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|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | | **Bethlehem** | | | | The inhabitants of the Town of Bethlehem in the County of Grafton in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows: | | | | **First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session)** Date: 2/6/2023 Time: 6:00pm Location: Town Building  Details: 2155 Main St Bethlehem, NH 03574  **Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)** Date: 3/14/2023 Time: 8:00am-7:00pm Location: Town Building  Details: 2155 Main St Bethlehem, NH 03574 | | | | **GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION**  We certify and attest that on or before 1/30/2023, a true and attested copy of this document was posted at the place of meeting and at Town Building 2155 Main St and that an original was delivered to Town Clerk. | | | | **Name** | **Position** | **Signature** | | Bruce Caplain | Selectman |  | | April Hibberd | Selectman |  | | Ayla Queiroga | Selectman |  | | Chris Jensen | Selectman |  | | Veronica Morris | Selectman |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |

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|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Article 01** | **Choose Town Officers** | | To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (Ballot Vote) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). | |  | | **Article 02** | **Clarify, Update, and Correct the Zoning Ordinances** | | Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:  Proposed Amendment No. 1 would make revisions throughout the Zoning Ordinance to clarify, update, and correct terminology; improve consistency; make editorial corrections; update agency references; remove redundant, unused and unneeded language; improve organization of the document; conform with state laws and court decisions such as regarding accessory dwelling units, signs, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment; and incorporate the stand-alone wind energy ordinance adopted in 2011. Also renumber document accordingly after making changes and incorporating any additional amendments approved by voters.(The board of Selectman recommend this warrant) | |  | | **Article 03** | **Update language Floodplain development** | | Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:  Proposed Amendment No. 2 would update language in Article XIV Floodplain Development and Article XXI. Definitions as required for continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. (The board of Selectman recommend this warrant) | |  | | **Article 04** | **Update Multi Family Dwelling in order to make parking consistent** | | Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:  Proposed Amendment No. 3 would update language in Article II General Provisions and Article XI Multi-Family Dwelling Unit Development in order to make the parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance consistent with the requirements in the recently updated Site Plan Review Regulations. Detailed requirements would be removed from the Zoning Ordinance and the requirements contained in the Site Plan Review Regulations would be included by reference. (The board of Selectman recommend this warrant) | |  | | **Article 05** | **Home Business Permittable Use** | | Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:  Proposed Amendment No. 4 would add a Home Business as an accessory use allowed in any dwelling in town (Articles V and XXI). Site Plan Review would continue to be required when the public or certain types of impacts are involved (Article II General Provisions). (The board of Selectman recommend this warrant) | |  | | **Article 06** | **Non-conforming lot special exception** | | Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:  Proposed Amendment No. 5 would amend Article IV Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots to allow nonconforming lots to be developed if setbacks can be met and water and wastewater rules met, and would give the Zoning Board of Adjustment the ability to grant Special Exceptions to allow expansion of nonconforming uses under certain conditions. (The board of Selectman recommend this warrant) | |  | | **Article 07** | **Manufactured Housing** | | Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:  Proposed Amendment No. 6 would amend Article V Zoning Districts and Uses to bring the Zoning Ordinance into compliance with the provision of RSA 674:32 Manufactured Housing which prohibits requiring a Special Exception for manufactured homes on individual lots unless a Special Exception is also required for single family homes. (The board of Selectman recommend this warrant) | |  | | **Article 08** | **Update Language Sign Ordinance** | | Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:  Proposed Amendment No. 7 would replace existing language in Article VI Signs with language from the recently updated Site Plan Review Regulations for consistency. (The board of Selectman recommend this warrant) | |  | | **Article 09** | **Ability to allow special exceptions for similar use** | | Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:  Proposed Amendment No. 8 would amend Article V – Zoning Districts and Uses to give the Zoning Board of Adjustment the ability to allow other uses similar to those listed in the Ordinance by granting Special Exceptions in Districts I-Main Street, I and IV, similar to the flexibility already allowed in Districts II and III. (The board of Selectman recommend this warrant) | |  | | **Article 10** | **Operating and Default Budget** | | Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling $3,370,220 (Three Million Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $3,174,742 (Three Million One Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two Dollars), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). | |  | | **Article 11** | **Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $50,000 (fifty thousand) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.171 | |  | | **Article 12** | **Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.086 | |  | | **Article 13** | **Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,000 (Three Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.010 | |  | | **Article 14** | **Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.034 | |  | | **Article 15** | **Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.343 | |  | | **Article 16** | **Fire Department Emergency Safety Capital Reserve F** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Department Emergency Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.034 | |  | | **Article 17** | **To Lease a Fire Truck** | | To see if the town will approve entering into a Lease Purchase Agreement to acquire a new Commercial Pumper fire truck. The lease requires a $100,000 down payment which is to be withdrawn from the existing Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund, and then 10 annual payments each in the amount of $45,083.50 per year beginning in 2025 or after the new fire truck is delivered. Therefore, no appropriation is required for this purpose in 2023. This lease shall include an escape clause. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-1). Estimated tax impact 0.000 | |  | | **Article 18** | **Assessing Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $26,000 (Twenty Six Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Assessing Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.089 | |  | | **Article 19** | **Tech Needs Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $8,000 (Eight Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Tech/Computer Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.027 | |  | | **Article 20** | **Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $35,000 (Thirty Five Thousand) to be added to the Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.120 | |  | | **Article 21** | **Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.069 | |  | | **Article 22** | **Library Capital Reserve Fund** | | To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) to be added to the Library Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.051 | |  | | **Article 23** | **Gazebo Concerts** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $9,000 (Nine Thousand) for the purpose of providing live musical entertainment to the public, to be held at the Bethlehem Gazebo in 2023. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact 0.031 | |  | | **Article 24** | **New Pool** | | To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of building a new structure which would be considered a new pool inside of the existing pool including the concrete walls and a new main drain. The total amount to be raised is $400,000; $100,000 will be paid from the Recreation revolving fund. This would allow for the current working infrastructure to remain in use. The town will require a guarantee for work completed from the construction company who is awarded the project. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 3-2 ). Estimated tax impact 1.371 | |  | | **Article 25** | **Police Special Detail Revolving Fund** | | To see if the town of Bethlehem will create a Police Department special detail revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95 to be used to offset the Police Detail expenses. All revenues received from Police Special Detail will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The Town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only on order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). | |  | | **Article 26** | **To Rename Community Forrest** | | Shall the town rename the Bethlehem Town Forest, located on Prospect Street, to the Tellman-Johnson Town Forest? (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.000 | |  | | **Article 27** | **Petition Warrant- Upper Valley Road** | | To see if the Town will vote to accept the road system known as Upper Valley Road and perform routine yearly maintenance including winter clearings. Understand that the road has been approved by the Bethlehem Planning Board, that it meets both Town and State specifications, that it has been inspected by a certified engineer. Understand that there are eight homes located on the road, including nine Town of Bethlehem residents. Understand that the road surface is asphalt, approximately 800 yards in length, and has been consistently maintained. If this article is approved, the operating budget will increase by an estimated $3,062. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 5-0). | |  | | **Article 28** | **Petition Warrant- North Country Home Health and Hospice** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,000 (Four Thousand) for the purpose of supporting Hospice, Home Health, Palliative and Long-Term Care services provided by North Country Home Health & Hospice. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact 0.014 | |  | | **Article 29** | **Petition Warrant- Ammonoosuc Community Health Serv** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars ($6,000) for Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS). ACHS is a non-profit community health center that provides primary preventative health care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay. This will help ACHS continue to provide high quality care to 951 current BETHLEHEM patients, as well as reach more of those in need. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact 0.021 | |  | | **Article 30** | **Petition Warrant- Tri County Cap** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,968.00 (Four thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Eight dollars) for the operation of Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. service programs in Bethlehem: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Disaster Relief, and Tamworth Dental Center. Petition Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact 0.017 | |  | | **Article 31** | **Petition Warrant- Boys and Girls Club** | | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,500.00 (two thousand five hundred dollars) to support the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country in providing a healthy, safe, and productive after school and vacation camp environment for children from Bethlehem and the local community. The Club provides busing from the school to the Club for the afterschool program, which alone costs $5000 a year. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact 0.009 | |  | | **Article 32** | **Petition Warrant- Grafton County Senior Citizen's** | | We registered voters in the Town of Bethlehem present this petitioned article to be included in the 2023 Town of Bethlehem Warrant: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight thousand five hundred dollars ($8,500.00) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. through the Littleton Area Senior Center and the ServiceLink Resource Center for services for Bethlehem residents in 2023. From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, the Littleton Area Senior Center provided services for 70 residents. These services included nutrition, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. The cost of providing these services was $132,360.80. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article -0) Estimated tax impact 0.029 | |  | | **Article 33** | **Petition Warrant- Second Chance Animal Rescue** | | To see if the town of Bethlehem, NH will vote to raise and appropriate sum of $1000.00 for the Second Chance Animal Rescue. Second Chance Animal Rescue is a nonprofit that provides care and shelter for abused and abandoned cats and kittens. Second Chance Animal Rescue sponsors monthly low cost Spray/Neuter clinics for both dogs and cats, as well as shot clinics in the Spring. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article -0) Estimated tax impact 0.003 | |  | |  |