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2008

Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton
New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31
2008

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New Hampshire

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2008

Town of Benton, N.H.

Annual Report of Town Officers
Year Ended December 31, 2008

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BENTON TOWN OFFICERS

		Term	Exp. Date
Board of Selectmen:	Earl Templemeyer	3 yrs.	2009
	Albert Boutin, Jr.	3 yrs.	2010
	Jeremy Elliott	3 yrs	2011
Moderator:	Gilbert Richardson	2 yrs.	2010
Town Clerk:	Michael Stiebitz	1 yr.	2009
Treasurer:	Richard Dickenson	1 yr.	2009
Auditor:	Robert Steel	1 yr.	2009
Tax Collector:	Michael Stiebitz	1 yr.	2009
Supervisors of the Checklist:	Nellie Dickenson	3 yrs	2009
	Arthur Christopher	3 yrs	2010
	Deborah Boutin	3 Yrs.	2011
Ballot Clerk:	Steven Saffo	1 yr.	2009
Ballot Inspector:	Maxine Tyler	1 yr.	2009
Surveyors of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	1 yr.	2009
Trustees of the Trust Funds:	Joyce Hassel	3 yrs.	2009
	Martin Noble	3 yrs.	2010
	Laura Richardson	3 yrs.	2011
Planning Board:	Martin Noble	5 yrs.	2009
	Wayne Chevalier	5 yrs.	2010
	Kenneth Kealey	5 yrs.	2011
	Richard Saffo, Sr.	5 yrs.	2012
	Jeremy Elliott	Ex Officio Member	
Sexton:	Jeremy Elliott Assistant (Vacant)	1 Yr.	2009
Police Officer/Director of Emergency Mgmt.	Vacant		

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Grafton S.S.

March 10, 2009

Town of Benton

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Benton Community Building in said Benton on the second Tuesday of March next, the 10th, at seven o'clock in the evening to vote and act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1 To choose a Town Clerk, a Treasurer, a Tax Collector, an Auditor, a Ballot Clerk, a Sexton, an Assistant to the Sexton, and a Surveyor of Wood and Lumber for a term of one year, a Supervisor of the Checklist and a Selectman for a term of three years, a Member of the Planning Board for a term of five years and any other agents or officers necessary for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2 To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed.

ARTICLE 3 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$30,000. Said funds to come from the Capital Reserve Fund for Highways and Roads to be used for the purpose of repairs and re-surfacing work that is badly needed on Tunnel Stream Road and Howe Hill Road. This amount can not be exceeded in 2009. The project will be checked and any further decisions will be reconsidered before Town Meeting 2010.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

ARTICLE 4 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$117,770 for General Municipal Operations.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

A True Copy - Attest
Selectmen of Benton

Jeremy Elliott

Albert J. Boutin, Jr.

Earl Templemeyer

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Estimate of Revenue

Sources of Revenue	Est. 2008	Rec. 2008	Est. 2009
Yield Taxes	\$4,500	\$4,977	\$4,000
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	3,000	2,500	3,000
Motor Vehicle Registrations	45,000	54,000	45,000
White Mountain Nat'l Forest	33,500	32,481	33,000
State of New Hampshire			
Shared Revenue	1,605	1,605	1,605
Rooms & Meals Tax	13,000	14,978	14,000
Highway Bloc Grant	12,071	12,029	12,000
Grant		19,713	
Grant to Install Internet		300	
Income From Trust Funds	310	310	310
Dog Licenses & Fines	420	420	400
Interest on Deposits	420	322	300
Totals	\$113,826	\$143,635	\$113,615

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Estimate of Expenditures

Category	Approp.	Expend	Proposed
Selectmen & Expenses	\$3,300	\$3,048	\$3,500
Elections	2,000	2,712	1,000
Financial Administration	6,000	4,004	5,000
Legal Expenses	1,000	405	2,000
Planning Board	200	0	200
Community Building	4,000	4,506	5,000
Cemeteries	1,200	2,231	1,200
Insurance & Bonds	2,100	2,166	2,200
Regional Associations	940	1,535	1,000
Police Protection	5,600	1,141	5,600
Emergency Dispatch Service	1,500	1,743	1,500
Ambulance	3,320	3,240	3,320
Fire Protection	10,000	3,625	10,000
Roads	50,000	51,461	55,000
Social Services	2,400	2,423	2,400
Assessing	5,000	5,412	5,500
Soc Security & Medicare	600	620	650
Mowing Roadsides	2,000	475	2,200
Deposited to C.R.F. for Roads	10,000	0	10,000
Interest	500	0	500
Totals	\$111,660	\$90,747	\$117,770

General Information:

Town Hall & Cemetery Funds in Gen'l Acct. Used in 2008

Comparative Statement of Appropriations & Expenditures

Category	Approp. Expended		Unexp.	Overdraft
Selectmen & Expenses	\$3,300	\$3,048	\$252	\$0
Elections	2,000	2,712	0	712
Financial Administration	6,000	4,004	1,996	0
Legal Expenses	1,000	405	595	
Planning Board	200	0	200	0
Community Building	4,000	4,506	0	506
Cemeteries	1,200	1,531	0	331
Mowing Roadsides	2,000	475	1,525	0
Insurance & Bonds	2,100	2,166	0	66
Regional Associations	940	1,535	0	595
Police	5,600	1,141	4,459	0
Dispatch	1,500	1,743	0	243
Ambulance	3,320	3,240	80	0
Fire Protection	10,000	3,625	6,375	0
Roads	50,000	51,461	0	1,461
Social Services	2,400	2,423	0	23
To CRF for Roads	10,000	0	10,000	0
Interest	500	0	500	0
Assessing	5,000	5,412	0	412
Social Security & Medicare	600	620	0	20
Totals	\$111,660	\$90,047	\$25,982	\$4,369

Status of Funds

Cost of Town Hall Repairs	\$4,440.00
Fund on Hand	833.00

Net Cost	\$3,607.00
Bal of Fund	\$0

Cost of Cemetery Tree Removal	\$2,231.00
Fund on Hand	700.00

Net From Gen'l Fund	\$1,531.00
Bal of Fund	\$0

Treasurer's Report

Received from Tax Collector:

Property taxes (Year 2005)	\$4,308.57	
Interest and costs	1,011.70	
Total 2005		\$5,320.27
Property taxes (Year 2006)	\$6,323.87	
Interest and costs	678.38	
Total 2006		\$7,002.25
Property taxes (Year 2007)	\$57,897.00	
Interest and costs	824.00	
Misc. - C.U. Removal	65.00	
Redemptions	1,060.51	
Taxes Bought by Town	9,716.17	
Overpayment of tax - refund	1,433.00	
Total 2007		\$70,995.68
Property taxes (Year 2008)	\$33,553.59	
Misc.	56.00	
Total 2008		\$33,609.59
Total from Tax Collector		\$116,927.79

Received from the Town Clerk:

Motor Vehicle Permits/Transfers	\$53,992.00	
Vital Statistics - St. of New Hampshire	8.00	
Dog Licenses issued	412.50	
Fines & Penalties	18.00	
Marriage Licenses	38.00	
Reimbursed Bad Check	216.00	
Total from Town Clerk		\$54,684.50
Bank charge for bad check	(\$8.00)	
Bad Check returned by bank	(216.00)	
		(\$224.00)

Treasurer's Report (cont'd)

Received from the Selectmen:

Pistol Permits	\$110.00	
Building Permits	715.00	
Hall Rental	130.00	
Misc.	5.80	
Beautify Benton Comm (Reimb. Elect)	170.00	
Total from Selectmen		\$1,130.80

Received from State & Federal Sources

St. of N. H. - Grants	\$19,713.00	
St. of N. H. - Rooms & meals tax	14978.20	
St. of N. H. - Hwy. Block Grant	12029.05	
St. of N. H. - Revenue Sharing	1605.00	
St. of N. H. - Grant to install internet	300.00	
U.S. Dept. of Ag., Forest Service	32481.00	
Total Received from State & Federal Sources:		\$81,106.25

Transfer of funds from Bank of America \$40,000.00

Total receipts for 2008	\$293,625.34
Cash on hand as of 1/1/08	312,487.95
Bank interest	306.08
Less Selectmen's orders for 2008	535333.27

Year-end Total Cash \$71,086.10

Acct. 30502 - Yield Account:

Cash on hand - 1/1/08	\$3,298.68
Interest	15.45
Deposits	4976.67

Year-end Yield Acct. Balance (01-07-09) \$8,290.80

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Dickenson, Treasurer

Detailed Statement of Payments
By The Selectmen

Selectmen:

Salaries & Expenses:		\$3,047.54
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Financial Administration:

Salaries:	R. Steel, Auditor	\$92.35
	M. Stiebitz, Town Clerk & Tax Collector	923.50
	Richard Dickenson, Treas.	369.40
	Joseph Boutin, Jr. - Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	184.70
	J. Elliott, Sexton	831.15
	Total	\$2,401.10

Office Expenses:	Town Report:	\$550.00
	N.H. Recorder of Deeds:	72.49
	Notices:	139.04
	General Office Expenses:	361.31
	Install Internet Service	300.00
	Total	\$1,422.84

Election Expenses:

Penny Chicoine	\$15.00
Deborah Boutin	318.75
Arthur Christopher	318.75
Maxine Tyler	285.00
Gilbert Richardson	300.00
Michael Stiebitz	537.20
Jeremy Elliott	225.00
Albert Boutin, Jr.	270.00
Marjorie Robitzer	120.00
Nellie Dickenson	232.50
Earl Templemeyer	90.00
Total	\$2,712.20

Detailed Statement of Payments (cont'd)

Town Hall:

Repairs (New Locks on Doors)	\$99.50
Walter Jock Oil:	3000.00
Verizon/Fairpoint Comm	396.81
N.H. Elec. Co-op	1009.94
New Windows - Per Article 3 - 2007 Town Report, \$4,630 Voted in from Gen'l Fund	
Cost:	4440.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$8,946.25

Cemeteries

Tree Removal - Mountain View	\$2,231.05
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Insurance:

Local Government Center	\$2,166.26
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Regional Associations:

N.H. Municipal Assoc. (2008 & 2009 - 2 yrs)	\$1,173.27
North Country Council	301.89
N.H. Assoc. Of Tax Collectors	20.00
N.H. Town Clerks Assoc. (2 yrs.)	40.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$1,535.16

Dispatch Service:	\$1,742.66
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Police Account

Equipment, Adjustment & Repairs	\$135.00
Annual Organizations:	120.00
Vehicle Costs	886.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$1,141.00

Detailed Statement of Payments (cont'd)

Ambulance Service:		\$3,240.00
Fire Protection:		
Twin State Mutual:		\$1,000.00
Haverhill Corner Fire Co:		750.00
North Haverhill Fire Co:		1875.00
	Total	<hr/> \$3,625.00
Roads:		
Elliott Construction:		\$42,086.00
Morrill:		660.00
Lee Waterhouse, Mowing:		475.00
Materials and Supplies:		8,714.94
	Total	<hr/> \$51,935.94
Welfare:		
North Country Home Health:		600.00
Grafton Co. Senior Center:		600.00
Tri-County Community Action:		300.00
Northern Human Services:		500.00
Bradford Pratts Oil Co		423.45
	Total	<hr/> \$2,423.45
Abatelements and Refunds:		\$894.00
LLegal Fees:		\$405.00

Detailed Statement of Payments (cont'd)

State of New Hampshire Interest:	
Vital Records:	\$46.00
Dept of Agriculture, Div of Animal Control	145.00
	<hr/>
	191.00
Social Sec. & Medicare:	\$619.65
Assessing:	\$5,412.00
County Tax:	\$37,525.00
Schools:	\$292,000.00
Transfer of Funds to Bank of Amer.	\$100,000.00
	<hr/>
Total Checks Written	\$525,617.10

Selectmen of Benton

Earl Templemeyer

Albert J Boutin

Jeremy Elliott

TOWN OF BENTON
Tax Collector's Report - 2008

2008

	Cr.	Dr.
Taxes Committed This Year:		
Property Taxes		\$235,368.00
Land Use Change		65.00
Yield Taxes		4,976.67
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$33,553.59	
Land Use Change	65.00	
Yield Taxes	4,976.67	
SubTotal	\$38,595.26	
Taxes Uncollected at Year-end	\$201,814.41	
Totals	\$240,409.67	\$240,409.67

2007

	Cr	Dr
Taxes Uncollected at Beginning of Year		\$67,617.17
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Costs		862.00
Overpayment (refunded)		1,433.00
Taxes omitted from tax bill		(4.00)
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$57,897.00	
Interest & Penalties	862.00	
Conversion to lien	9,716.17	
Overpayment (refunded)	1,433.00	
Totals	\$69,908.17	\$69,908.17

TOWN OF BENTON
Tax Collector's Report - 2008 (Cont'd)

	Cr.		Dr.
2006			
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of Year			7,803.17
Interest & Costs Included in Lien			678.38
Remitted to Treasurer			
Redemptions	\$6,323.87		
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at End of Year	1,479.30		
Interest & Cost After Lien Execution	678.38		
Totals	\$8,481.55		\$8,481.55

2005			
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of Year			\$4,308.57
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution			1,011.70
Remitted to Treasurer			
Redemptions	\$4,308.57		
Int. & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	1,011.70		
Totals	\$5,320.27		\$5,320.27

TOWN OF BENTON
Report of the Town Clerk - 2008

Motor Vehicle Permits issued: (474)	\$54,640.00
Dog Licenses Issued & Fines Collected (71/0):	448.00
Marriage licenses issued (1)	45.00
Record Searches (2)	12.00
Fines/Penalties	18.00
Reimburse Bad Check	216.00

Total Collected by Town Clerk	\$55,379.00
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Motor Vehicle Permits	\$53,992.00
Dog Licenses Issued & Fines Collected:	412.50
Marriage licenses issued	38.00
Record Searches	8.00
Fines/Penalties	18.00
Reimburse Bad Check	216.00

Total Submitted to Treas.	\$54,684.50
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Motor Vehicle Permits	\$648.00
Dog Licenses Issued & Fines Collected:	35.50
Marriage licenses issued	7.00
Record Searches	4.00

Total Retained by Town Clerk	\$694.50
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Michael P. Stiebitz - Town Clerk

Notes From the Town Clerk's Office

2008 once again saw an incredible amount of volunteer effort expended at the Town Building with the efforts of The Beautify Benton Committee and other willing volunteers.

Various external "modifications" also took place over the year, including gardening work around the flagpole, Christmas wreaths on the Town Building as well as at the entrances to our cemeteries, and a new flag whenever it was needed.

The funds spent on these projects were either from money raised from our Memory Tree or from anonymous donors. On that note, the Memory Tree was beautiful, standing as a reminder of all that we are because of those we loved and who have passed before us.

Thanks to a warrant article approved by the people of Benton, the Town Building has all new, low-E, replacement windows. The old ones were not only drafty, but the large units on the east side of the building were coming apart and presented a danger to anyone who attempted to open or clean them. I can attest that my office is much warmer and quieter since the installation!

Joe and JB Boutin cleaned up the property along the east side of the building which had become overgrown and had collected a fair amount of junk. They smoothed it all off and carted away the debris. It looks great!

As part of an upgrade to the Vital Records Program, The State of NH has bestowed a high-speed internet connection (Wildblue Satellite hookup) and a computer w/printer upon the Town Clerk. While we seldom do more than one or two marriage licenses per year, we are now able to do Vital Record searches for anyone in NH. The entire package costs the town nothing, as long as it is used only for Vital Records. Sam Boutin, Earl Tempelmeyer, Ken Bullard, and Mike Stiebitz helped to install the antenna pole, saving the town the installation expense.

One note on dogs: all owners of dogs over 4 months old must license them each year before April 30th. After May 30th, any license fee which remains unpaid can be increased by \$1.00 per month. Please make every effort this year to get your dogs licensed before April 30th.

And last but certainly not least, although she officially retired last year, Marjorie Robitzer has been an invaluable asset in trying to get the new Selectman and the new Tax Collector up to speed. We all owe her (another) huge debt of gratitude! Thanks Marjorie!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Stiebitz

Town Clerk

The Beautify Benton Committee

The Memory Tree was extremely beautiful this year. We decided to buy some heavy duty lights so we could avoid the "outages" we had encountered in previous years.

A group of us gathered at Buster and J.B.'s work garage and made the wreaths for the Town's cemeteries.

We thank all of you for your donations to the Memory Tree. I love seeing the lights on the tree, and thinking of all the families and friends whose memories have been illuminated once again. The donations, in turn, allow us to finance the many projects for the betterment of the Town without using tax money.

We do want to thank the Town and Mike Stiebitz and his crew for the wonderful energy efficient windows throughout. We no longer worry about the larger windows imploding!!

We continue to update the kitchen to make meal preparation easier for us and for those who rent the hall.

Since March we have branched out and formed the BBC Friendship Meals on Coventry Wheels. We get our financing from our food sales and donations. A group of us gather monthly to prepare and deliver a balanced dinner to various Benton residents. Our goal is to have every "Bentonite" receive a dinner at some point in time.

Lyn Bandy, Treasurer of the Beautify Benton Committee.

Schedule of Non-Taxable Property

Town of Benton:

	Map	Lot #	Lot Size	Value
Crowther Lot	2	52	.3 ac	\$5,500
Mountain View Cemetery	1	113/114	2.2 ac	28,000
High Street Cemetery	6	4	.3 ac	1400
East Cemetery	1	29	.3 ac	800
Old Town Hall Lot	1	126	.05 ac	15,500
Community Bldg.	1	18	0.03 ac	113,400
Benton Bible Chapel	1	49	1.4 ac	310,300
Benton Bible Parsonage	1	58	1.7 ac	144,300
North Benton Union Loc.	1	32	.7 ac	22,000
State of New Hampshire:				
Glenclyff Home For the Elderly	6	7	107 ac	8,400,800
Glenclyff Home For the Elderly	6	3	0.45ac	21,500
State Forest Division	6	7	401 ac	343,200
United States Dept. of Agriculture:				
U.S. Forest Service		W.M.N.F	23658.8 ac	10,646,500
Total Acreage			24174.23 ac	
Total Property Value				\$20,053,200

TOWN OF BENTON
Summary of Inventory Valuation

Land, Improved and Unimproved:	
Under "Current Use" - 4,722.2 acres	\$279,502
Conservation Restriction - 369.0 acres	1,200
Residential Land - 2,100.5 acres	9,800,100
Commercial Land - 1.1 acres	35,300
	<hr/>
Total	\$10,116,102
 Tax Exempt Land - 24,175.2 acres	 \$11,415,700
 Tax Exempt Buildings	 \$8,638,200
 Housing:	
Residential and Allied Buildings	\$13,986,900
Manufactured Housing (per RSA 674:31	877,600
Commercial	17,000
	<hr/>
Total	\$14,881,500
 Public Utilities	 \$935,269
 Total Assessments:	 \$15,816,769
Less Elderly Exemptions (1)	15,000
	<hr/>
Total	\$15,801,769
	<hr/>
Less Public Utilities	935,269
Less Veteran's Exemption	1,350
	<hr/>
Final Total of Inventory Valuation	\$14,865,150
 State Education Tax @ \$2.13	
Local Education Tax Rate @ \$9.60	
County Tax @ \$1.44	
Town Tax @ -\$3.95	
 Total Tax Commitment	\$9.22
To Raise	\$236,933.00

For the Year Ending December 31, 2008

Funds donated to the Town of Benton are in the custody of the Trustees. Donations are distributed as specified by the donors. Funds received during the year are deposited in a savings account until they can be transferred into the appropriate financial tool. Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank in Woodsville, NH holds all funds.

Year 2008 Donations – Cemetery Trust

Stearns	\$ 50.00
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Status of the Funds is as follows:

Trust Fund Savings, Account # 617453	\$ 8,928.24
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Principal Amount in Cemetery/Common Trust Fund, CDARS Acc't # 1002721585, 1005431855, 1005740572	\$12,180.68
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Capital Reserve Fund - Highways/Roads, interest included	
CDARS Acc't #1001752509, 1003305305	\$34,592.04

Capital Reserve Fund – Fires, interest included	
Acc't # 617456	\$ 4,474.23

Capital Reserve Fund – Schools, interest included	
School #1 - CDARS Acc't #1001544906, 1003017245, 1004043142	\$83,036.58
School #2 - CDARS Acc't #1002600184, 1003024624, 1003502976, 1004104087, 1005126661, 1005461789, 1005769112	\$14,337.02
	\$97,373.60

**TOTAL HELD IN TRUST
BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND = 157,548.79**

Distributions of Interest at the end of 2008 from the Cemetery/Common Trust Fund

For cemetery use	\$ 315.91
For the schools	\$ 76.38
For the highway account	\$ 68.86

Total	\$ 461.15
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Respectfully submitted,

Trustees of the Trust Fund
Laura Richardson
Martin Noble
Joyce Hassell

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire

March 11, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by the moderator Gil Richardson. Motion to recess to the School Meeting was made and seconded. The Town Meeting was reconvened at 7:22 PM.

Article 1

To choose a Town Clerk, a Treasurer, a Tax Collector, an Auditor, a Ballot Clerk, a Ballot Inspector, a Sexton, an Assistant to the Sexton, and a Surveyor of Wood and Lumber, and a Selectman, all for a term of one year, a Trustee of the Trust Funds, and a Moderator for a period of two years, a Supervisor of The Checklist and a Selectman for a term of three years, a Member of the Planning Board for a term of five years, and any other Agents or Officers necessary for the ensuing year. Motion was made to accept article as written, motion was seconded and accepted by voice vote.

The following Town Officers were elected (by the Town Clerk or Moderator casting one ballot after a voice vote):

Town Clerk	1 Yr Term	Michael P. Stiebitz
Treasurer	1 Yr Term	Richard Dickenson
Tax Collector	1 Yr Term	Michael P. Stiebitz
Auditor	1 Yr Term	Robert Steel
Ballot Clerk	1 Yr Term	Stephanie Saffo
Ballot Inspector	1 Yr Term	Maxine Tyler
Sexton	1 Yr Term	Jeremy Elliott
Sexton Assistant	1 Yr Term	Martin Noble
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber		
	1 Yr Term	Joseph N. Boutin Jr.
Selectman	1 Yr Term	Sarah Davis
Moderator	2 Yr Term	Gilbert Richardson
Supervisor of the Checklist		
	3 Yr Term	Deborah Boutin
Selectman	3 Yr Term	Jeremy Elliott
Member of the Planning Board		
	5 Yr Term	Richard Saffo Sr.
Member of the Planning Board		
	1 Yr Term	Martin Noble
Other Agents as Required		

Sarah Davis was elected to serve the balance of Marjorie Robitzer's term as Selectman. Marjorie is stepping down after only 24 years! Martin Noble was elected to serve the balance of Phil Chicoine's term on the Planning Board.

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of Officers and Agents as printed.

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire

March 11, 2008

A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed and passed by a voice vote.

Article 3

Non-lapsing Special Warrant Article

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,630 to replace the windows in the Benton Town Hall building. The monies are to be drawn from the surplus in the General Fund.

(This article requires a 2/3 majority vote on a written ballot.) A motion to accept as written was made and seconded.

Ballots were distributed, marked, and deposited in the ballot box. The Moderator and Clerk tallied them: 25 votes "FOR" and 0 votes "AGAINST".

The article passed unanimously.

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$111,660 for General Municipal operations.

A motion was made to approve the article as written, the motion was seconded and the article passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM. All new Town Officers present were sworn in at the closing by Marjorie Robitzer, who also received a standing ovation thanking her for her long service to the Town of Benton.

A true copy

Attest:

Michael P. Stiebitz

Michael Stiebitz – Town Clerk
Benton, New Hampshire

**Benton, New Hampshire
VITAL STATISTICS - 2008**

Deaths:

Died

Joseph B. Levesque (Glenclyff Home)	03/25/08
Eric Davis (Glenclyff Home)	04/07/08
Charles Fitzgerald (Glenclyff Home)	04/28/08
Allson Oliver (Glenclyff Home)	06/07/08
Maurice McClellan (Glenclyff Home)	11/06/08
Jack H. Millete (Glenclyff Home)	11/13/08
Barrie Jean Arsenault	11/18/08

Marriages

August 16, 2008 Regina A. Pierce and Bruce A. Elliott In Benton

Births

April 3, 2008 Riley Elizabeth Boutin, daughter of Eleanor and Joseph Boutin III in Woodsville, N.H.

September 8, 2008 Jacob Watts Thompson, son of Peter and Carol Thompson in Lebanon, N.H.

September 10, 2008 Gavin James Drew, son of Crystal McClintock and Matthew Drew in Lebanon, N.H.

September 10, 2008 Gracie Lynn Drew, daughter of Crystal McClintock and Matthew Drew in Lebanon, N.H.

October 28, 2008 Benjamin David Nelson, son of Lily and David Nelson In Woodsville, N.H.

November 29, 2008 Garrett Daniel Harris, son of Kristina and Richard Harris in Littleton, N.H.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008

DISTRICT OFFICERS

SCHOOL BOARD

Alexandria Noble, CHAIR	Term Expires 2011
Lara Saffo	Term Expires 2009
Wayne Chevalier	Term Expires 2010

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

Gilbert Richardson.....	Moderator
Maxine Tyler	Treasurer
Robert Steel.....	Auditor
Michael Stiebitz.....	Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Bruce C. Labs

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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 10th day
of March 2009, 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 2012.

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

ARTICLE 5: To choose an Auditor for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 6: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and
pass any vote related thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate
for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of school
district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory
obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other
article on the warrant. (The school board recommends
\$459,633.00)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up
to twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars to be added to the
previously established Benton Tuition and Education
Expendable Trust Fund, such amount to be funded from the
year-end undesignated fund balance available on June 30,
2009. (The school board recommends this article.)

ARTICLE 9: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands at said Benton this _____ day of February, 2009

Alexandria Noble, Chairman
Wayne Chevalier
Lara Saffo

BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT MINUTES
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 11, 2008**

The meeting opened at: 7:08 PM.

ARTICLE 1

To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

Gilbert Richardson

ARTICLE 2

To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year

Michael Stiebitz

ARTICLE 3

To choose one School Board Member for a term of three years expiring in 2010.

Alexandria Noble

ARTICLE 4

To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Maxine Tyler

ARTICLE 5

To choose an Auditor for the ensuing year.

Robert Steel

ARTICLE 6

To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Article 6 was moved and seconded and accepted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7

To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This Article is exclusive of any other Article on the Warrant. (The school board recommends \$461,552.00)

Article 7 was moved and seconded and accepted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Motion was made to accept this article as written, motion was seconded and accepted by voice vote.

No other business was transacted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM. All new officers present were sworn in at the closing.

A true copy

Attest:

Michael Stiebitz
Benton School District Clerk
Benton, NH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Once again it is my pleasure to report on the educational progress and positive steps we have made in the past year.

Both Woodsville Elementary School and Haverhill Cooperative Middle School (grades 4 & 5) are now using the standards based math program, Everyday Math. We believe with this unified approach to math we will start to see improvement in the NECAP Test scores. This same series is being used in all the school districts in SAU #23. We have also added a summer class in math at Woodsville Elementary for those students who need the extra help to improve their skills.

Haverhill Middle School teachers attended a Data Camp at Plymouth State University to help them look at and evaluate data around student performance. Teachers are also focusing on climate and culture within the school to assist with the overall improvement of the school. Technology integration continues to be a large part of the work at HCMS as it is in all the schools.

At Woodsville High School, teams of parents, teachers, and students continue to work on answering a special progress report for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Teams have been formed to work on student success, instructional improvement, and general school improvement. The staff members are also engaged in writing course competencies for each course taught at the school, this is required by the NH Department of Education for all high schools. This is a huge undertaking by all professional staff members in their curriculum area.

With the funds received from the Catherine A. Moran Memorial Fund, which is administered by the NH Charitable Foundation, we have been able to set up After School Programs at all three schools to assist those students in need. These funds will continue to benefit students who need extra help in math and science for years to come.

After two years, and much work, we hope to have a new set of School Board Policies approved this spring. Once the policies have been approved by all of the SAU #23 school districts we will be making them available online through the SAU #23 website.

I want take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce C. Labs
Superintendent of Schools

**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 adjusted valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30. The Superintendent of SAU #23, during the 2008-09 school year will receive a salary of \$95,762. There is no Assistant Superintendent or Business Administrator at SAU 23 at this time.

The table below shows the pro-ration of the salary to each school district:

Superintendent Salary		
Bath	11,003	11.49%
Benton	1,848	1.93%
Haverhill Cooperative	62,925	65.71%
Piermont	10,017	10.46%
Warren	9,969	10.41%
TOTAL	\$95,762	100%

HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER QUALITY REPORT 2008-2009

Education Level of Faculty and Administration at Each School

	BA	BA+15	MA	MA+30
WES Teachers	6.1	11	3.03	3
WES Administration			1	
HCMS Teachers	7	5	14.05	4
HCMS Administration			1	1
WHS Teachers	7	11.5	7.10	4
WHS Administration			1	1

Number of Teachers with Provisional (Intern) Certification

Woodsville Elementary School	0
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	1
Woodsville High School	0

Number of Core Academic Courses Not Taught By Highly Qualified Teachers

Woodsville Elementary School	0
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	0
Woodsville High School	0

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

As a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or Legal guardian, you have the right to know:

1. Who is teaching your child
2. The qualifications and experience of your child's teacher(s)

For information concerning your child's teacher(s), please contact the Superintendent's Office at:

SAU #23
2975 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
603-787-2113

A copy of the Haverhill Cooperative School District Title One
Report Card is available at each school

**REPORT OF THE BENTON SCHOOL
DISTRICT TREASURER
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008**

Cash on Hand, July 1, 2007	\$ 26,932.40
Total Revenues Received	398,180.19
Total School Board Orders Paid	416,935.80
Cash on Hand June 30, 2008	\$ 8,176.79

Maxine Tyler, School District Treasurer

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET AS OF 6/30/2008**

	Acct	Fund 10 GENERAL	Fund 70 TRUST FUNDS
ASSETS			
<u>Current Assets</u>			
CASH	100	8,176.79	0.00
INVESTMENTS	110		94,548.31
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES	140	3,657.86	0.00
OTHER RECEIVABLES	150		0.00
PREPAID EXPENSES	180		0.00
Total Current Assets		11,834.65	94,548.31
 LIABILITY & FUND EQUITY			
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
PAYABLES	420	1,137.65	0.00
DEFERRED REVENUES	480	10,697.00	
Total Current Liabilities		11,834.65	0.00
<u>Fund Equity</u>			
RESERVED FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES	760		94,548.31
UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE	770		
Total Fund Equity		0.00	94,548.31
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity		11,834.65	94,548.31

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

		<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
<u>Special Education Expenses</u>			
1200	Special Programs	41,672	57,806
1430	Summer School	2,476	1,742
2150	Speech and Audiology	1,067	423
2162	Physical Therapy	-	-
2163	Occupational Therapy	584	259
2722	Special Transportation	10,494	9,672
Total Expenses		56,293	69,902
<u>Special Education Revenue</u>			
3110	SPED portion of State Adequacy	22,327	12,348
3230	Catastrophic Aid	1,084	7,418
4580	Medicaid	12,771	13,408
Total Revenues		36,182	33,174
District Cost for Special Education		20,111	36,728
<u>IDEA Entitlement Funds through SAU23</u>			
	Part A - Preschool	850	485
	Part B - Special Education	3,596	2,645

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED 2009 - 2010 BUDGET

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2007-08</u> <u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2008-09</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2009-10</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>Inc-Dec</u>
10.6.1100.561	TUITION/REGULAR	292,756	328,606	330,450	1,844
10.6.1200.500	TUITION/TRANSITION SVCS/SPED	57,086	68,433	62,568	(5,865)
10.6.1300.562	TUITION/RIVERBEND	15,214	6,581	14,934	8,353
10.6.1430.561	TUITION/SUMMER PUBLIC	1,742	2,980	5,024	2,044
10.6.1430.564	TUITION/SUMMER - PRIVATE	1,724	1,800	1,800	-
		368,523	408,400	414,776	6,376
10.6.2150.330	SPEECH	423	1,350	-	(1,350)
10.6.2159.330	SPEECH - SUMMER	-	190	400	210
10.6.2163.330	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	259	400	450	50
		682	1,940	850	(1,090)
10.6.2311.111	SCHOOL BOARD SALARIES	600	600	600	-
10.6.2311.220	FICA	46	46	46	-
10.6.2311.260	WORKERS' COMP	245	247	278	31
10.6.2311.520	PROPERTY/LIABILITY INS	2,186	2,696	3,000	304
10.6.2311.540	ADVERTISING	94	180	180	-
10.6.2311.640	BOOKS/PERIODICALS	-	50	-	(50)
10.6.2311.810	DUES/FEES	797	820	950	130
		3,968	4,639	5,054	415
10.6.2313.111	TREASURER SALARIES	200	200	200	-
10.6.2313.220	FICA	15	15	16	1
10.6.2313.260	WORKERS' COMP	82	82	93	11
10.6.2313.534	POSTAGE	-	20	20	-
10.6.2313.610	SUPPLIES	14	20	20	-
		311	337	349	12
10.6.2314.111	DISTRICT MEETING SALARIES	62	64	83	(1)
10.6.2314.220	FICA	5	5	3	(2)
10.6.2314.260	WORKERS' COMP	26	26	29	3
		93	95	95	-
10.6.2317.111	AUDIT SALARIES	50	50	50	-
10.6.2317.220	FICA	4	5	5	-
		54	55	55	-
10.6.2318.330	LEGAL SERVICES	-	250	250	-
		-	250	250	-
10.6.2321.310	SAU MANAGEMENT SERVICES	12,383	12,966	13,375	409
		12,383	12,966	13,375	409
10.6.2721.510	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION - TO/FROM	20,536	20,029	21,454	1,425
10.6.2722.510	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION - SPECIAL	9,672	12,000	2,675	(9,325)
10.6.2723.510	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION - VOC ED	668	825	700	(125)
		30,875	32,854	24,829	(8,025)
10.6.2832.540	ADVERTISING	16	16	-	(16)
		16	16	-	(16)
		416,905	461,552	459,633	(1,919)
	WARRANT ARTICLE 8:			20,000	
	GRAND TOTAL			479,633	18,081

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUES**

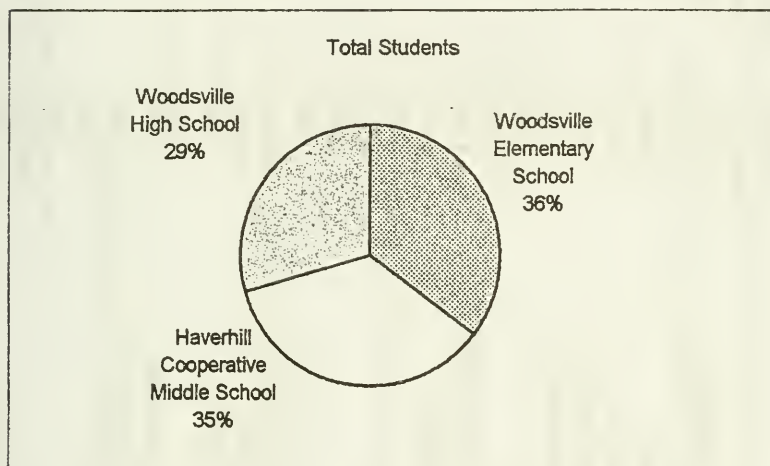
	2007-2008 <u>ACTUAL</u>	2008-2009 <u>REVISED</u>	2009-2010 <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	27,145	-	50,000	50,000
<u>Local</u>				
1111 District Appropriation	154,423	248,787	207,379	(41,408)
1510 Interest	66	50	50	-
1980 Refund from Prior Year	-	578		(578)
<u>State</u>				
3111 State Adequacy Grant	123,820	123,820	121,439	(2,381)
3112 State Adequacy Tax	48,540	53,222	57,252	4,030
3230 Catastrophic Aid	7,418	4,979	-	(4,979)
3241 Vocational Education Tuition	13,421	10,840	4,688	(6,152)
3242 Vocational Transportation	1,428	903	452	(451)
<u>Federal</u>				
4580 Medicaid Reimbursement	13,408	-	-	-
4810 National Forest Reserve	18,373	18,373	18,373	-
Transfer from Expendable Trust	8,862	-	-	-
TOTAL BUDGET AND ARTICLES	416,904	461,552	459,633	(1,919)

SCHOOL TAX RATE

	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	CURRENT
	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>
local property tax rate	\$9.84	\$9.60	\$8.00 (\$1.60)	\$25,914
State property tax rate	<u>\$3.29</u>	<u>\$2.13</u>	<u>\$2.29</u> <u>\$0.16</u>	\$24,978
Total School Tax Rate	\$13.13	\$11.73	\$10.29 (\$1.44)	
Change from prior year	(\$2.37)	(\$1.40)	(\$1.44)	

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENTS TUITIONED TO HAVERHILL
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
AS OF JUNE 2008**

	<u>Total Students</u>	<u>Total Tuition Costs Per School</u>
Woodsville Elementary School	12	\$96,220.12
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	12	\$110,927.66
Woodsville High School	10	\$85,608.20
TOTAL	34	\$292,755.98



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 BUDGET SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	2008-2009	2009 - 2010	INCREASES/ (DECREASES)
	APPROVED BUDGET	APPROVED BUDGET	
1100 ITINERANT TEACHERS	144,777	149,887	5,110
1230 FRENCH POND PROGRAM	209,907	218,563	8,656
1231 KING STREET PROGRAM	164,371	177,637	13,266
1430 FRENCH POND SUMMER SCHOOL	11,110	8,374	(2,736)
1431 KING STREET SUMMER SCHOOL	1,588	1,794	206
2120 ITINERANT GUIDANCE	25,871	27,847	1,976
2150 SPEECH/LANGUAGE	196,138	210,944	14,806
2210 CURRICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT	1,133	1,533	400
2220 TECHNOLOGY SUPERVISION	79,704	82,358	2,654
2311 SCHOOL BOARD	4,372	4,782	410
2313 DISTRICT TREASURER	2,724	2,957	233
2317 AUDIT	5,500	5,500	-
2318 LEGAL COUNSEL	500	800	300
2321 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT	405,627	424,383	18,756
2330 SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADMIN.	156,259	163,184	6,925
2540 SAU-WIDE PUBLIC RELATIONS	2,100	1,500	(600)
2620 BUILDING & RENT	22,200	22,200	-
2640 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & INS.	4,240	4,757	517
2810 RESEARCH, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT	3,100	3,600	500
2820 COMPUTER & NETWORK	27,902	17,800	(10,102)
2830 RECRUITMENT	450	450	-
SUBTOTAL GENERAL FUND	1,469,573	1,530,850	61,277
IDEA SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANTS	271,512	266,735	(4,777)
TOTAL BUDGET	1,741,085	1,797,585	56,500
	% increase =		3.2%

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 REVENUES

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>+/-</u>
	<u>2008 - 2009</u>	<u>2009 - 2010</u>	
LOCAL REVENUE OTHER THAN ASSESSMENT			
1320 Tuition - French Pond	132,482	113,556	(18,926)
1321 Tuition - King Street School	170,334	208,186	37,852
1325 Tuition -French Pond/King St. Summer Scho	12,705	10,168	(2,537)
1950 Itinerants teachers serving districts	244,773	253,757	8,984
1951 Speech/ Language	196,138	210,944	14,806
1990 Other local revenue (town internet line fees)	945	945	
1510 Interest	3,500	4,500	1,000
5210 Indirect Costs from SAU IDEA Grant	6,900	6,900	-
Use of Fund Balance	<u>30,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Total Other Revenue General Fund	797,777	844,956	47,179
1111 DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS	671,796	685,894	14,098
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	1,469,573	1,530,850	61,277
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES FUND 22 - GRANTS	<u>271,512</u>	<u>266,735</u>	<u>(4,777)</u>
TOTAL SAU BUDGET INCLUDING GRANTS	1,741,085	1,797,585	56,500

NOTES:

Michael P. Stiehlitz
Town Clerk o
110 Flanders
Benton, NH 0



University of New Hampshire
Milne Special Collections
18 Library Way
Durham, NH 03824-3592