax Maps, Tax and Fee Collection, Vital Statistics, Town Clerk Services, Audit Services, Code Enforcement, Appeals Board, Planning Board, Economic Development Committee, Elections, Legal Counsel Services, Maine Municipal Association and Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce memberships.</i> | X | | |
| Article 3 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$56,689 for the Technology Budget from the following funding sources; ARPA Funds \$7,800 and remaining from excise tax \$48,889 . Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Town Office software, hardware, website, internet, printer/copier lease, election equipment, and professional services.</i> | X | | |
| Article 4 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$26,744 for the Facilities Budget from funding source, excise tax. Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Maintenance, utilities and mowing for Town Office, Salt Shed, Park, Pump Stations (Benton Ave, Andrea Ave)</i> | X | | |
| Article 5 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,308 for the Insurance Budget and any additional needed to be taken from surplus. Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Funding for Worker's Compensation, Unemployment, Property & Casualty, Public Officials' Liability, Vehicle and General Liability Insurance and Insurance deductible.</i> | X | | |
| Article 6 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for the Public Sewer Budget from funding sources; \$71,536 from public sewer fees, \$30,220 from excise tax, \$15,000 from TIF(4), and \$45,000 from capital fund. Providing a total Public Sewer Budget of \$161,756 . Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Funding for public sewer expenses for Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District (KSTD), contract and sewer director wage and mileage allowance, 2023 maintenance plan from Dirigo Engineering Sustainability Maintenance Plan.</i> | X | | |
| Article 7 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$320,771 for the Public Safety Budget and to appropriate from additional funding sources; \$18,400 from excise tax, \$1,500 from dog licensing and late fees. Providing a total Public Safety Budget of \$340,671 , with any additional required from surplus. Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Funding for Animal Control Officer, Waterville Humane Society, hydrants, fire, rescue, dispatch and other health and safety expenses.</i> | X | | |
| Article 8 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$271,200 for the Winter Road Maintenance Budget from excise tax, with any additional required for salt from surplus. Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Funding provides for the snow removal & ice control contract, salt, sand and liquid calcium for winter roads.</i> | X | | |
| Article 9 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$157,000 for Highway Maintenance Budget from funding sources; \$29,756 from State Highway Aid with any excess from excise tax. Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Funding for 2023 Road Commission paving plan, which includes the following anticipated roads: Crummelt Street, Pines Road and East Benton (2 Sections), modifications to plan will be preapproved by the Select Board.</i> | X | | |

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| | | PASS | FAIL | |
| Article 10 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$86,800 for Roads Budget from excise tax Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Funding provides road commissioner compensation, general maintenance to existing roads, pothole repair, gravel replacements, culverts, ditching, and brush/tree cutting including the needs for brush/tree cutting.</i> | X | | |
| Article 11 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$197,885 for the Transfer Station Budget. Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Funding to pay transfer station contract and \$15,000 for any required maintenance, to allow residents of Benton to dispose of household trash and recycling at no fee.</i> | X | | |
| Article 12 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,860 for the Cemetery Maintenance Budget, and to appropriate \$1,000 to come from interest on Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund and \$1,000 to come from Cemetery General Maintenance Fund. Providing a total Cemetery Maintenance Budget of \$17,860 . Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*Funding provides for flags to honor graves of veterans, repair, mowing and maintenance of Town owned cemeteries.</i> | X | | |
| Article 13 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,000 for Alewife Festival, fish restoration and the Sebasticook Regional Land Trust non-profit donation from funding source, TIF(18). Select Board Recommends: Yes | X | | |
| Article 14 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Library Fund to support our residents' use of area libraries. Select Board makes no recommendation. <i>*This article supports funding library memberships for Benton residents.</i> | X | | |
| Article 15 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,000 for Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) membership. <i>*This article supports funding for 2023. Funds used for Benton residents. (\$12,000 request plus \$4,000 repairs to field).</i> Select Board Recommends: Yes (2) No (1) | X | | |
| Article 16 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,250 for support of Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry. Select Board makes no recommendation. | X | | |
| Article 17 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for support of Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter. Select Board makes no recommendation. | X | | |
| Article 18 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,629 for support of non-profit organizations. <i>*This article supports funding for the named non-profit organization: Family Violence Project, Alford Youth Center, Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area, KVCAAP, Life flight Foundation, Spectrum Generations.</i> Select Board makes no recommendation. | X | | |
| Article 19 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,950 for scholarships for MSAD#49 students. Select Board makes no recommendation. | X | | |
| Article 20 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,000 for the General Assistance Fund. Select Board Recommends: Yes <i>*This article supports funding required by Maine State Government for municipal government funding.</i> | X | | |
| Article 21 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for Crummett Street sewer line replacement, from funding sources: \$87,065 from ARPA, \$19,142 from Capital Fund, \$25,000 from TIF(5), \$25,000 from TIF(6) and \$93,793 from TIF(8). Select Board Recommends: Yes | X | | Modified / Passed Article Language: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for Crummett Street sewer line repair or replacement reline, from funding sources: \$87,065 from ARPA, and \$62,935 from TIF; (\$25,000 from TIF(5), \$25,000 from TIF(6) and \$12,935 from TIF(8)). |

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| | | PASS | FAIL | |
| Article 22 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for Crummett Street paving of trail parking & pump station, from funding source, TIF (17). Select Board Recommends: Yes | X | | |
| Article 23 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for installation of water main sleeve on the River Road at the Railroad crossing, in preparation for future project (PFAS Contamination remediation) as drafted by Dirigo Engineering professional services, from funding source, \$21,000 from TIF(8) and \$39,000 from Capital Fund. Select Board Recommends: Yes | X | | |
| Article 24 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$41,340 for Delta Ambulance Services from funding source, ARPA. Select Board Recommends: Yes | X | | |
| Article 25 | To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$10,000 for Town office ADA access (ramp, bathroom door and bathroom fixtures), from funding source, TIF(18). Select Board Recommends: Yes (2) No (1) | X | | Modified / Passed Article Language: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$10,000 for Town office ADA access (ramp, bathroom door and bathroom fixtures), from funding source, Capital Fund. |
| Article 26 | Shall an ordinance entitled "Shoreland Zone Ordinance Town of Benton, Maine", dated June 2, 2023, last revised April 2021 with the revision of Section 13, (E), be enacted? Section 13, E. Nonconformance, 2. Nonconforming Lots, (3) Contiguous Lots, to include the effective date, the change is reflected in underline below: “(3)Contiguous Lots - Vacant or Partially Built: If two or more contiguous lots or parcels are in single or joint ownership of record at the time of or since adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, if any of these lots do not individually meet the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance or subsequent amendments, and if one or more of the lots are vacant or contain no principal structure the lots shall be combined to the extent necessary to meet the dimensional requirements. This provision shall not apply to 2 or more contiguous lots, at least one of which is non-conforming, owned by the same person or persons on September 16, 1992 and recorded in the registry of deeds if the lot is served by a public sewer or can accommodate a subsurface sewage disposal system in conformance with the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules; and (a) Each lot contains at least 100 feet of shore frontage and at least 20,000 square feet of lot area; or (b) Any lots that do not meet the frontage and lot size requirements of Section 12(E)(3)(a) are reconfigured or combined so that each new lot contains at least 100 feet of shore frontage and 20,000 square feet of lot area.” Select Board Recommends: Yes | X | | |
| | <i>*This language is required by State of Maine, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to satisfy consistency with the requirements of the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act, 38 M.S.R., Section 438-A, and the minimum Guidelines.</i> | | | |
| Article 27 | Shall an ordinance entitled "Shoreland Zone Ordinance Town of Benton, Maine", dated June 2, 2023, last revised April 2021 with the addition of Appendix B, be enacted? Inclusion of Appendix B – Town of Benton, Shoreland Zone Map Select Board Recommends: Yes | X | | |
| | <i>*This map inclusion is required by State of Maine, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to satisfy consistency with the requirements of the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act, 38 M.S.R., Section 438-A, and the minimum Guidelines.</i> | | | |

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| Article 28 | Shall an ordinance entitled "Shoreland Zone Ordinance Town of Benton, Maine", dated June 2, 2023, last revised April 2021 with the addition of Appendix C, be enacted? Addition of Appendix C – Town of Benton, Conditional Approval, Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act This approval will include any additional review letter as completed by the State of Maine, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to provide a record the ordinance approval or conditional approval. | X | | |
| | Select Board Recommends: Yes | | | |
| | <i>*This conditional approval letter is from the State of Maine, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to record the ordinance conditional approval.</i> | | | |
| | Secret Ballot Vote Results: Article 29: YES: 31 / NO: 7 | | | |
| Article 29 | To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$652,896 established for the Town by State law, in the event municipal budget approved under the preceding articles results in a property tax commitment that is greater than this property tax levy limit. | X | | |
| | Select Board Recommends: Yes | | | |
| Article 30 | To see what sum the Town will vote to pay the deputy moderator for services at the meeting at rate \$150 . | X | | |
| | Select Board Recommends: Yes | | | |

This certifies the June 2, 2023, Annual Town of Benton meeting of the voter's action on the warrant articles above:

Dated: 6/7/2023

Town Clerk Name: Melody Fitzpatrick

Town Clerk Signature: Melody Fitzpatrick