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2009

Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton *New Hampshire*

Year Ending December 31
2009

TOWN OF BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Annual Report

Annual Report

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FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton

New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31
2009

Annual
Report



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Year Ending December 31

TOWN OF BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Annual Report of Town Officers
Year ended December 31, 2009
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BENTON TOWN OFFICERS

		Term	Exp. Date
Board of Selectmen:	Albert Boutin, Jr.	3 yrs.	2010
	Jeremy Elliott	3 yrs.	2011
	Earl Tempelmeyer	3 yrs.	2012
Moderator:	Gilbert Richardson	2 yrs.	2010
Town Clerk:	Michael Stieblitz	1 yr.	2010
Treasurer:	Richard Dickenson	1 yr.	2010
Auditor:	Robert Steel	1 yr.	2010
Tax Collector:	Michael Stieblitz	1 yr.	2010
Supervisors of the Checklist:	Arthur Christopher	3 yrs.	2010
	Deborah Boutin	3 Yrs.	2011
	Nellie Dickenson	3 yrs.	2012
Ballot Clerk:	Stephanie Saffo	1 yr.	2010
Ballot Inspector:	Maxine Tyler	1 yr.	2010
Surveyors of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	1 yr.	2010
Trustees of the Trust Funds:	Martin Noble	3 yrs.	2010
	Laura Richardson	3 yrs.	2011
	Joyce Hassel	3 yrs.	2012
Planning Board:	Wayne Chevalier	5 yrs.	2010
	Kenneth Kealey	5 yrs.	2011
	Richard Saffo, Sr.	5 yrs.	2012
	Martin Noble	5 yrs.	2014
	Jeremy Elliott	Ex Officio	Member
Sexton:	Jeremy Elliott	1 Yr.	2010
	Aaron Goodwin	1 Yr.	2010
Police Officer/Director of Emergency Mgmt.	Vacant		

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Grafton S.S.

March 9, 2010

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 9th, at seven o'clock in the evening to vote and act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Town Clerk, Treasurer, Auditor, Tax Collector, Ballot Clerk, Ballot Inspector, Sexton, an Assistant to the Sexton, an Assistant to the Selectman and a Surveyor of Wood and Lumber for a term of one year, a Moderator for a term of two years, a Supervisor of the Checklist, a Selectman and a Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of three years, a member of the Planning Board for a term of 5 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 the officers and agents as printed. The Selectmen recommend this article.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$118,550 for General Municipal Operations.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$5,000 for the purchase and installation of an automatic backup electrical generator for the Community Building. Said funds to come from Unreserved Fund Balance. This amount cannot be exceeded in 2010. The project will be checked and any further decisions will be reconsidered before Town Meeting 2011.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to, and not to exceed \$20,000 for the payment of work to be accomplished via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, administered by the NH Office of Energy and Planning. The work to be performed and ultimately paid for via this Block Grant is contingent upon approval of the application. Proposed work at the Community Building to include new heating system, insulation and other energy saving efforts approved via the program.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Bridges-Tunnels Capital Reserve Fund established in 1999, any funds plus accumulated interest to date will be placed in the Towns general fund.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Building Capital Reserve Fund established in 2006, any funds plus accumulated interest to date will be placed in the Towns general fund.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund for Roads.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to add \$100 to the existing Benton Fire Trust Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds to come from Unreserved Fund balance. Selectmen recommend. Majority vote.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President. Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage".

A True Copy – Attest
Selectmen of Benton

Earl Tempelmeyer _____

Jeremy Elliot _____

Martin Noble _____

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Estimate of Revenue

Sources of Revenue	Est. 2009	Rec. 2009	Est. 2010
Timber Taxes	\$4,000	\$423	\$4,000
Int. & Penalties on Delinquent Taxe	3,000	2,383	3,000
Motor Vehicle Permits	45,000	53,475	45,000
Building Permits	0	330	300
Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	700	622	700
Energy Grant	0	0	20,000
Shared Revenue	1,605	0	0
Rooms & Meals Tax Distribution	14,000	15,112	14,000
Highway Block Grant	12,000	12,900	12,000
State & Federal Forest Land Reimt	33,000	54,162	33,000
Interest on Investments	310	770	300
From Capital Reserve Fund	30,000	0	0
Totals	\$143,615	\$140,177	\$132,300

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Estimate of Expenditures

Category	Approp.	Expend	Proposed
Selectmen & Expenses	\$3,500	\$3,738	\$6,500
Elections	1,000	78	2,200
Financial Administration	5,000	4,203	7,000
Revaluation of Property	5,500	5,400	5,500
Legal Expenses	2,000	448	2,000
Personnel Administration	0	0	1,200
Planning & Zoning	200	0	200
General Government Buildings	5,000	5,303	5,000
Cemeteries	1,200	646	1,200
Insurance	2,200	2,564	2,500
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,000	2,052	2,000
Other General Government	650	933	0
Police	5,600	0	5,600
Ambulance	3,320	3,297	3,500
Fire	10,000	5,178	10,000
Other (incl. Communications)	1,500	2,228	2,300
Highways & Streets	55,000	52,618	55,000
Street Lighting	0	0	250
Other (Roadside Mowing)	2,200	673	2,200
Pest Control	0	0	1,500
Health Agencies, Hosp. & Other	1,200	0	0
Administration & Direct Assist.	1,200	1,044	2,400
Interest	500	0	500
Totals	\$107,770	\$90,403	\$118,550

Comparative Statement of Appropriations & Expenditures

Category	Approp.	Expended	Unexp.	Overdraft
Selectmen & Expenses	\$3,500	\$3,738		(\$238)
Elections	1,000	78	922	
Financial Administration	5,000	4,203	797	
Revaluation of Property	5,500	5,400	100	
Legal Expenses	2,000	448	1,552	
Personnel Administration	0	0	0	
Planning & Zoning	200	0	200	
General Government Building	5,000	5,303		(303)
Cemeteries	1,200	646	554	
Insurance	2,200	2,564		(364)
Advertising & Regional Assoc.	1,000	2,052		(1,052)
Other General Government	650	933		(283)
Police	5,600	0	5,600	
Ambulance	3,320	3,297	23	
Fire	10,000	5,178	4,822	
Other (Incl. Communications)	1,500	2,228		(728)
Highways & Streets	55,000	52,618	2,382	
Street Lighting	0	0		
Other (Mowing Roadsides)	2,200	673	1,527	
Pest Control	0	0		
Health Agencies, Hosp & Othe	1,200	0	1,200	
Administration & Direct Assist.	1,200	1,044	156	
Interest	500	0	500	
Totals	\$107,770	\$90,403	\$20,335	(\$2,968)

Treasurer's Report

Received from Tax Collector:

Property taxes (Year 2006)	\$1,479.30	
Interest and costs	748.20	
Total 2006		\$2,227.50
 Property taxes (Year 2007)	 \$7,004.01	
Interest and costs	937.70	
Total 2007		\$7,941.71
 Property taxes (Year 2008)	 \$192,585.33	
Interest and costs	642.83	
Yield taxes	423.47	
Taxes Bought by Town	10,449.60	
Total 2008		\$204,101.23
 Property taxes (Year 2009)	 \$246,446.38	
Total 2009		\$246,446.38
 Pre paid taxes (Year 2010)		 \$197.50
 Misc.		 \$554.75
Total from Tax Collector		\$461,469.07

Received from the Town Clerk:

Motor Vehicle Permits/Transfers	\$54,335.00	
Vital Statistics - St. of New Hampshire	40.00	
Dog Licenses issued	429.00	
Marriage Licenses	38.00	
Total from Town Clerk		\$54,842.00
 Bank charge for bad check	 (8.00)	
Bad Check returned by bank	(500.00)	
		(\$508.00)

Received from the Selectmen:

Pistol Permits	\$100.00	
Building Permits	385.00	
Hall Rental	175.00	
Misc.	15.92	
Beautify Benton Comm (Reimb. Elect)	100.00	
Current use fees	32.88	
Reimbursement of fire call chgs	600.00	
Total from Selectmen		\$1,408.80

Treasurer's Report (cont'd)

Received from State & Federal Sources		
St. of N. H. - Grants	\$258.40	
St. of N. H. - Hwy. Block Grant	12349.39	
St. of N. H. - Rooms & Meals Grant	15112.44	
U.S. Dept. of Ag., Forest Service	54162.00	
Total Received from State & Federal Sources		\$81,882.23
Transfer of funds from Trustees of the Trust Fund		\$30,461.15
Total receipts for 2009		\$629,555.25
Cash on hand as of 1/1/09		71,086.10
Bank interest		188.06
Less Selectmen's orders for 2009		452595.66
		<hr/>
Year-end Total Cash		\$248,233.75
Acct. 30502 - Yield Account:		
Cash on hand - 1/1/09	\$8,290.80	
Interest	20.06	
Year-end Yield Acct. Balance		\$8,310.86
Bank of America - acct. no 1		
Cash on hand as of 1/1/09	\$20,007.64	
Interest	4.62	
Year-end Yield Acct. Balance	\$20,012.26	
Bank of America - acct. no 2		
Cash on hand as of 1/1/09	\$15,399.00	
Interest	750.87	
Deposit	75509.46	
Year-end Yield Acct. Balance	\$91,659.33	

Respectfully Submitted

Richard A. Dickenson - Treasurer

**Detailed Statement of Payments
By The Selectmen**

Selectmen:

Salaries & Expenses:	\$3,738.10
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Financial Administration:

Salaries:	R. Steel, Auditor	\$92.35
	M. Stiebitz, Town Clerk & Tax Collector	1108.20
	Richard Dickenson, Treas.	369.40
	Joseph Boutin, Jr. - Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	184.70

Total	\$1,754.65

Office Expenses:	General Office Expenses:	\$2,484.92
	N.H. Recorder of Deeds:	103.18
	Notices:	150.80
	Town Report	550.00

Total	\$3,288.90

Town Hall:

Repairs	\$174.28
Walter Jock Oil:	3903.21
Fairpoint Communications	394.64
N.H. Elec. Co-op	1008.55

Total	\$5,480.68

Cemeteries

Mowing and care	\$646.45
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Insurance:

Local Government Center	\$2,509.29
IDS	54.80

Total	\$2,564.09

Selectmen Payments (cont'd)

Regional Associations:

N.H. Municipal Assoc.	\$578.68
North Country Council	612.90
N.H. Assoc. Of Tax Collectors	70.00
N.H. Town Clerks Assoc.	20.00
N.H. Assoc of Assessing Officers	20.00
N.H. Office of Energy & Planning	50.00

Total \$1,351.58

Dispatch Service: \$2,228.01

Ambulance Service: \$3,297.60

Fire Protection:

Twin State Mutual:	\$1,000.00
Haverhill Corner Fire Co:	750.00
North Haverhill Fire Co:	3428.75

Total \$5,178.75

Animal Control

Reginald Basnar	\$203.40
Town of Haverhill	80.00

\$283.40

Roads:

Elliott Construction:	\$47,807.00
Materials and Supplies:	4,348.06
Chief Logging & Construction	28.13
Joseph Boutin & Son	435.00

Total \$52,618.19

Special Roads Repairs (As voted for by Town)

Elliott Construction:	\$1,785.00
Blaktop, Inc	24460.33
Materials and Supplies:	3499.93

Total \$29,745.26

Selectmen Payments (cont'd)

Welfare:	
Grafton Co. Senior Center:	300.00
Perry Oil Co.	79.18
New Hampshire Elec. Coop	664.93
Total	\$1,044.11
Legal Fees:	\$345.00
State of New Hampshire Interest:	
Vital Records:	\$78.00
Dept of Agriculture, Div of Animal Control	177.50
	\$255.50
Social Sec. & Medicare:	\$933.30
Assessing:	\$5,400.00
County Tax:	\$34,907.00
Schools:	\$227,085.49
Transfer of Funds to Bank of Amer.	\$50,000.00
Taxes Bought by Town	\$10,449.60
Transfer of Funds to C.R.F. for Roads	\$10,000.00
Total Checks Written	\$452,595.66

Selectmen of Benton

Earl Templemeyer

Albert J Boutin

Town of Benton
2009 Tax Collector's Report

2010	Credit	Debit
Prepay for 2010 Taxes	\$197.50	

2009	Credit	Debit
Taxes Committed This Year:		\$280,621.00
Yield Taxes		\$423.47
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$246,446.38	
Yield Taxes	\$423.47	
Subtotal	\$246,869.85	
Taxes Uncollected at year's end	\$34,154.62	
Abatements granted	\$20.00	
2009 Totals	\$281,044.47	\$281,044.47

2008	Credit	Debit
Taxes Uncollected at Beginning of 2009		\$201,814.41
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Fees		\$539.52
Lien Redemption after Town Payment		\$936.00
Int. & Fees in Lien (Collected)		\$306.57
Interest & Fees after Lien		\$158.06
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$201,782.36	
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Fees	\$539.52	
Int. & Fees in Lien (Collected)	\$306.57	
Interest & Fees after Lien	\$158.06	
Conversion to Lien	\$936.00	
Abatements Granted	\$32.00	
2008 Totals	\$203,754.51	\$203,754.58

2007	Credit	Debit
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of 2009		\$9,710.09
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Fees		\$937.70
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Redemptions	\$7,004.01	
Interest & Fees	\$937.70	
Unredeemed Lien Bal. at end of 2009	\$2,706.16	
2007 Totals	\$10,647.87	\$10,647.79

2006	Credit	Debit
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of 2009		\$1,479.30
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Fees		\$748.20
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Redemptions	\$1,479.30	
Interest & Fees	\$748.20	
2006 Totals	\$2,227.50	\$2,227.50

Redeposit of Bounced Check	\$500.00
Abatement for Inv. Return	\$10.00
Grand Total	\$461,469.07
Total funds delivered to Treasurer in 2009	\$461,469.07

TOWN OF BENTON
Report of the Town Clerk - 2009

Motor Vehicle Permits issued: (476)	\$54,961.00
Dog Licenses Issued & Fines Collected (71/0):	465.00
Marriage licenses issued (1)	45.00
Record Searches (5)	60.00

Total Collected by Town Clerk	\$55,531.00

Motor Vehicle Permits	\$54,335.00
Dog Licenses Issued & Fines Collected:	429.00
Marriage licenses issued	38.00
Record Searches	40.00

Total Submitted to Treas.	\$54,842.00

Motor Vehicle Permits	\$626.00
Dog Licenses Issued & Fines Collected:	36.00
Marriage licenses issued	7.00
Record Searches	20.00

Total Retained by Town Clerk	\$689.00

Michael P. Stiebitz - Town Clerk

Notes From the Town Clerk's Office

2009 once again saw an incredible amount of volunteer effort expended at the Town Building through the efforts of The Beautify Benton Committee as well as the Selectmen and other willing volunteers.

The Sam Boutin, Earl Tempelmeyer and Jeremy Elliott rerouted the cold water line so it comes into the building deep enough to prevent the routine freeze-ups that occurred in the past. They also partitioned off the stage area into a Selectmen's Office which is now the central repository for the Town Records. The Selectmen and Aaron Goodwin also constructed a cabinet along the long window wall which now stores the folding tables as well as many of the historical State of NH volumes. The top of the cabinet has been finished with laminate which will provide plenty of counter space for the bake sales and meal services we've come to appreciate from the Beautify Benton Committee members.

The busy Selectmen also replaced the ramp at the front door to the building which had begun to delaminate. Scott Roden and his #1 helper, Tyler, also pitched in on the effort.

The original double voting booth has been replaced by two very handsome folding oak-paneled units which were designed and constructed by Aaron Goodwin. In addition to looking like furniture, they take up much less space during the long lapses between elections. We all thank Aaron very much for his efforts!

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, Sam Boutin who had served faithfully as Selectman for over 13 years called it a day as of December 31, 2009. Marty Noble agreed to serve out the remainder of Sam's term which expires in March. We owe Sam a large debt of gratitude for all of the things that he has done for the Town over the years.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Stiebitz,

Town Clerk

The Beautify Benton Committee

This year was a relatively quiet year. We put up and decorated both the indoor and outdoor trees. We also gathered and made all of the wreaths for our Town's cemeteries. Our tree dedication ceremony was small but mighty with lots of just good plain "visiting" afterwards.

The BBC Friendship Meals Committee cooked monthly dinners as planned. To raise money we held two food sales and a raffle and we hope to hold another food sale during this Town Meeting Day.

Our thanks go out to Steff for keeping the photos and history binders up to date. We also owe a tremendous thanks to the Town, the Selectmen and all of the volunteers who revamped the water system to prevent pipes from freezing. Thank you too for the storage unit off of the kitchen and for the great shelving and storage unit under the windows. It is wonderful to live where the citizens give their knowledge, time and energy for the betterment of their Town. That's what it is all about!

Lyn Bandy - 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	24174.62 ac
			Total Property Value	\$20,053,200

TOWN OF BENTON
Summary of Inventory Valuation

Land, Improved and Unimproved:	
Under "Current Use" - 4,769 acres	\$312,923
Conservation Restriction 370 acres	4,566
Residential Land - 2,061 acres	9,665,600
Commercial Land - 4 acres	42,700
Total	\$10,025,789
Tax Exempt Land - 24,174.6 acres	\$22,073,900
Tax Exempt Buildings	\$8,638,200
Housing:	
Residential and Allied Buildings	\$14,160,400
Manufactured Housing (per RSA 674:31	1,121,600
Commercial	17,000
Total	\$15,299,000
Public Utilities	\$813,426
Total Assessments:	\$26,138,215
Less Elderly Exemptions (1)	15,000
Total	\$26,123,215
Less Public Utilities	813,426
Less Veteran's Exemption	1,350
Final Total of Inventory Valuation	\$25,308,439
State Education Tax @ \$2.26	
Local Education Tax Rate @ \$8.59	
County Tax @ \$1.34	
Town Tax @ -\$1.36	
Total Tax Commitment	\$10.83
To Raise	\$279,725.00

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire
March 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the moderator Gil Richardson. Motion to recess to the School Meeting was made and seconded. The Town Meeting was reconvened at 7:26 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, all for a term of one year, a Supervisor of The Checklist, a Trustee of the Trust Funds, 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 Stiebitz
Treasurer	1 Yr Term	Richard Dickenson
Tax Collector	1 Yr Term	Michael 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	Aaron Goodwin
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	1 Yr Term	Joseph N. Boutin Jr.
Supervisor of the Checklist	3 Yr Term	Lanilta Dickenson
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 Yr Term	Joyce Hassell
Selectman	3 Yr Term	Earl Tempelmeyer
Member of the Planning Board	5 Yr Term	Martin Noble
Other Agents as Required	-	-

Discussion ensued regarding the Benton Police Officer/Emergency Management Coordinator. The Selectmen stated that they had the Emergency management role covered. Lara Saffo discussed the downside of not having a local police presence. The NH State Police will respond to 911 calls, however the time lag could be/has been significant. Strategies for filling the Policeman position will be a topic of discussion during upcoming Selectmen's Meetings.

Article 2

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

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

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire
March 10, 2009

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 resurfacing 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.

Discussion ensued regarding the exact scope of the proposed work. Selectman Sam Boutin stated that the stumps and rocks would be removed, culverts replaced, and then the road would be repaved. John Elliott stated that when he was Road Agent he was directed by the Selectmen to try to remove the rocks in one of the sections of Tunnel Stream Road. He found that many of the "bumps" were actually ledge and cannot easily be removed. He suggested building up over them and then repaving.

Kerrie Creamer asked if the project would make it out to Rollins Road this year. Sam allowed as he didn't think \$30,000 would get that far, but the Selectmen would be reevaluating the project as it progressed.

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

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$117,770 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 Moderator then asked if there was any other business to discuss. Stephanie Saffo requested that something be done to free up the space taken up by the voting booths. She suggested that we convert to using the folding tabletop booths exclusively. Gil agreed to check the State Statutes to see there is any objection to that strategy. John Elliott stated that he felt "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", as the current booths have served us well. The Town Clerk suggested that the current booths be made to fold up, allowing them to be stored out of the way. Gil offered that he would look into the rules about voting booths and get back to Steph.

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire
March 10, 2009

At this point in the meeting, the Moderator recognized Marjorie Robitzer for her 24+ years of service to the Town, and the attendees offered her a standing ovation. He then introduced Stephanie Saffo of The Beautify Benton Committee who invited everyone to remain after the meeting for a small party in Marjorie's honor. Steph had also prepared a proclamation signed by the current Selectboard and presented it to Marjorie. A plaque containing the proclamation is being made for the Town Hall. Maxine Tyler presented Marjorie with a present acknowledging their long friendship, both in and out of town affairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM. All new Town Officers present were sworn in at the closing by the Moderator, Gil Richardson.

A true copy
Attest:

Michael P. Stiebitz

Michael Stiebitz – Town Clerk
Benton, New Hampshire

VITAL STATISTICS

Births:

- May 11, 2009 Colin David Plachetzki
Son of Katherine & David Plachetzki, Woodsville, N.H.
- October 16, 2009 Gabrielle Mae Smith
Daughter of Chelsea Welch & Kevin Smith, Woodsville, N.H.

Marriages:

- June 20, 2009 Kevin R. Smith & Chelsea D. Welch in Benton, N.H.
- September 13, 2009 Trapper S. Reynolds & Amber B. Souther in Easton, N.H.
of Benton

Deaths:

- January 4, 2009 Christie Churas Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- January 12, 2009 Elaine O'Neil Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- February 1, 2009 Karen O'Brien Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- February 2, 2009 Harold LaPierre Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- April 3, 2009 Mary Wheeler Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- April 24, 2009 Yolanda Kay Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- May 24, 2009 Mary Duncan Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- July 26, 2009 Richard Lamare Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- August 9, 2009 Linda Tilford Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- October 30, 2009 Geraldine Kelly Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- November 18, 2009 Ronald Cloutier Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- November 28, 2009 Barbara Thayer Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.
- December 21, 2009 Beverly Clement Passed away in Glenclyff, N.H.

Report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds
For the Year Ending December 31, 2009

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 2009 Donations – Cemetery Trust

Sutherland	\$ 150.00
Morton	\$ 375.00

Status of the Funds is as follows:

Trust Fund Savings, Account # 617453		\$ 20,898.99
Cemetery/Common Trust Fund, principal only		
CDARS Acc't # 1006041376	\$ 12,033.69	
Woodsville Guaranty Savings # 655895	\$ 570.89	\$ 12,604.58
Capital Reserve Fund - Highways/Roads, interest included		
Woodsville Guaranty Savings # 655898		\$ 9,894.85
Capital Reserve Fund – Fires, interest included		
Acc't # 617456		\$ 4,491.84
Capital Reserve Fund – Schools, interest included		
School #1 - CDARS Acc't #1006086965	\$ 84,418.87	
School #2 - CDARS Acc't #1008621295	\$ 14,423.58	\$ 98,842.45

TOTAL HELD IN TRUST
BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND = 146,732.71

Distributions of Interest at the end of 2009 from the Cemetery/Common Trust Fund

For cemetery use	\$ 151.27
For the schools	\$ 34.11
For the highway account	\$ 30.76
Total	\$ 216.14

Respectfully submitted,

Trustees of the Trust Fund
Laura Richardson
Martin Noble
Joyce Hassell

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009

DISTRICT OFFICERS

SCHOOL BOARD

Alexandria Noble, CHAIR	Term Expires 2011
Lara Saffo	Term Expires 2012
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
2010 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 9th day of March 2010, 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 2013.
- 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 \$509,673.00)
- 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, 2010. (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, 2010

Alexandria Noble, Chairman

Wayne Chevalier

Lara Saffo

BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT MINUTES
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 10, 2009**

The meeting opened at: 7:08 PM.

ARTICLE 1

To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

Gil 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 2012.**

Lara Saffo

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
\$459,633.00)**

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

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.

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

ARTICLE 9

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 7:17 PM. All new officers present were sworn in at the closing.

A true copy

Attest:

Michael P. Stiebitz

Michael Stiebitz
Benton School District Clerk
Benton, NH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Once again I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak to the taxpayers of Benton.

We have installed standards based curriculum materials at Woodsville Elementary School in both Math and Language Arts. The Everyday Math is in its third year of implementation and the Story Town Language Arts curriculum is now in the second year of use. We are pleased at the growth we have been seeing from our students as they become familiar with using these comprehensive materials.

We are witnessing a real change in education but it takes time and patience to finally see the returns. We are working hard to gain annual growth for all students and at the same time provide extra help for those students who have fallen behind so they may catch up with their peers. This is why the middle school has restructured, why we are working harder in Math and Language Arts with preschool students, and why we base our decision making around what the data tells us. We are in a place where the preschool is doing the work students in kindergarten used to do and kindergarten students are doing what first graders used to do and so on in each grade. We anticipate improved test scores with what the students are learning and able to do.

At Woodsville High School we are getting ready for a visitation and evaluation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C). In the next two years there will be a team of fifteen people who will be charged with evaluating the high school against a set of standards developed by NEAS&C. Preparation for this evaluation is taking place now and will be ongoing until the visitation takes place in 2011.

We continue to see After School Programs in Haverhill flourish through the generous funds of the Catherine A. Moran Memorial Fund and the 21st Century Federal Grants combined with school district funds. We know that the number of participants continue to be strong at the elementary and middle schools and hope to add a stable high school program soon.

All of the policy revision work is now completed. It was a long process to revise and update all of the school district policies. We now have these policies available on the SAU #23 web site at www.sau23.org.

**REPORT OF THE BENTON SCHOOL
DISTRICT TREASURER
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009**

Cash on Hand, July 1, 2008	\$ 8,176.79
Total Revenues Received	480,800.18
Total School Board Orders Paid	402,326.46
Cash on Hand June 30, 2009	\$78,473.72

Maxine Tyler, School District Treasurer

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET AS OF 6/30/2009**

		Fund 10 GENERAL	Fund 70 TRUST FUNDS
ASSETS			
<u>Current Assets</u>			
CASH	100	78,473.72	0.00
INVESTMENTS	110	0.00	97,988.63
OTHER RECEIVABLES	150	0.00	0.00
PREPAID EXPENSES	180	0.00	0.00
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	190	0.00	0.00
Total Current Assets		78,473.72	97,988.63
 LIABILITY & FUND EQUITY			
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
PAYABLES	420	12,335.04	0.00
DEFERRED REVENUES	480	10,697.00	0.00
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES	490	0.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities		23,032.04	0.00
 <u>Fund Equity</u>			
RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCES	753	0.00	0.00
RESERVED FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES	760	0.00	97,988.63
UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE	770	55,441.68	0.00
Total Fund Equity		55,441.68	97,988.63
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity		78,473.72	97,988.63

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

	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
<u>Special Education Expenses</u>		
1200 Special Programs	57,806	61,125
1430 Summer School	1,742	2,045
2150 Speech and Audiology	423	-
2162 Physical Therapy	-	-
2163 Occupational Therapy	259	-
2722 Special Transportation	9,672	1,902
Total Expenses	69,902	65,072
<u>Special Education Revenue</u>		
3110 SPED portion of State Adequacy	12,348	12,348
3230 Catastrophic Aid	7,418	7,418
4580 Medicaid	13,408	13,408
Total Revenues	33,174	33,174
District Cost for Special Education	36,728	31,898
<u>IDEA Entitlement Funds through SAU23</u>		
Part A - Preschool	485	485
Part B - Special Education	2,645	2,645

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES

	2008-2009 <u>ACTUAL</u>	2009-2010 <u>REVISED</u>	2010-2011 <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	-	35,442	7,000	(28,442)
<u>Local</u>				
1111 District Appropriation	248,787	224,318	273,847	49,529
1510 Interest	114	50	50	-
1980 Refund from Prior Year	579			-
5252 Transfer from Expendable Trust		-	25,000	25,000
<u>State</u>				
3111 State Adequacy Grant	123,820	121,439	121,439	-
3112 State Adequacy Tax	53,222	57,252	57,252	-
3230 Catastrophic Aid	6,023			-
3241 Vocational Education Tuition	11,411	4,688	5,113	425
3242 Vocational Transportation	952	424	452	28
<u>Federal</u>				
4580 Medicaid Reimbursement	8,038	-	3,500	3,500
4810 National Forest Reserve	16,020	16,020	16,020	-
SUBTOTAL	468,966	459,633	509,673	50,040
Expendable Trust Warrant Article	-	20,000	-	(20,000)
TOTAL BUDGET AND ARTICLES	468,966	479,633	509,673	30,040

SCHOOL TAX RATE

	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATED	<i>CURRENT</i>	
	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>	
local property tax rate	\$9.60	\$8.59	\$10.48	\$1.89	\$26,123 per \$1,000
State property tax rate	<u>\$2.13</u>	<u>\$2.26</u>	<u>\$2.26</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	\$25,310 per \$1,000
Total School Tax Rate	\$11.73	\$10.85	\$12.74	\$1.89	
Change from prior year	(\$1.40)	(\$0.88)	\$1.89		

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET SUMMARY

Benton School District Budget 2010-2011

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2008-09 Expenses</u>	<u>2009-10 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
10.6.1100.561	REGULAR TUITION	303,321	330,450	392,800	62,350
10.6.1200.320	SPED TRANSITION SERVICES	19,139	18,522	0	(18,522)
10.6.1200.561	SPED TUITION	23,060	25,120	35,447	10,327
10.6.1230.564	FRENCH POND TUITION	18,926	0	0	0
10.6.1231.564	KING STREET TUITION	0	18,926	18,926	0
10.6.1300.562	RIVERBEND TUITION	6,581	14,934	7,184	(7,750)
10.6.1430.561	SUMMER SCHOOL TUITION - LEA	741	5,024	2,500	(2,524)
10.6.1430.564	SUMMER SCHOOL TUITION - PRIVATE	1,304	1,800	1,700	(100)
10.6.2159.330	SUMMER SPEECH	0	400	640	240
10.6.2162.330	PHYSICAL THERAPY	0	0	385	385
10.6.2163.330	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	0	450	3,995	3,545
10.6.2311.111	BOARD SALARIES	600	600	600	0
10.6.2311.220	PAYROLL TAXES	46	46	46	0
10.6.2311.260	WORKERS' COMP	219	278	278	0
10.6.2311.520	LIABILITY INSURANCE	2,696	3,000	2,940	(60)
10.6.2311.540	ADVERTISING	124	180	180	0
10.6.2311.810	DUES/FEES	825	950	935	(15)
10.6.2313.111	TREASURER SALARIES	200	200	200	0
10.6.2313.220	PAYROLL TAXES	15	16	16	0
10.6.2313.260	WORKERS' COMP	73	93	93	0
10.6.2313.534	POSTAGE	11	20	20	0
10.6.2313.610	SUPPLIES	9	20	20	0
10.6.2314.111	DISTRICT MEETING SALARIES	62	63	63	0
10.6.2314.220	PAYROLL TAXES	5	3	6	3
10.6.2314.260	WORKERS' COMP	23	29	29	0
10.6.2317.111	AUDIT SALARIES	50	50	50	0
10.6.2317.220	PAYROLL TAXES	4	5	5	0
10.6.2318.330	LEGAL FEES	0	250	250	0
10.6.2321.310	SAU MANAGEMENT SERVICES	12,966	13,375	13,375	0
10.6.2721.510	REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	19,926	21,454	23,540	2,086
10.6.2722.510	SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION	1,902	2,675	2,700	25
10.6.2723.510	RIVERBEND TRANSPORTATION	694	700	750	50
10.6.5252.930	TRANSFER TO EXPEND TRUST FUND	0	20,000	0	(20,000)
Grand Total:		413,523	479,633	509,673	30,040

SAU 23 BUDGET SUMMARY

SAU BUDGET SUMMARY 2010-2011

OBJ	Description	09-10	APPROVED	INCREASE
		BUDGET	BUDGET	(DECREASE)
100	SALARIES	925,004	927,586	2,582
211	HEALTH INSURANCE	168,887	198,621	29,734
213	LIFE INSURANCE	690	725	35
214	DISABILITY INS	1,883	1,884	1
220	FICA	70,765	70,959	194
231	SUPPORT RETIREMENT	43,024	43,754	730
232	PROF RETIREMENT	28,285	32,323	4,038
240	TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	18,815	17,525	(1,290)
250	UNEMP COMP	2,667	3,096	429
260	WORKERS COMP	4,169	3,290	(879)
320	PROFESSIONAL ED. SERVICES	2,250	2,450	200
330	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	83,050	66,750	(16,300)
411	WATER/SEWAGE	575	545	(30)
421	RUBBISH	1,155	1,455	300
422	SNOW REMOVAL	2,390	2,150	(240)
430	REPAIRS	4,030	4,530	500
431	VEHICLE REPAIR	6,000	9,000	3,000
432	MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS	14,225	13,707	(518)
440	RENTALS	37,759	56,778	19,019
490	SECURITY	950	1,600	650
510	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	1,500	1,450	(50)
520	INSURANCE	4,011	4,653	642
531	TELEPHONE	7,485	7,040	(445)
532	DATA COMMUNICATIONS	3,525	10,176	6,651
534	POSTAGE	4,170	3,900	(270)
540	ADVERTISING/PRINTING	2,775	2,500	(275)
580	TRAVEL, LODGING, FOOD	16,728	14,895	(1,833)
610	SUPPLIES	15,170	13,195	(1,975)
611	CUSTODIAN SUPPLIES	3,200	4,200	1,000
622	ELECTRICITY	2,715	2,910	195
623	PROPANE	1,183	1,000	(183)
624	FUEL OIL	9,779	4,800	(4,979)
626	GASOLINE	6,185	5,685	(500)
630	STUDENT MEALS	750	750	-
640	BOOKS/PERIODICALS	4,225	3,750	(475)
643	ON-LINE SERVICES	2,500	2,200	(300)
650	SOFTWARE	6,095	6,675	580
733	ADDITIONAL FURNITURE	700	200	(500)
734	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT	6,050	5,700	(350)
736	REPLACEMENT VEHICLE	4,801	4,801	-
737	REPLACEMENT FURNITURE	1,200	800	(400)
738	REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT	2,800	2,700	(100)
800	DUES/FEES	6,730	6,830	100
SUBTOTAL BEFORE O.T.		1,530,850	1,569,538	38,688
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - ADDED PROGRAM			108,466	108,466
GENERAL FUND TOTALS		1,530,850	1,678,004	147,154
IDEA GRANTS		266,735	266,735	-
TOTAL BUDGET		1,797,585	1,944,739	147,154

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 REVENUES

BUDGET	APPROVED	
<u>2009 - 2010</u>	BUDGET	
<u>2010 - 2011</u>	<u>2010 - 2011</u>	<u>+/-</u>

LOCAL REVENUE OTHER THAN ASSESSMENT

1320 Tuition - French Pond	214717	113,556	113,556	-
1321 Tuition - King Street School	194329	208,186	208,186	-
1325 Tuition -French Pond/King St. Summer School		10,168	10,978	810
1950 Itinerants		253,757	273,334	19,577
1951 Speech/ Language		210,944	204,111	(6,833)
1952 Occupational Therapy	added program		107,746	107,746
1990 Other local revenue (town internet line fees)		945	900	(45)
1510 Interest		4,500	5,000	500
5210 Indirect Costs from SAU IDEA Grant		6,900	6,900	-
Use of Fund Balance		<u>36,000</u>	61,399	<u>25,399</u>
Total Other Revenue General Fund		844,956	992,110	147,154

1111 DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS

TOTAL GENERAL FUND

685,894	685,894	1,678,004	147,154
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TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES FUND 22 - GRANTS

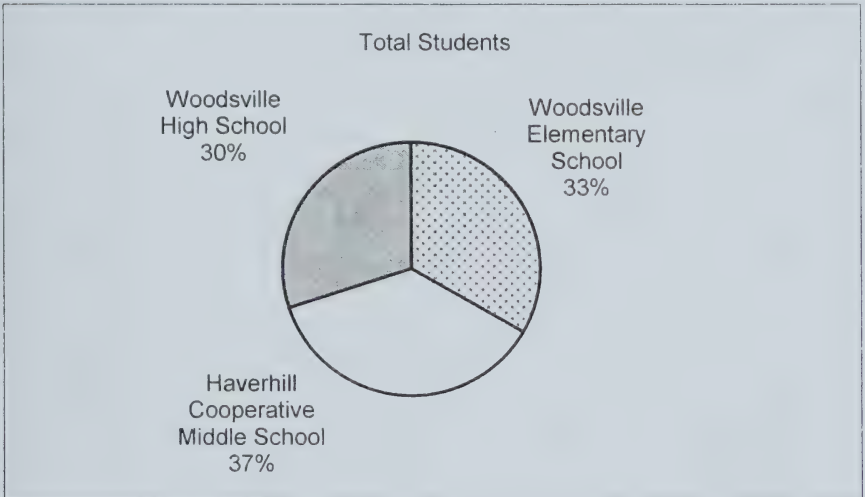
<u>266,735</u>	<u>266,735</u>	<u>-</u>
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TOTAL SAU BUDGET INCLUDING GRANTS

1,797,585	1,944,739	147,154
------------------	------------------	----------------

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENTS TUITIONED TO HAVERHILL
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2008-2009**

	<u>Total Students</u>	<u>Total Tuition Costs Per School</u>
Woodsville Elementary School	10	\$88,017.79
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	11	\$113,968.80
Woodsville High School	9	\$90,667.80
TOTAL	30	\$292,654.39



University of New Hampshire
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WHITE RIVER
MAY 15 PM
2010

