

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
Annual Town Meeting
March 8, 2022

The Annual Bridgewater Town Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at approximately 7:34 pm. Present were Moderator Matthew Denton, Selectman Terence Murphy, Selectman Maurice Jenness, Selectman P. Wesley Morrill and approximately 55 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 363 votes cast. Votes cast were as follows:

Selectman – 3-year term:

P. Wesley Morrill – 312*
(2 Write-Ins)

Moderator – 2-year term:

Matthew Denton – 325*
(4 Write-Ins)

Library Trustee – 3-year term:

No Nomination Forms Submitted
(8 Write-Ins) – No acceptance stated

Supervisor of the Checklist – 6-year term:

Margaret (Peggy) Petraszewski – 327*

Article #2: “To see if the Town will vote the following: Are you in favor of the amendment to the Town zoning ordinances proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To divide the General Residential District into two Districts:

- a) The “Lake District”, which is presently the portion of the General Residential District on the west side of Town largely along Route 3A; and
- b) The “River Road District”, which is presently the portion of the General Residential District on the east side of Town largely along the Pemigewasset River; and
- c) Further, to rename the Rural Residential District as the “Mountain District”.

No changes to permitted uses from current regulations are impacted by this proposal.

Votes cast on Article #2 are as follows:

Yes – 234*

No – 111

Article #3: “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,635,600 which represents the operational budget. Said sum does not include amounts in separate or special warrant articles.: (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Selectman Terence Murphy moved this Article as written, which was seconded by resident, E. Wayne Thompson. Selectman Murphy spoke to this Article stating this is the Town portion of the budget only, as the School District portion of the budget is yet to be determined. No further discussion. Residents provided a hand tally in which all were in favor. This Article passed.

Article #4: “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$357,700 for the purchase of a new ambulance and related equipment and to fund that appropriation by accepting a \$150,000 donation and federal grants of \$158,122 for that purpose. The balance of \$49,578 is to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Selectman Terence Murphy moved this Article as written, which was seconded by resident, Michael O’Malley. Selectman Murphy further stated the current ambulance being replaced is 20 years old with 48,000 +/- . Some discussion on the intended use of the old ambulance as well as the donation and grants provided for this purchase. No further discussion. Residents voted orally in which all were in favor. This Article passed.

Article #5: “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$500,000 for supplemental road resurfacing and to fund that appropriation by transfer of that sum from the undesignated fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Selectman Terence Murphy moved this Article as written, which was seconded by resident, Warren Pezold. Selectman Murphy, however, spoke to this Article suggesting it be voted down due to the current issues in Ukraine and with the rising oil and gas prices which were unknown at the time this Article was created. Selectman Murphy further stated that with the unknown outcome of the School District Article #5, it is not a good time for this Article to move forward. Selectman Morrill added that he has communicated with local asphalt companies who suggested that the pricing on the materials necessary for road resurfacing are very high at this time and they, as well, suggested the Town wait until things return to a more normal state.

Resident Patrick Roach asked if turning down this Article would adversely affect the operational budget of the Highway Department. Selectman Murphy confirmed it would not.

No further discussion. Residents voted orally in which all were NOT in favor of this Article. This Article did not pass.

Article #6: "To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting."

Resident E. Wayne Thompson expressed his thanks to the Highway Department for their efforts, as well as the Selectmen for keeping Bridgewater taxes low.

No further discussion.

Resident John Clayton made a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting, which was seconded by Warren Pezold. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Kenny
Bridgewater Town Clerk