2025 Town Meeting/Town Election Notes

Town of Benton – March 11, 2025

Prior to opening the Meeting, the Town Clerk swore in Jeremy Elliott as Moderator Pro-Tem. Gil Richardson, Benton's Town and School District Moderator for the past twenty years stepped down due to the worsening symptoms of ALS, (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), aka Lou Gehrig's Disease, he has been battling for the past two years. Gil was in attendance and briefed Jeremy on procedures and a suggested agenda for the meeting.

Selectman William Darcy participated by speakerphone as he was out of Town.

The Town Meeting was called to order at 7:02PM by the Moderator Pro-Tem, Jeremy Elliott. He 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. Tribute was given as well to all of the folks involved in service to the community such as teachers, medical professionals. At 7:05PM 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 7:17PM, 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:

Position	Term	Expires	
Selectman	2 years	2027	Philip Chicoine
Selectman	3 years	2028	Regina Elliott
Moderator	1 year	2026	Jeremy Elliott
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.
Planning Board Member	3 years	2028	Kenneth Kealey

Planning Board Member	3 years	2028	Joseph Boutin III
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 years	2028	Martin Noble

Jeremy Elliott recognized Gil Richardson for his twenty years of service as Town and School Board Moderator, as well as several other long-standing Town officials including Ken Kealey, Joe Boutin, Jr., and Mike Stiebitz.

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 and then seconded.

The Moderator then asked for any discussion on this article. None was raised. Motion to accept as written was made, seconded.

The article then passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 3.   Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $134,575 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)

Motion was made to accept the article, seconded.

The Moderator then asked for any discussion on this article. None was raised. Motion to accept as written was made, seconded.

The article then was passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 4.   Tunnel Stream Road Paving Work

To see if the Town will vote to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $55,000 for paving 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)

Motion was made to accept the article and seconded.

The Moderator then asked for any discussion on this article. None was raised. Motion to accept as written was made, 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 $30,000 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.

The Moderator then asked for any discussion on this article. None was raised. Motion to accept as written was made, seconded.

The article was then passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6.   Cemetery Improvements

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 for Mountain View Cemetery improvements, primary 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.)

Motion was made and seconded to accept article.

The Moderator then asked for any discussion on this article. None was raised. Motion to accept as written was made, seconded.

With no discussion, the article then was 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 unanimous voice vote at 7:29 PM. The oath of office was then administered to all the newly elected officials present.

A true copy,
Attest: Michael P. Stiebitz – Benton Town Clerk

Michael P. Stiebitz – 03/16/2025