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 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to reduce the required parking from 2 spaces to 1 space for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that are no larger than 1,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area and which have no more than two bedrooms.

Article 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to allow a single-family home to have one detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) up to 1,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area with two bedrooms as a Permitted Use in Districts II, III, and IV and by Special Exception in District I Main Street and District I.

Article 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to define “Residential Conversions” and allow the conversion of existing residential structures previously used for nonresidential purposes to multi-family uses as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street and District I and by Special Exception in Districts II, III, and IV.

Article 5: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to increase housing opportunity by allowing dwelling units above first-floor businesses as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street and District I and by Special Exception in Districts II, III, and IV; and also add a definition of “Mixed Use.”

Article 6: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: repeal and replace Article XII regarding Cluster Developments and allow Cluster Developments as a Permitted Use everywhere except District I Main Street and the Landfill District. . Major changes to the Cluster Developments Article include the provision of additional guidance for the Planning Board when reviewing Cluster Developments, and a density bonus for developments with homes no larger than 1,200 sq. ft. gross floor area with a two-car garage

Article 7: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: add a definition of and allow Short Term Rentals of single family dwellings, owner occupied two family dwellings, and ADUs to owner occupied single family dwellings as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street, District I, District II, District III and District IV; repeal the definition of “Motels, hotels, guest homes and overnight cabins”; adopt a new definition of “Public Accommodation,” which includes Campgrounds; add definitions of Accessory Building or Use, Bed and Breakfast, Campground, Owner-occupied, and Transient; add Bed and Breakfast and owner occupied short term rentals to the definition of Home Business; and adopt health and safety requirements for Short Term Rentals.

Article 8: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to remove Article XVII Impact Fees in its entirety (has never been used), along with the Definitions in Article XXII that are only used in that section of the Zoning Ordinance.

Article 9: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: add a definition of Gross Floor Area as “the sum of the horizontal area of all floors of a building, measured from the exterior faces of the walls but not including unfinished cellars, attics, porches, etc.”

**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 $3,582,974 (Three Million Five Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $3,336,854 (Three Million Three Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Four 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). Tax Impact 11.91

Article 250th Anniversary $10,000 (Operating budget by function) Not Added into DRA Portal yet

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the SELECTMEN'S recommended amount of $10,000 for 250th Anniversary celebration to be held in 2024. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.019

**Article 11** Visitor’s Center Roof (Operating budget by function)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the SELECTMEN'S recommended amount of $180,000 (One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars) to replace and repair the Visitor’s center roof. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.348

**Article 12** 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 .097

Article 13 Dissolve Highway Truck Capital Reserve

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Highway Truck Capital Reserve created in 1995. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

**Article 14** 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 .048

**Article 15** 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 .006

Article 16 Fire Safety Equipment Capital Reserve

To see if the town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Fire Department Personal Protective Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to a Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, to allow the money to be used to purchase safety equipment for the fire department other than personal protective closing or self contained breathing apparatus. (2/3 vote required)(The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

Article 17 Fire Safety Equipment Capital Reserve

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 0.019

**Article 18** Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000 (Twenty-Five Dollars) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact .048

**Article 19** Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $164,000.00 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact .00000

Article 20 Public Safety Facility

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Safety Facility Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of building a Public Safety facility and to raise and appropriate the sum of $100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars). Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article) Tax Impact .193

**Article 21** 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 .050

**Article 22** 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 .010

**Article 23** Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $40,000 (Forty 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 .077

**Article 24 Modify Town Building Capital Reserve**

To see if the town will vote to amend the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 that was established in 2003 to increase the amount not to exceed $15,000 to $100,000. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact .000

**Article 25** Town Building Maintenance 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 Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact .019

**Article 26** 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 .029

**Article 27** Gazebo Concerts

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $9,650 (Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars) 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 .019

Article 28 Community Power

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Bethlehem Community Power plan, to authorize the Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Bethlehem Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

**Article 29** STANDARD AND OPTIONAL VETERANS’ TAX CREDIT (RSA 72:28)

Shall the town vote to READOPT the provisions of RSA 72:28, Optional Veterans’ Tax Credit? If READOPTED, the credit will apply to every resident of this state who is any person who is a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States in any qualifying war or armed conflict listed in this section, and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this subparagraph; (b) Every resident of this state who was terminated from the armed forces because of service-connected disability; or the surviving spouse of such resident; and (c) The surviving spouse of any resident who suffered a service-connected death. If adopted, the credit granted will be $500, which is the amount adopted by the town in 2005. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0)

NOTE: This article is required because the legislature expanded the eligibility criteria for this credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces.

**Article 30 ADOPT** ALL VETERANS’ TAX CREDIT (RSA 72:28-b)

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veteran’s Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident who is a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty or state active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph; provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be $500, the same amount as the optional veterans’ tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0)

**Article 31** Modify Elderly Exemption

Shall the town MODIFY the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Bethlehem, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, $100,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years,$150,000; for a person 80 years of age or older $200,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person’s spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than $30,000 not less than $13,400} or, if married, a combined net income of less than $40,000 not less than $20,400}; and own net assets not in excess of $100,000 not less than $35,000} excluding the value of the person’s residence. (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0)

**Article 32** Disabled Exemption

Shall the town ADOPT the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be $100,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person’s spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than $30,000 not less than $13,400} or if married, a combined net income of not more than $40,000 not less than $20,400}, and own net assets not in excess of $100,000 not less than $35,000} excluding the value of the person’s residence. (Majority vote required)

**Article 33** Amend Solar Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to modify the property tax exemption for property which is equipped with solar energy systems, originally adopted in 2011 pursuant to RSA 72:62, to limit the exemption to those systems which produce 100 KW or less, and to remove the $25,000 limit on the exemption so that 100% of the value of the solar energy system will be exempt from taxation. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

Article 34 Noise Ordinance

To see if the Town will adopt the proposed noise ordinance pursuant to RSA 31:39, which prohibits certain loud noises likely to endanger the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others between the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM. Several types of noises, including but not limited to emergency service are exempted from the ordinance, and the Select Board shall have the authority to issue a temporary special permit for other types of noises. Violations of the ordinance will result in penalties ranging from $100 to $250, depending on the number of convictions in any six-month period. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

Petition Article 35 Grafton County Senior Citizens Council

We registered voters in the Town of Bethlehem present this petitioned article to be included in the 2024 Town of Bethlehem Warrant: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars ($10,000.00) 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, 2022 to June 30, 2023, the Littleton Area Senior Center provided services for 246 residents. These services included nutrition, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. The cost of providing these services was $169,559.86. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article -0) Estimated tax impact 0.019

Petition Article 36 North Country Home Health & 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 0.008

Petition Article 37 Second Chance Animal Rescue

To see if the town of Bethlehem NH will vote to raise the appropriate sum of $1,000 (One Thousand Dollars) 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 also sponsors monthly low cost Spay/Neuter clinics for both dogs and cats. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact 0.002

Petition Article 38 Boys & 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.(The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact 0.005

Petition Article 39 Northern Human Services

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,121.00 (Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty-One Dollars) as the town’s contribution to the White Mountain Mental Health and Common Ground, programs of Northern Human Services, serving the mental health and development service needs of Bethlehem residents. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact 0.004