

Town of Baltimore
Town Meeting
March 5, 2024

The meeting was brought to order at 7:15PM by Joan Whaley. Joan then read the Warning.

Article I- To elect a moderator for the year ensuing.

Town Clerk Deb Bean took nominations from the floor. A motion was made for Joan Whaley and seconded. No more nominations. Motion carried.

Joan asked if our Rep. John Arrison would like to speak. He talked about various topics and bills on which the house is working. He indicated that there was a problem in Vermont with the availability of low-cost housing. John added, that in some areas in Vermont there was a very high cost in rental properties and that the high cost and shortage of low-cost housing was limiting the population growth within the State. Additional topics he discussed included the possibility of higher cost of education taxes, state aid to continue construction projects, paid family leave and childcare, law enforcement, speeding, Governor's highway safety programs for grants regarding road safety. He stated that the possible increase in the School Taxes has not yet been passed. The school Budget must be set by April 15. He encouraged anyone having questions regarding various issues mentioned, that they should contact him.

Adrienne Williams, our Town's School representative, spoke regarding up-dates concerning the School Budget. At this point, the budget has not been passed. She said that if anyone has any questions that they should feel free to contact her.

It was suggested that residents come to the Selectboard Meetings and express their concerns about speeding, drugs, problems with dogs and other issues.

Article II- To act on Town Reports of the Town. Motion made and seconded to accept as written. Carried.

Article III- To elect all Town and Officials as the law directs.

Town Clerk TE 2027- Motion made and seconded to nominate Debby Bean. No other nomination. Motion carried. The Clerk cast one ballot.

Town Treasurer TE 2027- Motion made and seconded to nominate Debby Bean. No other nomination. Motion carried. Clerk cast one ballot.

Selectman TE 2027- Motion made and seconded to nominate Walter Rich. No other nominations. Motion carried and clerk cast one ballot.

Lister TE 2027- Motion made and seconded to nominate Kathy Muther. No other nominations. Motion carried and clerk cast one ballot.

Auditor TE 2027- Motion made and seconded to nominate Martha Jewett. No other nominations. Motion carried and clerk cast one ballot.

Town Grand Juror- One year- Motion made and seconded to nominate Steve Waldo. No other nominations. Carried.

Town Agent- One year- Motion made and seconded to nominate Derek Bruce. No other nominations. Carried.

Trustee of Public Funds- One year -Motion made and seconded to nominate Debby Bean. No other nominations. Carried.

Trustee of Campbell Fund TE 2027 -Motion made and seconded to nominate Orson Kendall. No other nominations. Carried.

Article IV- Shall the voters authorize a total GENERAL FUND expenditure of \$63,273.00, of which \$60,273.00 to be raised by taxes and \$3,000.00 carried forward from 2023 year-end General Fund surplus to cover anticipated 2025 Town operating expenses? No discussion. Motion made and seconded to accept. Carried.

Article V-Shall the voters approve the transfer of \$1,000.00 from the 2023 General Fund Surplus to be added to 2024 General Fund Building Maintenance to cover increase Building Maintenance cost? No discussion. Motion was made and seconded to accept. Carried.

Article VI-Shall the voters authorize a total HIGHWAY FUND expenditure of \$96,000.00 of which \$47,000.00 shall be raised by taxes, \$19,000.00 from anticipated State Aid Revenue and \$30,000.00 carried forward from 2023 year-end Highway Fund surplus to cover anticipated 2025 Highway expenses? No discussion. Motion was made and seconded to accept. Carried.

Article VII- Shall the voters approve the transfer of \$20,000.00 from the 2023 Highway Fund surplus into the Highway Expense Contingency to meet unanticipated highway expenses? No discussion. Motion was made and seconded to accept. Carried.

Article VIII- To see what date in 2024 the town will set for the payment of local property taxes to be paid into the Town Treasury. Motion made and seconded to have taxes due in full on or before December 1, 2024. Carried.

Article XI- To do any other Town business legal and proper when met not to involve expenditures of the Town. Comment was made that the town should have a dog ordinance or leash law. The Selectboard responded that such a law would affect many town residents and the need for this type of ordinance would be best processed by petition to the town for the Selectboard to act on. Also, if passed the question is how this law or ordinance should or could be enforced? Discussion involving the possibility of doing research into having Security Safety Measures, such as patrols. It was brought out by the Selectboard that a good deal of research on this was done within the past very few years in this regard. At the time, some residents were against having patrols or stops for speeding, etc. There was comment made by one person that he felt there was inequity in the property tax listing and he was also concerned with the amount of surplus money that seems to accumulate. One Selectboard member responded that the bulk of the surplus each year is returned back in the budgets of the following year which reduces the amount of tax to be collected. There was also several other topics and concerns discussed, many of which were directed to John Arrison our Representative.

Motion made and second to adjourn at 8:40 P.M. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Rich
Assistant Town Clerk