

**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
Annual Town Meeting
March 11, 2025**

The Annual Bridgewater Town Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at approximately 8:00 pm. Present were Moderator Matthew Denton, Selectman Terence Murphy, Selectman Maurice Jenness, Selectman P. Wesley Morrill and approximately 190 residents.

Article #1: "To choose a Selectman for three (3) years and all other necessary Town officials."

This vote was made by town ballot of which there were 120 votes cast. Votes cast were as follows:

Selectman – 3 Years

Paul Wesley Morrill – 114 Votes

Supervisor of the Checklist – 5 Years

Brenda McKenzie – 114 Votes

Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 Years

Write In's only – To Be Determined

The Pasquaney School District votes cast were as follows:

Bridgewater School Board Member – 2 Years

Mara Capsalis – 115 Votes

Moderator – 1 Year

Roger Laroche – 95 Votes

Article #2 – Shall the Pasquaney School District vote to amend Article 3 of the Articles of Agreement among the School District towns of Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton to add two at large School Board members to increase the Board from three to five members.

Yes – 111

No – 9

Article # - Shall the Pasquaney School District vote amend Article 4c of the Articles of Agreement among the School District town of Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton to simplify the minimum contribution from each town to a minimum of 15 students.

Yes – 109

No - 10

Article #2 – “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,856,250 which represents the operational budget. Said sum does not include amounts in separate or special warrant articles.” (Majority Vote Required) – Recommended by the Select Board

This Article was moved as written by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Maurice Jenness. Selectman Murphy spoke on this Article stating the tax rate remains steady at this point, but will further be determined by the outcome of the March 25 Pasquaney School District meeting which could increase the tax rate by \$1. There is no long-term debt and otherwise the budget remains steady. All three towns will be voting on March 25 and if we should fall short on funding, the Board will hold off on funding other items.

All in favor – Article #2 passed.

Article #3 – “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the purchase of a new police cruiser and related equipment with \$75,000 to offset this appropriation from the unassigned fund balance.” (Majority Vote Required) – Recommended by the Select Board

Selectman Jenness made a motion to move this Article as written, which was seconded by E. Wayne Thompson. Selectman Jenness spoke on this Article stating the current police cruiser is now 10 years old with over 100,000 miles.

All in favor – Article #3 passed.

Article #4 – “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for repairs and upgrades to the interior of the Town Hall and to fund that appropriation by a transfer of that sum from the 2024 (amended from 2025) undesignated fund balance.” (Majority Vote Required) – Recommended by the Select Board

Richard Lobban made a motion to move this Article as written, which was seconded by John Clayton.

Ken Weidman requested confirmation that these funds would be coming from the 2024 undesignated fund balance, as the original Article stated the 2025 undesignated fund balance. It was confirmed that these funds would indeed be from the 2024 undesignated fund balance.

Judy Faran from the Historical Society asked what improvements were intended to be made at the Town Hall. Selectman Murphy stated carpet replacement, completion of painting that was never finished and a large monitor to be placed on the wall in the meeting room.

Richard Lobban asked if a projector would be placed in the ceiling, however, Selectman Murphy said a projector was not needed.

Zachary Gilpatric asked if this project would be going out to bid, which Selectman Morrill confirmed that it would as all projects of this nature go out to bid.

All in favor – Article #4 passed.

Article #5 – “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,189 for supplemental road surfacing and to fund that appropriation by transfer of \$85,189 from the 2024 unassigned fund balance for that purpose.” (Majority Vote Required) – Recommended by the Select Board.

Selectman Morrill moved this Article as written, which was seconded by Sharon Thorne.

Richard Lobban asked what roads would be done in this Article. Selectman Murphy stated that Tristin Drive and Scott Drive and a portion of Hemlock Brook Road.

Further discussion of road conditions on Dick Brown Road and the cost of maintenance to these roads preventing the repair of roads throughout Town.

All in favor – Article #5 passed.

Article #6 – “To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.”

Dee Kriebel questioned the Cultural and Recreational expenses which Selectman Murphy stated were related to the Town Library and Historical Society on River Road.

Dee Kriebel continued to state that since Bridgewater does not currently have a library, Bristol has a very good library with a lot of resources and there is no fee to become a member. Dee further stated that perhaps the Town should consider an annual donation to the Bristol Library.

Selectman Jenness stated that Hebron also has a good library and there is no cost to Bridgewater residents to visit that library.

Jill Erickson stated that the Hebron Library will give membership cards to Bridgewater and would like to collaborate on services. There is a renovation demonstration scheduled for this coming Saturday.

Aubrey Freedman stated he believes that the Town of Bridgewater should not be making donations to any library and that all donations should be personal donations and not through taxes.

E. Wayne Thompson thanked the Highway Department and the Board for a great job.

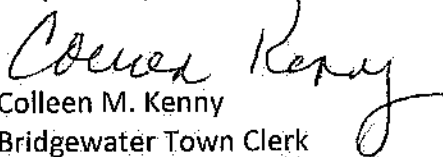
Selectman Murphy reminded residents of the meeting to be held on March 25 at the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School for the Pasquaney School District, as well as the April 8

Bridgewater-Hebron Village District election and meeting where a topic of discussion will be a \$500,000 grant for two classrooms on the west wing – this will not impact the tax rate.

Zachary Gilpatric questioned how much the price per student was, which Selectman Murphy was unsure of at this meeting, but estimated the total impact would be \$1 on the tax rate. Zachary stated he believed it was \$24 per student, however, Selectman Murphy stated he did not have an exact number but believed it might be higher. Further discussion on how the per student rate is calculated with further clarification of that rate at the March 25 meeting. Discussion of how these changes came to be causing the creation of the Pasquaney School District.

Mike Capsalis made a motion to adjourn this meeting, which was seconded by Selectman Morrill. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Colleen M. Kenny
Bridgewater Town Clerk