

**Bridgewater-Hebron Village District  
Annual Election & Meeting  
April 11, 2023**

The Annual Bridgewater-Hebron Village District Meeting opened at approximately 7:00 pm. Present were Moderator Matthew Denton, Commissioners Derry Riddle, Terence Murphy and Village District Clerk, Colleen Kenny with approximately 9 residents.

After the Pledge of Allegiance led by Moderator Denton, the results of the election were read as follows:

**Article #1: “To choose a District Commissioner and other officers for the ensuing years.”** This was done by paper ballot of which there were 30 ballots cast. Votes cast were as follows:

Office of Commissioner (3-year term):

**Terence Murphy – 30 votes**

No Write-Ins

Village District Moderator (2-year term):

**Matthew Denton – 30 votes**

No Write-Ins

Village District Clerk (3-year term):

**Colleen Kenny – 30 votes**

No Write-Ins

**Article #2: “To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$57,300 to offset costs of maintenance upgrades to the fire alarm system, chimney repairs and sewer upgrades and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$57,300 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon not to exceed a two-year payment; Further to raise and appropriate \$22,700 for the first year’s payment on the bond. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 3, the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Commissioners (3/5 ballot vote required).”** Commissioner Murphy moved this Article as written which was seconded by Commissioner Riddle. Commissioner Murphy explained how this \$80,000 will take care of capital items and legal fees that will be coming with the potential removal of BHVD from SAU 48. Commissioner Murphy further stated that the payments required for the boiler and roof will be paid off in June.

Due to the fact this Article #2 requires a ballot vote, the polls remained open for one hour to allow any additional voters that might appear at this meeting.

**Article #3: “To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,700 which represents the Operating Budget. Said sum does not include amounts appropriated**

**in other warrant articles. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Commissioners.** Commissioner Murphy moved this Article as written, which was seconded by Wesley Morrill. Commission Murphy spoke on the Operating Budget comparing 2022 to 2023. Commission Murphy further stated that as the school ages more repairs will be needed. Right now, the chimney/firebox needs to be replaced which will require engineering and with a cost of .17+ for Hebron and .22+ for Bridgewater for 2 years. No further discussion. All in favor.

**Article #4: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.”** Commissioner Murphy spoke on the proposed legislation to remove BHVD from the SAU. We have 18 months till July 1, 2025 to remove ourselves. Much discussion to come between the Towns and the SAU. Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton would have a 3-member Board with Bristol, New Hampton, Alexandria and Danbury having a 4-member Board. The details on students moving to the high school and how that would work as well as the associated cost is yet to be determined. Plymouth High School has the same model as well as several other SAU’s in NH. The legislature is promoting more choices. Teachers would stay and their tenure would continue, etc., but would just transfer to the BHVD. Commissioner Murphy said this went through the Senate with good support, the House Education Committee moved forward with 200+ for and 9 against (online). The Executive Session is next week then on to the Senate. A change of apportionment would dramatically increase the tax rate by another \$2 -\$3. Interest rates are high and there is a lot of uncertainty in the market. Bonding now is not a good idea.

Resident Robert Williams asked if the Senate had voted yet. The Execution Session is next week then on to the Senate. We should know more by the end of the month. The House did put this move on the consent list which is a good sign. Commissioner Murphy stated that Carroll has been trying to do this for 10+ years and hopefully if this passes it will make it easier for other towns to move forward as well. Right now, Carroll, NH pays \$45,000 per seat while other towns in the same county pay \$6,000 per seat. In our SAU right now, everyone pays the same per seat. If we stay with the SAU and they are allowed to change the ratio we will see the same type of scenario in Bridgewater and Hebron. More communication to come on this issue. The Towns would like to work with the SAU and hopefully come to some agreement on this effort.

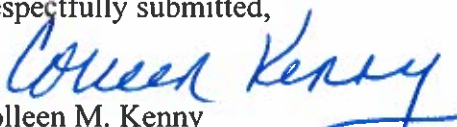
The results of the tally count for Article #2 were as follows:

Bridgewater: Yes 9 votes No 0  
Hebron: Yes 8 votes No 0

Yes: 17 No: 0

8:05PM - Motion to Adjourn brought by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Skip Jenness. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Kenny  
Bridgewater Hebron Village District Clerk