

2022 TOWN WARRANT

Town of Benton – March 8, 2022

The Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by the Moderator, Gil Richardson.

Gil led us through the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked that we recognize any members, past or present, of the Armed Forces, as well as any First Responders and thank them for their service to our community and country. A round of applause was given to those members. Gil gave tribute as well to all of the folks involved in service to the community during the pandemic such as teachers, medical professionals, cashiers and everyone else who helped bring us through the crisis. He also recognized the folks we lost over the last 15 months, in particular, former Treasurer, Richard Dickenson. At 7:04PM a motion was made to recess to the School District meeting. The motion was seconded, and by voice vote, the Town Meeting was recessed to the School District meeting.

At 7:50PM, the Moderator reconvened the Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 1. To choose persons for the following positions and terms of service:
(Majority vote required)

The following Town Officers were elected after a voice vote:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>	
Selectman	3 years	2025	Regina Elliott
Moderator	2 years	2024	Gilbert Richardson
Treasurer	1 year	2023	Dwight Swauger
Town Clerk	1 year	2023	Michael Stiebitz
Tax Collector	1 year	2023	Michael Stiebitz
Supervisor of the Checklist	3 years	2025	Linda Gregory
Ballot Clerk	1 year	2023	Frances Hadden
Surveyor of Wood and Lumber	1 year	2023	Joseph Boutin, Jr.
Planning Board Member	3 years	2025	Kenneth Kealey
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 years	2025	Martin Noble

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the officers and agents as printed. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Motion was made to accept article as written and then seconded.

Motion made to Amend the date stated in Town Report for the Annual Meeting to March 8, 2022.

Motion was made to accept the Amendment, and then seconded.

The article passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$123,275 for General Municipal Operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Motion was made to accept the article as written, seconded. With no discussion, the article then was passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Motion was made to accept the article as written, seconded.

The Town-wide revaluation is statutorily required to take place in 2023. This year's appropriation will bring the total fund to approximately \$24,000.

Selectboard Chair Bill Darcy stated that we have a bid from Avitar to perform the audit next year.

The article then was passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$35,000 to repave 500 feet of Tunnel Stream Road with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Motion was made and seconded to accept article as written.

The article was then passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for Town Hall improvements including a fence on the side yard, a roof over the side door and lighted sign and notice board, with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Motion was made and seconded to accept article as written.

A question arose as to what type of sign the Selectboard had in mind... Bill assured the audience that it would not be a digital, scrolling sign.

The article was then passed by unanimous voice vote.

Laurie and Dan Elliott stated that they are concerned with the lack of any progress towards getting the gravestones repaired in the Mt. View Cemetery.

Selectwoman Gina Elliott explained that the Town is exploring grants for the repair of the cemeteries with an interested person from outside of Town. She stated that the grant process is ongoing but may take some time to bear fruit.

Bill Darcy stated that there is unexpended money from the unexpended multi-year cemetery warrant article passed last year, as well as money in this year's General Fund which can be used for such purposes.

There was a suggestion that concerned citizens could create a petitioned warrant article for next year's Town Meeting Warrant to start the ball rolling, authorizing a certain amount of repairs to be done next year.

The Moderator asked for and received a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:14 PM.

Bill Darcy administered the oath of office to all the newly elected present.

A true copy, Attest

Michael P. Stiebitz – Town Clerk of Benton

Michael P. Stiebitz