



Benton, New Hampshire

2024

Report of the Town

Town of Benton, New Hampshire
Annual Report of Town Officers and Benton School District
Year Ending December 31, 2024

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Benton Town Officers

Position	Name	Term	Expires
Board of Selectmen	William Darcy	3 years	2026
	Regina Elliott	3 years	2025
	Kimberli Carpenter	3 years	2027
Moderator	Gilbert Richardson	2 years	2026
Treasurer	Dwight Swauger	1 year	2025
Town Clerk	Michael Stiebitz	1 year	2025
Tax Collector	Michael Stiebitz	1 year	2025
Supervisor of the Checklist	Stephanie Saffo	3 years	2027
	Kathleen Saffo	3 years	2026
	Linda Gregory	3 years	2025
Surveyor of Wood and Lumber	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	1 year	2025
Trustee of the Trust Funds	Laura Richardson	3 years	2026
	Mark Elliott	3 years	2027
	Martin Noble	3 years	2025
	Martin Noble	3 years	2027
	Sam Gregory	3 years	2026
	Ken Kealey	3 years	2025
Planning Board	William Darcy	3 years	2026

2024 Select Board's Report

Municipal Budget and Taxes The operating budget the Select Board is proposing this year is a little less than last year's budget. We expect our budgeted revenues to exceed expenditures by about \$57,000, which results in a municipal budget that *reduces* that overall Town tax rate by about \$1 per thousand dollars of property value. No other incorporated municipality in the state has a negative municipal tax rate.

The overall property tax rate for Benton residents, which is a combination of the Benton municipal tax rate, the state and local education tax rates, and the Grafton County tax rate, has been remarkably stable for years. On average, our property tax bills have not increased in nine years, since 2016. Inflation-adjusted, our taxes have decreased significantly during that period. We doubt whether any incorporated municipality in New Hampshire can say that.

School Budget At the budget hearing on January 29, 2025, the Benton School Board adopted the budget proposed by SAU 23 staff that would increase local school taxes by 14%, about \$67,000, which will increase taxes by \$1.30 per thousand dollars of property value. To achieve that result, the School Board proposes taking \$30,000 from the Benton School District Expendable Trust Fund. That School Trust Fund had a balance of \$275,890 at the end of 2024, as reported by the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

Town Hall Improvements Late last year we applied for a grant from Grafton County to build a new handicapped-accessible entrance ramp and entrance door and windows for Town Hall. We were awarded over \$19,000 of the expected cost of about \$30,000. The Grafton Grant added to our unassigned fund balance and the Select Board is proposing a warrant article of \$30,000 to fund the building of the entrance ramp and door to be built this year.

Cemetery Improvements We have contracted with a company to repair gravestones and the results of last year's efforts are posted on the Town's website. We intend to continue that work this year and have proposed a cemetery improvements warrant article that will cost \$10,000.

Tunnel Stream Road Paving The work of improving the quality of Tunnel Stream Road continues with a few paving projects which we estimate will cost about \$55,000 this year.

All the proposed warrant articles that cost money, the paving work, and cemetery and town hall improvements, will be funded by the unassigned fund balance generated because of our frugal fiscal management. Thus, those projects will have no impact on your taxes.

Respectfully submitted,

William Darcy, Chairman
Regina Elliott
Kimberli Carpenter

The inhabitants of the Town of Benton in the County of Grafton in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows: **March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

At Town Hall, 221 Coventry Road, Benton, NH 03785

Article 1 Election of Officials

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

Position	Term	Expires	Incumbent
Selectman	3 years	2028	Regina Elliott
Selectman	2 years	2027	Kimberli Carpenter
Moderator	1 year	2026	Gilbert Richardson
Treasurer	1 year	2026	Dwight Swauger
Town Clerk	1 year	2026	Michael Stiebitz
Tax Collector	1 year	2026	Michael Stiebitz
Supervisor of the Checklist	3 years	2028	Linda Gregory
Surveyor of Wood and Lumber	1 year	2026	Joseph Boutin, Jr.
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 years	2028	Martin Noble
Planning Board	3 years	2028	Ken Kealey

Article 2 Acceptance of Town Reports

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)

Article 3 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$133,575 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)

Article 4 Tunnel Stream Road paving work

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 for paying a portion of Tunnel Stream Road with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Article 5 Town Hall Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for Town Hall improvements, primarily a handicapped entrance ramp and door, with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Article 6 Cemetery Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Mountain View Cemetery improvements, primarily gravestone repairs, with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)



Dan Finn at his 100-year birthday party
with Select Board Chair Bill Darcy

2025 PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS

Account	Charge Point	Budget 2024	Spent	Balance	Proposed 2025
4130	Executive	8,000	5,505.50	2,494.50	6,000.00
4140	Election & Town Clerk	8,500	7,382.51	1,117.49	5,500.00
4150	Financial Administration	9,000	8,507.77	492.23	9,000.00
4152	Property Revaluation	7,000	9,403.00	-2,403	7,000.00
4153	Legal Expenses	125	0.00	125.00	125.00
4155	Personnel Admin	2,000	1,805.40	194.60	2,000.00
4193	Planning & Zoning	250	159.15	90.85	250.00
4194	Gov't Buildings	5,000	5,637.20	-637.20	6,000.00
4195	Cemeteries	4,000	1,922.96	2,077.04	3,000.00
4196	Insurance	1,700	1,805.00	-105.00	1,900.00
4197	Ads & Regional Assoc.	2,000	1,349.00	651.00	1,500.00
4199	General Govt. Expenses	3,000	2,800.25	199.75	5,500.00
4210	Police	2,000	2,262.50	-262.50	2,500.00
4215	Ambulance	14,000	13,722.00	278.00	15,000.00
4220	Fire	10,000	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
4240	Building Inspection	200	0.00	200.00	200.00
4299	Other Public Safety	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
4312	Highways & Streets	55,000	53,917.23	1,082.77	55,000.00
4313	Bridges	250	0.00	250.00	250.00
4316	Street Lighting	400	348.37	51.63	400.00
4319	Other Streets	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
4414	Pest Control	250	187.52	62.48	200.00
4442	Direct Assistance Welfare	250	0.00	250.00	250.00
4444	Intergovernmental Welfare	2,000	1,500.00	500.00	2,000.00
	TOTALS	134,925	128,215.36	6,709.64	133,575.00

2025 Estimated Revenues

Source	Estimated 2024	Received 2024	Estimated 2025
Property Taxes (3110)	440,000.00	448,525.16	440,000.00
Timber Taxes (3185)	3,000.00	-149.50	3,000.00
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (3186)	65,500.00	79,389.00	75,000.00
Excavation Tax (3187)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Taxes and Fees (3189)	50.00	1,241.65	100.00
Int./ Penalties/ Taxes (3190)	4,000.00	2,747.12	3,000.00
Tax Lien Dep from Collector (3191)	0.00	15,380.45	0.00
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees (3220)	58,000.00	91,455.00	65,000.00
Building Permits (3230)	400.00	550.00	400.00
Pistol Permits(3290)	0.00	40.00	0.00
Dog Licenses (3291)	350.00	482.00	375.00
Rental of Town Hall (3292)	100.00	0.00	100.00
Shared Revenues (3311)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meals and Rooms Tax Dist. (3352)	19,000.00	32,535.47	30,000.00
Highway Block Grant (3353)	15,300.00	15,332.79	14,000.00
Other State Grants (3359)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Municipal Property (3501)	0.00	375.00	0.00
Interest on Investment (3502)	120.00	104.46	120.00
Ins Dividends & Reimb. (3506)	1,500.00	0.00	0.00

Contributions & Donations (3508)	0.00	330.00	0.00
Totals	607,320.00	688,338.60	631,095.00

Payments by the Select Board-2024

Executive Expenses and Salaries	\$5,505.50
Town Clerk & Elections	\$7,382.51
Financial Administration	\$8,507.77
Revaluation of Property	\$9,403.00
Personnel Administration	\$1,805.40
Planning & Zoning	\$159.15
Government Buildings	\$4,320.97
Cemeteries	\$1,922.96
Insurance	\$1,805.00
Ads & Regional Associations	\$1,349.00
General Government Expenses	\$2,800.25
Police	\$2,262.50
Ambulance	\$13,722.00
Fire	\$10,000.00
Highways & Streets	\$53,917.23
Street Lighting	\$348.37
Inter-Government Welfare	\$1,500.00
Pest Control	\$187.52
Purchase of Tax Liens	\$3,389.03
Grafton County Taxes	\$52,256.00
Local School Taxes	\$452,758.00
2024 Article 4 (Tunnel Stream Paving Project)	\$29,162.71
2024 Article 6 (Roads Capital Reserve Fund)	\$30,000.00
2024 Article 7 (Bridges Expendable Trust Fund)	\$5,768.00
2024 Article 8 (Town Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund)	\$20,000.00
2023 Article 7 (Non-Lapsing Cemetery Repairs)	\$6,095.00
Transfer to General Fund	\$180,000.00
Total	\$906,327.87
2024 Operating Account	
Balance 1.1.24	\$483,459.61
Deposits	\$738,234.14
Checks Written	(\$906,327.87)
Interest	\$104.46
Balance forward to 2024	\$315,470.34
NH Public Deposit Investment Pool	
Balance 1.1.24	\$275,932.18
Deposits	\$180,000.00
Interest	\$23,227.73
Transfers to Operating Account	(\$50,000.00)
Total-General Fund to 2024	\$429,159.91

Respectfully submitted
Dwight A. Swauger, Treasurer

Report of Clerk to Treasurer - Benton, New Hampshire

Year End Totals for 2024

Motor Vehicle Permits Issued (517):	\$91,455.00
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (86/0):	\$482.00
Marriage Licenses Issued (1):	\$50.00
Vital Record Searches (6):	\$90.00
UCC Payment from State of NH	\$45.00
Checklist Copy Payment from State of NH	\$400.00
Cemetery Plot Purchases	\$435.00
NSF Check + Fee	\$152.00
<u>Total Collected by Town Clerk for 2024</u>	<u>\$93,109.00</u>

Motor Vehicle Permits Issued (517):	\$91,455.00
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (86/0):	\$482.00
Marriage Licenses Issued (1):	\$50.00
Vital Record Searches (6):	\$90.00
UCC Payment from State of NH	\$45.00
Checklist Copy Payment from State of NH	\$400.00
Cemetery Plot Purchases	\$435.00
NSF Check + Fee	\$152.00
<u>Total Submitted to Treasurer by Town Clerk for 2024</u>	<u>\$93,109.00</u>

Motor Vehicles:	\$1,458.50
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (86/0):	\$40.00

Marriage Licenses Issued (1): \$7.00 Vital Record Searches

(6): \$42.00 **Total Billed to Town by Town Clerk for 2024 (12/2023-11/2024) \$1,540.50**

Warrant	Beginning Balance	CommiOed and Supplemented	Collected Principal	Collected Int/Penal8es	Prior Yr Credits Assigned	Balance Due
2021L01	\$4,813.89	\$0.00	\$4,813.89	\$681.54	\$0.00	\$0.00
2022L01	\$8,251.56	\$0.00	\$7,451.69	\$820.10	\$0.00	\$799.87
2023L01	\$0.00	\$3,389.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,389.03
2023P01	\$43,663.10	\$0.00	\$43,663.10	\$1,245.48	\$0.00	\$0.00
2024P01	\$0.00	\$457,534.41	\$406,447.19	\$0.00	\$848.28	\$50,238.94
2024T01	\$0.00	\$439.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$439.65	\$0.00
2024T02	\$0.00	\$1,455.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,455.37	\$0.00
2024U01		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		<u>\$464,318.46</u>	<u>\$463,875.87</u>	\$2,747.12	\$2,743.30	\$54,427.84

Summary	
Principal	\$463,875.87
Int/Penal8es	\$2,747.12
2024 Unassigned Credits	\$29.74
2024 Net Receipts	\$466,652.73
2024 Refunded Credits	\$0.00
2024 Gross Receipts	\$466,652.73

Credits	
Prior Yr Unassigned Credits	\$23,585.73
2024 Unassigned Credits	\$29.74
Total Unassigned Credits	\$23,615.47
Total Refunded Credits	\$1,258.96
Total Refund Abatements	\$10.00

Warrant Types	
L01	Lien
T01	Timber Tax
P01	Property Tax
U01	Land Use Change Tax

2024

Road Contractor Report-2024

January 2024 had a couple very strong winter storms with snow, rain and strong wind. The damage resulting from these storms was mainly tree damage from the wind. February and March were normal, and the beginning of April brought us one of our biggest snowfalls for the winter.

Springtime required some snow to be cleared out of the ditches for water flow. The gated portion of Tunnel Stream Road needed some trees and brush to be cleared to reopen on April 26. Brush was also picked up along the rest of the Tunnel Stream and Howe Hill roads.

Late spring and early summer we started by grading our graveled roads and adding gravel where needed. The brush and grass got cut around the guardrails and bridges as well.

We were not able to escape damage from the numerous heavy rainstorms that came through our area at the end of July. One storm caused some minor washouts on Paige, Fla8ron, and Tunnel Stream roads. We started the road project at the beginning of Tunnel Stream Road in early August which went smoothly with no surprises. Paving was completed in September.

In the fall months we replaced a couple of culverts on Howe Hill Road. Some ditch lines and culverts were cleaned out as well. Winter sand was put up, and some blow-down trees were picked up. Roadside mowing was completed on all roads necessary. November 22 was the first snow to plow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Bou8n Jr. & Son

Notes From the Town Clerk's Office

In 2024 three major elections took place, the Presidential Primary in January, the State Primary in September, and the General Election in November. They represent one of the bedrock premises of this country, that every citizen has the right to equal representation.

They also represent significant work required behind the scenes by the Election Staff: Moderator, Supervisors of the Checklist, the Ballot Clerk, the Selectboard, and the Town Clerk. Each election takes anywhere from 10 to 12 hours to pull off, including setting up the Town Building, to the counting of the votes at the end. That doesn't include the time that Fran Hadden and Stef Saffo spend cleaning the Town Building before each election.

I'd like to recognize the staff that your townspeople have elected. I cannot imagine an election without such a competent and hardworking group.

One person in particular needs an extra shout-out, Gil Richardson. Gil has been Benton Town Moderator for 20 years, as of this March. He started his Moderator career just as the job became much more regulated by new laws and regulations, requiring not only a passing familiarity with Roberts Rules of Order, but knowledge of the ever-changing regulations put out by the Secretary of State. Gil has proven up to the task, admirably. He and I end an election night, remaining after everyone else has gone home, filling in the myriad paperwork required to be filed along with the official vote count. He has always been there right up to the end of the night, even offering to drop the return paperwork to the Grafton County Sheriff.

Gil will be stepping down this year due to an ongoing battle with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), aka Lou Gehrig's Disease. It has been a pleasure working together with him, and I will miss him. The Town owes him a large debt of gratitude for his service. My office still remains closed for all but necessary in-person transactions such as marriage license applications. Between email, texting, phone calls and the US Postal Service, folks have been able to get their vehicles and dogs registered, vital records searched, and taxes paid. The secure locked box for payment/document drop off and the Town Clerk and Tax Collector mailboxes for paperwork returns seem to suit most of you and allows me to service your needs in a timelier fashion than 2 hours on Monday evening could. Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Stiebitz - Benton Town Clerk

2024 Town Meeting/Town Election Notes Town of Benton – March 12, 2024

Prior to opening the Meeting, Laura Richardson was sworn in as Assistant Moderator by Selectboard Member Kim Carpenter. It was explained that Laura would be reading the articles to the assembly to spare the Moderator’s voice which has been affected by an ongoing medical issue.

The Town Meeting was called to order at 7:06PM 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 such as teachers, medical professionals. At 7:06PM a motion was made to recess the School District meeting. The motion was seconded, and by voice vote, the Town Meeting was recessed to the School District meeting.

At 7:36PM, the Moderator reconvened the Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 1. Election of Town Officials

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	2027	Kim Carpenter
Moderator	2 year	2026	Gil Richardson
Treasurer	1 year	2025	Dwight Swauger
Town Clerk	1 year	2025	Michael Stiebitz
Tax Collector	1 year	2025	Michael Stiebitz
Supervisor of the Checklist	3 years	2027	Stephanie Saffo
Ballot Clerk	1 year	2025	Frances Hadden
Surveyor of Wood and Lumber	1 year	2025	Joseph Boutin, Jr.
Planning Board Member	3 years	2027	Martin Noble
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 years	2027	Mark Elliott

ARTICLE 2. Acceptance of Town Reports

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.

Selectboard Chair Bill Darcy took a moment to mention several issues that directly affect Benton.

First, the rollout by Conexon of high-speed fiber broadband internet service on behalf of NH Broadband and NHEC, is a reality. The infrastructure has been installed, and individual customers are being connected daily. The Town Building now has a reliable 100 megabit per second (Mbps) service. The proposed Twin States Clean Energy Link, which would have seen increased capacity added to the high voltage power lines which traverse Benton on RT 25 has been discontinued for now. Benton

would have seen some increased tax revenue from the project as well as some project-sponsored initiatives for the Town. Bill feels that it may get resurrected in the future.

Last year the Selectboard voted to move a large portion of the Town’s “Unexpended Fund Balance” into the New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool (“NH PDIP”). While the savings account at the local bank was paying around 0.1% interest on our deposits, the PDIP is currently paying 5.36%. So far the Town has realized approximately \$15,000 interest.

Scott Matz, Benton’s Emergency Management Director, is currently working on updating Benton’s Emergency Management Plan (EMP). This must be done every 5 years in order for Benton to remain eligible for FEMA reimbursements for disaster relief. Bill asked for anyone interested in providing input or volunteering to help with the Emergency Plan to contact Scott or him. The article passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 3. Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$134,925 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.

Bill Darcy listed two of the line items that increased in this year’s budget, Woodsville Ambulance service and the Avitar Assessing contract. He then pointed out that our projected revenues more than offset those increases. Along with having the lowest tax rate of any incorporated Town in the State, our projected tax rate for 2024 will be approximately \$1.00 less than it otherwise would be. He went on to state that the next articles dealing with the funding for various reserve and maintenance funds will have no effect on taxes, as the monies will come from the “Unassigned Fund Balance”.

There will be a couple of Town Building projects which Bill said will be tackled this year. Lastly, another stretch of Tunnel Stream Road will be dug up and repaved this year. It is the piece leading off of Coventry Rd. and connects to the section repaved last year. The article then was passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 4. Tunnel Stream Road Paving Work

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 for paving 200 feet of Tunnel Stream Road with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required) Motion was made to accept the article as written, seconded.

The article then was passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 5. Town Hall Property Improvements

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Town Hall improvements. That sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required) Motion was made and seconded to accept article as written.

An illuminated Notice Board will be put up on the front of the building, to the left of the front door. A walkway will be constructed from the parking lot up to the new noticeboard.

A fence on the right side of the building will be installed to separate the parking area from the side lawn, partially screening the propane tank and generator, and providing protection for the septic tank and leach field.

The article was then passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. Add Funds to Highway Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be added to the Highway/Roads Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Selectmen recommend this article. The sum comes from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

Motion was made and seconded to accept article as written.

With no discussion, the article was then passed by unanimous voice vote.

Article 7. Add Funds to Bridges Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to add \$5,768 to the Bridges Expendable Trust Fund with funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Motion was made and seconded to accept article as written.

Bill Darcy explained that this article allows us to put the money we received from the State for a dedicated purpose (bridges) that will only be used for that purpose as a result of placing the money in the Trust Fund

The article was then passed by unanimous voice vote.

Article 8. Add Funds to the Town Maintenance Expendable Trust

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Town Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required.)

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

With no discussion, the article was then passed by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment

The Moderator asked for and received a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous voice vote at 7:52 PM. Assistant Moderator Laura Richardson administered the oath of office to all the newly elected present.

A true copy,

Attest: Michael P. Stiebitz – Benton Town Clerk

Michael P. Stiebitz – 03/18/2024

Report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds - Benton, New Hampshire

For the Year Ending December 31, 2024

Trust Funds are held in trust and managed by elected Trustees who are residents of Benton. Citizens Bank holds all funds, excepting the Expendable Education Trust Fund, which is invested at the New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool.

Status of the Funds is as follows:

Trust Fund Savings	\$ 1,490.76
Common Trust Fund – Cemetery +	\$ 15,609.34
Capital Reserve Fund – Highways/Roads	\$105,219.05
Expendable Trust Fund – Fires	\$ 11,621.73
Expendable Trust Fund – Revaluation	\$ 5,336.29
Expendable Trust Fund – Education	\$275,890.12
Expendable Trust – Town Maintenance	\$ 52,683.78
Expendable Trust Fund – Bridges	\$ 28,831.49

**TOTAL HELD IN TRUST
BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND = \$496,682.56**

Respectfully submitted,

Trustees of the Trust Fund
Laura Richardson, Chair
Martin Noble
Mark Elliott

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

DISTRICT OFFICERS

SCHOOL BOARD

Joseph Boutin III
Brenda Finoia
Dwight Swauger, CHAIR

Term Expires 2026
Term Expires 2027
Term Expires 2025

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

Gilbert Richardson..... Moderator
Penny Chicoine.....Treasurer
Michael Stiebitz.....Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Laurie Melanson (23-24)
Dolores Fox (24-25)

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE 2025 SCHOOL WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the School District of Benton in the County of Grafton, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said district on the 11th day of March 2025, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To choose a School District Clerk for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 3: To choose one School Board Member for a term of three years to expire in 2028.

ARTICLE 4: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 5: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote related thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate Seven Hundred Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-One Dollars (\$730,571) for the support of schools, the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and the payments of statutory obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other article on the warrant.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$30,000 for tuition and special education expenses and authorize the withdrawal of up to \$30,000 from the Benton School District Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. No amount should come from taxation. (The school board recommends this article.)
(Majority vote required)

Given under our hands at said Benton this _____ day of _____, 2025.

A True Copy of Warrant – Attest:

Joseph Boutin III

Brenda Finoia

Dwight Swauger, Chairman

BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

The School Moderator, Gil Richardson, opened the meeting on the 12th day of March 2024, at 7:06PM. SAU 23 Superintendent Laurie Melanson and SAU 23 Finance Director Kathy Ducharme were in attendance.

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Gil Richardson was nominated, seconded and elected with a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 2: To choose a School District Clerk for the ensuing year.

Mike Stiebitz was nominated, seconded and elected with a unanimous voice vote. **ARTICLE 3:**

To choose one School Board Member for a term of three years to expire in 2027.

Brenda Finoia was nominated, seconded and elected with a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Penny Chicoine was nominated, seconded and elected with a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote related thereto.

A motion was made to accept as written, seconded.

Benton School Board member Dwight Swauger stated that during the Special District School Board Meeting in January 2024, he voted “No” on the 2025 Budget, Draft Article 6. (Note: There were only two Benton School Board members in attendance for that meeting.) He said that he then felt pressured into voting “Abstain” even though he wanted to vote “No”, as he believed, and still believes that the budget is too large.

Dwight said that the budget needs to be looked at hard for places where it could be cut. He also believes that the State of NH should be stepping up to provide adequate funding for our schools to satisfy the writing in the New Hampshire Constitution that we are not required to fund unfunded mandates from the State nor the Federal Government. Dwight also made the case that all members of the Benton School Board need to attend every meeting in order to provide a viable presence at the SAU 23 meetings.

The article was then passed with a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand, and Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$668,750) for the support of schools, the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and the payments of statutory obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other article on the warrant

A motion was made to accept as written, seconded.

Since the Budget Hearing in January, 2 additional students have been enrolled in the school system, resulting in an additional \$31,673 cost to the Town. A motion was made to amend Article 6 to add the additional \$31,673, resulting a new total budget of \$700,423. The motion was passed and seconded. The amended Article 6 appears below:

ARTICLE 6 Amended: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate Seven Hundred Thousand, and Four Hundred Twenty Three Dollars (\$700,423) for the support of schools, the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and the payments of statutory obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other article on the warrant.

Benton School Board member Joe Boutin stated that he has looked into surrounding area school costs in an effort to determine if Benton has an option to send our students to a lower cost system. He detailed several of the local area school district costs and they were all significantly higher than what we pay per student, plus the transportation costs and distances would make them even more undesirable for our students. Our per student expenses are barebones, according to Joe, no infrastructure charges, just basic tuition, and any Special Needs expenses.

Laurie Melanson, SAU 23 Superintendent announced that this would be the last meeting she would be attending as she is retiring in June of this year. She thanked us for our support over the years. She also admitted that as she travels around to the various districts, the universal complaint is the high cost of tuition, and the lack of adequate funding from the State of NH.

A round of applause was given to Laurie.

The article was then passed with a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$60,000 for tuition and special education expenses and authorize the withdrawal of up to \$60,000 from the Benton School District Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. No amount should come from taxation. (The school board recommends this article.) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made to accept as written, seconded.

Benton School Board Chair Joe Boutin stated that there is currently a \$56,228 deficit from last year’s budget due to 7 unforeseen students joining the roles in the 2023-2024 school year.

Article 7 covers a projected deficit in the 2024-2025 budget. This means that the Expendable Trust Fund may need to supply up to approximately \$120,000 over the next 12 months.

Trustee of the Trust Funds chair Laura Richardson stated that there is currently approximately \$289,000 in the fund, so we should be good for now.

The article was then passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn the School District Meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 7:36PM.

All newly elected officials were sworn in at the end of the Town Meeting.

A true copy

Attest: Michael P. Stiebitz – Benton School District Clerk – 03/18/2024

Michael P. Stiebitz

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARIES

One-half of the School Administrative Unit expenses are prorated among the school districts on the basis of equalized valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30th. Below is a breakdown of each district's cost share for the Superintendent's salary of \$142,768 and the Business Administrator's salary of \$115,713 for fiscal year 2024.

SUPERINTENDENT SALARY		
BATH	\$ 19,031	13.33%
BENTON	\$ 2,713	1.90%
HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE	\$ 91,614	64.17%
PIERMONT	\$ 14,391	10.08%
WARREN	\$ 15,019	10.52%
TOTAL	\$ 142,768	100.00%

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR SALARY		
BATH	\$ 15,425	13.33%
BENTON	\$ 2,199	1.90%
HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE	\$ 74,253	64.17%
PIERMONT	\$ 11,664	10.08%

WARREN	\$ 12,173	10.52%
TOTAL	\$ 115,713	100.00%

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As I write this report, I have completed 6 months as superintendent of SAU #23. I am excited and happy to serve as superintendent for the districts of SAU #23 today as I was July 1, 2024, when I started. I believe that I share the values of the community of Haverhill: a community that cares about each other and embraces the responsibility to provide their children the best education which they can afford.

Haverhill Cooperative School District educates students from preschool age through 12th grade. Under certain circumstances, the state of New Hampshire requires that education is provided to students until their 22nd birthday. There are 3 schools: Woodsville Elementary (grades PreK- 3), Haverhill Cooperative Middle School (grades 4- 8), and Woodsville High School (grades 9-12). Haverhill Cooperative School district also houses the SAU 23's alternative programs, French Pond School and King Street School through a rent agreement with SAU #23. The alternative programs are open to area school districts on a tuition-basis.

Haverhill Cooperative School District serves the educational needs of the children of Haverhill residents and, through tuition agreements, serves the communities of Warren, Bath, Piermont, and Benton. Warren and Piermont students may choose to enroll at Woodsville High School in 9th grade, while students from Bath may enroll as early as 7th grade. Students from Benton may attend grades PreK - 12. Twenty-two Benton students currently attend school in the Haverhill Cooperative School District, French Pond and King Street Alternative Programs, and River Bend Career and Technical Center (Bradford, Vt). In addition to tuition, Benton School District pays for the special education services for Benton students, transportation costs, for both special education and general education students, and the services of the SAU office.

The past few years have presented challenges to education. We are faced with challenges in hiring and retaining quality teachers as well as other positions, reduced state and federal funding which increases the tax burden on the local home owner, and while student numbers are lower, we are seeing increasing student needs.

For 2024-25 school, Haverhill Cooperative School system started the year with 5 open teaching positions and 2 open specialist positions at the SAU level (school psychologist and speech/language therapist). The open classroom positions have resulted in reduced supports for students at Woodsville High School and larger class sizes (Grade 5) at Haverhill Cooperative Middle School. We filled a part-time physical education position at Woodsville Elementary with a long-term substitute teacher. To fill the specialist positions, we contract with a service that used to provide these services in-person, but changed their delivery model to online-virtual services (at an increased cost).

In November 2023, the NH state court ruled that the current base adequacy cost of \$4200 per student did not meet the constitutional level of an adequate education. The court decision placed base-adequacy aid at a minimum of \$7356.01 per student. The State of New Hampshire filed an appeal of this ruling in August 2024. For the 2025-26 school year, the base-adequacy aid for each student is \$4,265.64. However, the amount of adequacy aid from the state of New Hampshire that Haverhill will receive for the 2025-26 school year decreased by \$240,001 from the 2024-25 school year.

As state funding decreases and enrollment numbers decrease, the needs of students increase. The increase in student need is reflected in the increase in students requiring special education. Not only are the numbers of students requiring special needs increasing but the complexity and severity of those needs are increasing, leading to more supports and services. The Haverhill Cooperative School District works hard to ensure that our students with severe needs stay in our schools. Not only is this in the best interest of families and students, but saves the taxpayers of Haverhill money. Placing students in out of district placements can cost taxpayers \$65,000 - \$350,000 per student.

We are also seeing the evidence of increased needs in the community with increasing numbers of students accessing free/reduced meals. The number of families that struggle to pay for meals is evident as the unpaid meals' accounts climb. At the end of the 2023-24 school year, the district had an unpaid meals balance of \$15,000. The mental health and wellness of many of our students is a concern. We are seeing an increasing number of mental health referrals, safety evaluations, police interactions, and DCYF reports. I would like to commend the staff at all the schools who place the needs of students first and work diligently to provide a safe place for students each day. Unfortunately, the trauma students are bringing with them to school is placing additional stress on our educators and school resources.

Despite the challenges public education faces, I have great hopes for the coming school year. I am embracing the commitment to care for our children the best that we can. My goal is to continue building a school system that demonstrates care for our students, each other, and the community. Working with the Haverhill Cooperative school board, I hope to develop plans and goals that will drive long-term decision-making for the current and future benefit of our students, schools, and community.

I am looking forward to continuing in my role of Superintendent of Schools for SAU #23. I am grateful for the opportunity and the communities that I serve.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dolores Fox, Superintendent of Schools SAU #23

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT TUITION STUDENTS 2023-2024

	<u>FTE Total</u> <u>Students</u>	<u>Total Tuition Costs Per</u> <u>School</u>
Haverhill Cooperative School District	19.11	\$291,518.76
French Pond School	1	\$23,106.00
King Street School	2	\$46,212.00
River Bend Tech	0.5	\$11,031.25
Total Benton Tuition:	22.61	\$371,868.01
Average Tuition Cost Per Student		\$16,447.06

**REPORT OF THE BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO
JUNE 30, 2024**

Cash on Hand, July 1, 2023	\$ 178,003.69
Total Revenues Received	\$ 625,946.10
Total School Board Orders Paid	\$ (736,701.17)
Cash on Hand, June 30, 2024	\$ 67,248.62

SAU Accounts Receivable Clerk

AUDIT REPORT

The Benton School District has been audited by the Plodzik & Sanderson Professional Association. Copies of the audit are available for public review at the Superintendent's Office at the James R. Morrill Building, 2975 Dartmouth College Highway, No. Haverhill, NH.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		GENERAL FUND	GRANT FUND	TRUST/AGENCY FUND
Current Assets				
CASH	100	\$ 67,247.00	\$ -	\$ -
INVESTMENTS	110	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 297,358.00
INTERFUND RECEIVABLE	130	\$ 1,109.00	\$ -	\$ -
INTERGOV'T REC	140	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER RECEIVABLES	150	\$ 36,498.00	\$ 1,109.00	\$ -
PREPAID EXPENSES	180	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	190	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Assets		\$ 104,854.00	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 297,358.00
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY				
Current Liabilities				
INTERFUND PAYABLES	400	\$ -	\$ 1,109.00	\$ -
INTERGOV'T PAYABLES	410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER PAYABLES	420	\$ 104,854.00	\$ -	\$ 28,553.00
ACCRUED EXPENSES	460	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DEFERRED REVENUES	480	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER CURRENT LIAB	490	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Liabilities		\$ 104,854.00	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 28,553.00
Fund Equity				
Non-spendable:				
RESERVE FOR PREPAID EXPENSES	752	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Restricted:				
Committed:				
RESERVE FOR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS	754	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RESERVE FOR AMTS VOTED	755	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCES (non-lapsing)	753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE RETAINED		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assigned:				
RESERVED FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES	760	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 268,805.00
RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCES	753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	770	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Fund Equity		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 268,805.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY		\$ 104,854.00	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 297,358.00

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2026

		PROPOSED	
	FY2025	FY2026	INCREASE/
DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	BUDGET	(DECREASE)
CURRENT APPROPRIATION	\$ 454,071	\$ 521,965	\$ 67,894
ADEQUACY AID (GRANT)	\$ 134,726	\$ 98,413	\$ (36,313)
ADEQUACY AID (STATE TAX)	\$ 53,455	\$ 57,042	\$ 3,587
SPECIAL EDUCATION AID	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
VOCATIONAL ED TUITION	\$ 3,310	\$ 3,319	\$ 9
VOC ED TRANSPORTATION	\$ 450	\$ 441	\$ (9)
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 34,180	\$ 30,000	\$ (4,180)
NATIONAL FOREST RESERVE	\$ 11,956	\$ 11,956	\$ -
TRANSFER FROM EXPENDABLE TRUST	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
USE OF FUND BALANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 692,148	\$ 723,136	\$ 30,988
GRANT REVENUES	\$ 8,275	\$ 7,435	\$ (840)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 700,423	\$ 730,571	\$ 30,148
REGULAR EDUCATION	\$ 246,786	\$ 281,857	\$ 35,071
SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$ 219,275	\$ 225,375	\$ 6,100
FRENCH POND TUITION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
KING STREET TUITION	\$ 69,318	\$ 46,212	\$ (23,106)
VOC ED TUITION	\$ 11,656	\$ 11,656	\$ -
SUMMER SCHOOL	\$ 7,600	\$ 12,630	\$ 5,030
SPEECH/LANGUAGE SERVICES	\$ 25,805	\$ 24,370	\$ (1,435)
SUMMER SPEECH SERVICES	\$ 1,820	\$ 1,820	\$ -

PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES	\$ 5,760	\$ 6,240	\$ 480
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES	\$ 13,365	\$ 11,835	\$ (1,530)
SCHOOL BOARD	\$ 6,843	\$ 7,575	\$ 732
TREASURER	\$ 357	\$ 368	\$ 11
DISTRICT MEETING	\$ 94	\$ 98	\$ 4
AUDIT SERVICES	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ -
LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT	\$ 28,888	\$ 37,387	\$ 8,499
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$ 37,741	\$ 38,873	\$ 1,132
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 14,440	\$ 14,440	\$ -
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ -
TRANSFER TO EXPEND TRUST FUND	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TUITION TO CHARTER SCHOOLS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES-GENERAL FUND	\$ 692,148	\$ 723,136	\$ 30,988
GRANT EXPENDITURES	\$ 8,275	\$ 7,435	\$ (840)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 700,423	\$ 730,571	\$ 30,148

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FY2026 BUDGET HEARING JANUARY 29, 2025

The FY2026 budget is \$730,571 which is an overall increase in the budget of \$30,148. This represents a 4.3% increase from the FY2025 budget.

EXPENDITURES:

- The total General Fund budget increased \$30,988 which is a 4.48% increase over the current year budget. The grant listed in the budget for \$7,435 is the IDEA grant which covers specific special education expenses. Both the revenue and expense are budgeted at the same amount and therefore no taxes are raised.
- Tuition (including vocational, alternative programs and charter schools) is **\$11,965** more than the current budget.
 - Haverhill set the tuition rate at a 3% increase for elementary, 5% for middle school and 7% for high school next year.
 - There are no contingency spots for additional students.
 - In the current year budget, tuition expense was reduced by \$60,000. This amount is to come from the Expendable Trust Fund as voted in March 2024. At this time, it is anticipated that we may only need to withdraw approximately \$20,000.
 - In this proposed budget, the Board has reduced tuition expense by \$30,000 with the amount to once again come from the Trust Fund. This is reflected in Warrant Article #7.
 - FY2026 budget includes 21 students. FY2025 budget includes 23 and the actual number of students is 22 at this time.
- Special education costs, including instruction, transportation, speech services, summer school, etc. have increased **\$8,645**.
- Transportation (regular/vocational) – increased **\$1,132**
- SAU Assessment – increased **\$8,499**
- School Board liability insurance and dues – increased **\$732**
- Special Education Grant (IDEA) (now part of Benton budget at no cost to the taxpayer – see offsetting revenue) – decreased **\$840**

REVENUE:

- Adequacy Aid grant & state tax (estimated) decreased **\$32,726** for FY2026.
- Medicaid reimbursement decreased **\$4,180**.
- Special Education Grant (IDEA) revenue budgeted to offset expense decreased **\$840**.

TAX RATE:

This budget will result in a tax rate increase from \$9.27 to \$10.57 (+\$1.30).

Note: The tax rate increases/decreases approx. \$.18 for each \$10,000 of expense.

TRUST FUND:

Balance is approximately \$269,000 (6/30/24 figures).

BENTON TAX RATE CALCULATIONS

CALENDAR/TAX YEAR	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024	
	FY2021 ACTUAL	FY2022 ACTUAL	FY2023 ACTUAL	FY2024 ACTUAL	FY2025 ACTUAL	FY2026 PROJECTED	CURRENT VALUATION	
Local Property Tax Rate	\$17.97	\$14.04	\$15.44	\$6.91	\$8.25	\$9.48	\$55,065,197	Per \$1,000
State Property Tax Rate	\$2.06	\$1.95	\$1.33	\$0.91	\$1.01	\$1.08	\$52,895,497	Per \$1,000
Total School Tax Rate	\$20.03	\$15.99	\$16.77	\$7.82	\$9.26	\$10.56		
INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM PY YEAR \$\$	\$2.55	(\$4.04)	\$0.78	(\$8.95)	\$1.44	\$1.30		
TAX RATE AS VOTE AT ANNUAL MEETING	\$19.25	\$17.09	\$18.42	\$16.47	\$9.38			
INCREASE(DECREASE) VOTED VS. ACTUAL	\$0.78	(\$1.10)	(\$1.65)	(\$8.65)	(\$0.12)			

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS PREVIOUS TWO FISCAL YEARS PER RSA 32:11-a

		2022-2023	2023-2024
Special Education Expenses			
1200	INSTRUCTION	\$185,832	\$175,190
1230	FRENCH POND SCHOOL	\$46,212	\$23,106
1231	KING STREET SCHOOL	\$0	\$46,212
1430	SUMMER SCHOOL	\$3,380	\$10,628
2150	SPEECH/LANGUAGE	\$3,955	\$0
2159	SUMMER SCHOOL SPEECH/LANG	\$0	\$0
2162	PHYSICAL THERAPY	\$14,658	\$10,994
2163	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	\$8,327	\$9,161
2722	TRANSPORTATION	\$7,204	\$7,082
Total District Expenses		\$269,568	\$282,373
Special Education Revenues			
3110	SPED Portion State Adequacy Funds	\$16,297	\$18,900
3230	Special Educa8on Aid	\$5,387	\$5,418
4580	Medicaid	\$17,109	\$36,949
Total District Revenues		\$38,793	\$61,267

DISTRICT ASSESSMENT SHARES AS DETERMINED BY NH RSA 194-C:9

	2024-2025	2025-2026	INCREASE/

DISTRICT	BUDGET	BUDGET	(DECREASE)
BATH	\$ 189,287	\$ 194,150	\$ 4,863
BENTON	\$ 28,888	\$ 37,387	\$ 8,499
HAVERHILL	\$ 962,577	\$ 1,224,782	\$ 262,205
PIERMONT	\$ 140,905	\$ 183,783	\$ 42,878
WARREN	\$ 158,737	\$ 172,695	\$ 13,958
TOTAL DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS	\$ 1,480,394	\$ 1,812,797	\$ 332,403

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 BUDGET SUMMARY

	2024-2025	2025-2026	
	APPROVED	APPROVED	INCREASE/
DEPARTMENT NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	BUDGET	(DECREASE)
ASSESSMENT	\$ 1,480,394	\$ 1,812,798	\$ 332,404
FPS TUITION	\$ 363,200	\$ 363,200	\$ -
KING STREET SCHOOL TUITION	\$ 557,257	\$ 538,304	\$ (18,953)
SUMMER TRIP TUITION	\$ 10,583	\$ 10,824	\$ 241
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,000
SERVICES TO LEA'S	\$ 380,330	\$ 599,264	\$ 218,934
SPEECH SERVICES	\$ 338,373	\$ 340,725	\$ 2,352
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY REVENUE	\$ 135,000	\$ 152,000	\$ 17,000
PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES	\$ 87,500	\$ 5,000	\$ (82,500)
OTHER LOCAL REVENUE	\$ 8,337	\$ 4,503	\$ (3,834)
USE OF FUND BALANCE	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ (75,000)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 3,439,474	\$ 3,832,118	\$ 392,644
1100 ITINERANT TEACHERS	\$ 172,892	\$ 279,525	\$ 106,633
1230 FRENCH POND PROGRAM	\$ 421,330	\$ 442,552	\$ 21,222
1231 KING STREET PROGRAM	\$ 378,416	\$ 421,285	\$ 42,869
1430 SUMMER SCHOOL	\$ 10,583	\$ 10,824	\$ 241
2113 SOCIAL WORKER	\$ -	\$ 116,063	\$ 116,063
2120 GUIDANCE	\$ 111,103	\$ 122,110	\$ 11,007
2125 DATA MANAGEMENT	\$ 66,681	\$ 73,278	\$ 6,597
2140 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$ 94,000	\$ 10,950	\$ (83,050)
2150 SPEECH & LANGUAGE SERVICES	\$ 338,215	\$ 340,401	\$ 2,186
2159 SPEECH SUMMER SERVICES	\$ 4,158	\$ 4,324	\$ 166
2163 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	\$ 135,000	\$ 152,000	\$ 17,000
2213 STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$ 7,182	\$ 6,538	\$ (644)
2220 TECHNOLOGY SUPERVISION	\$ 321,387	\$ 350,041	\$ 28,654
2311 SCHOOL BOARD	\$ 9,658	\$ 10,740	\$ 1,082

2312 SCHOOL BOARD CLERK	\$ 729	\$ 646	\$ (83)
2313 DISTRICT TREASURER	\$ 2,775	\$ 2,775	\$ -
2317 AUDIT	\$ 7,850	\$ 7,850	\$ -
2318 LEGAL COUNSEL	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -
2321 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT	\$ 801,028	\$ 888,031	\$ 87,003
2330 SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADMIN.	\$ 356,333	\$ 383,374	\$ 27,041
2334 OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS	\$ 5,847	\$ 5,825	\$ (22)
2540 SAU-WIDE PUBLIC RELATIONS	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
2620 BUILDING & RENT	\$ 146,446	\$ 149,445	\$ 2,999
2640 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$ 6,903	\$ 6,359	\$ (544)
2810 RESEARCH, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
2820 COMPUTER NETWORK	\$ 35,858	\$ 41,882	\$ 6,024
2832 RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 200
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,439,474	\$ 3,832,118	\$ 392,644
IDEA GRANTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 3,439,474	\$ 3,832,118	\$ 392,644

Vital Statistics for 2024

Benton, NH

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Died</u>
Colleen Christian (Glenclyff Home) 08/04/2024	04/02/2024 Benton	Mary Ellen Nelson (Glenclyff Home) 08/07/2024
Linda J. Pickering 08/10/2024	Matthew Kury Hasham Benton	Alan Raitt (Glenclyff Home) 08/15/2024
Robert Edmund Vezeau		10/11/2024
Lewis A. Boutin	N. Haverhill	11/14/2024

Marriages

March 22 nd , 2024	Emily Ann Duffy and James William Sullivan in Lincoln, NH
May 8 th , 2024	Jovana Pudic & Jason Kudo-Balough in Lincoln, NH
October 5 th , 2024	Amanda Jean Sandvil and Jaret Timothy Bemis in Benton

Births

March 17 th , 2024	Aaron Kudo son of Jovana Pudic and Jason Grant Kudo-Balough in Littleton, NH
July 30 th , 2024	Elijah Joseph Finn son of Indhira Ester Finn and Daniel Joseph Finn IV in Lebanon, NH
November 5 th , 2024	Eleanor Elaine Tremblay daughter of Angela Bendeck and Christopher Tremblay in Vermont

NOTES:

**TOWN OF BENTON
221 COVENTRY ROAD
BENTON, NH 03785**

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LITTLETON, NH
PERMIT NO. 45