



**2026
WARRANT**

DRAFT

PROPOSED BUDGET NOT FINALIZED
THIS COPY FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY

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:

Date:
Time:
Location:
Details:

Date:
Time:
Location:
Details:

We certify and attest that on or before <DATE>, a true and attested copy of this document was posted at the place of meeting and at <LOCATION> and that an original was delivered to <OFFICIAL>.

[illegible]



Article 01 Choose Town Officers

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (Ballot Vote) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0).

Article 02 Zoning Amendment 1

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: to update all Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) regulations and definitions to comply with current New Hampshire state law. The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

Article 03 Zoning Amendment 2

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: to establish the maximum living area of an Accessory Dwelling Unit at 950 square feet. The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

Article 04 Zoning Amendment 3

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: to amend the Sign Regulations to clarify to identify the Planning Board as the reviewing authority, when approval is required and to reorganize the regulations to remove repetitive language and improve clarity. The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

Article 05 Zoning Amendment 4

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: to add state law references throughout the ordinance. The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

Article 06 Zoning Amendment 5

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: To amend the Personal Wireless Service Facilities section to clarify that, under State law, collocation or modification of equipment on an existing facility is reviewed only for building permit compliance and is not subject to zoning or land-use review, and to add the required appeal process. The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

Article 07 Zoning Amendment 6

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: to add a new section to include noise regulations for commercial and industrial uses. The amendment is intended to protect public health, safety, and quality of life by setting clear, enforceable standards for excessive noise while providing consistent guidance for businesses, residents, and the Town when evaluating and addressing noise impacts. Existing commercial and industrial facilities are exempt until changes are made that would result in increased noise levels. The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

Article 08 Zoning Amendment 7

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: to correct minor grammatical and formatting errors throughout the document, with no substantive changes to the content or meaning of any section. The Planning Board recommends this amendment.



Article 09 Zoning Amendment 8

To see if the Town will vote to adopt an Impact Fees Ordinance pursuant to RSA 674:21, V, authorizing the Planning Board to assess and collect impact fees on new development or expansions of existing development, for the purpose of financing or recouping the capital costs of public facilities that are reasonably related to such development, including but not limited to roads, schools, water, sewer, and other municipal facilities, as more fully set forth in the Impact Fees Ordinance; and to authorize the Planning Board to administer such fees in accordance with state law.

Article 10 Operating 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 \$ 3,968,030 (Three Million, Nine Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand, Thirty Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$ 3,759,257 (Three Million, Seven Hundred Fifty Nine Thousand, Two Hundred Fifty Seven 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 4-0). Tax Impact 5.21

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 Dollars) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .13

Article 12 Road Maintenance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000 (Seventy Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Road Maintenance capital reserve fund previously established. Recommendations Required. (Majority vote required.) .13

Article 13 Police Cruiser Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 (Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .067

Article 14 Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .010

Article 15 Fire Truck Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.09



Article 16 Fire Safety Equipment Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 (Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Department Emergency Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.06

Article 17 Ambulance Capital Reserve

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 Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .05

Article 18 Recreation Facilities 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 Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .052

Article 19 Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 (Thirty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .05

Article 20 Assessing Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Assessing Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .01

Article 21 Tech/Computer Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Tech/Computer Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .010

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 4-0). Estimated tax impact .03

Article 23 Cemetery Trust 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 Cemetery Trust Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .02

Article 24 Gazebo Concerts

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 (Twelve Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of providing live musical entertainment to the public, to be held at the Bethlehem Gazebo in 2025. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact .02



Article 25 Grant Match

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be added to the Grant Match Expendable Trust previously established. Recommendations Required. (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact .05

Article 26 Ambulance Revolving Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of Ambulance Expenses. All revenues received for the Ambulance from FEES, CHARGES, OR OTHER INCOME DERIVED FROM THE ACTIVITIES OR SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE FUND 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. And, further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1.00 to be added to the Ambulance revolving fund. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon 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. (Majority vote required) Estimated Tax Impact .00

Article 27 Combine Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Are you in favor of combining the offices of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector to create a new office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector with the term of office to be three years? If approved, an article shall be placed on the ballot at the next annual meeting to choose a town clerk/tax collector. (Majority ballot vote required)

Article 28 Modify Disabled Veterans Credit

Shall the town modify the provisions of RSA 72:35 for an optional tax credit of \$2,500 for a Service-Connected Total Disability on residential property? (Majority vote required)

Article 29 Adopt 79-E

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 79-E, Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, which authorizes municipalities to grant discretionary tax relief to encourage the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of qualifying structures, and to further authorize the Select Board to administer the program in accordance with RSA 79-E.

Article 30 Petition- Grafton County Senior Citizens Council

We registered voters in the Town of Bethlehem present this petitioned article to be included in the 2025 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 2024. From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the Littleton Area Senior Center provided services for 231 Bethlehem residents, and Service Link provided services for 49 residents. These services included nutrition, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. The cost of providing these services was \$190,433.47. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.02



Article 31 Petition-Ammonoosuc Community Health Services

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 comprehensive primary preventative health care to all, regardless of their financial situation. This will enable ACHS to continue to provide top-notch, affordable healthcare to 836 CURRENT BETHLEHEM PATIENTS. ACHS provides healthcare services to 8,268 patients within 26 towns in northern Grafton and southern Coos counties and has sites in Littleton, Franconia, Whitefield, Warren, and Woodsville. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.01

Article 32 Petition-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 do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.002

Article 33 Petition-Tri-County Community Action Program

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,876 (Three thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Six 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 do not recommend this Article -0) Estimated tax impact 0.01

Article 34 Petition 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 do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.01

Article 35 Petition 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 do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.005

Article 36 Petition-North Country Home Health and Hospice

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 (Eight 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 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.02