

2013 Warrant Article Explanations

Article 2:

A **YES** vote asks that an amendment to the current zoning ordinance be adopted that would restrict or prohibit those businesses considered to be so called “Formula Retail and Formula Fast Food Restaurants” (often referred to as box stores) from moving into Bethlehem District 1 Main Street.

A **NO** vote would keep the current zoning ordinance in place. Legal counsel has advised voting **NO** on this article as it would be in violation of the Dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

The Board of Selectmen joins the Planning Board as not in favor of this article.

Article 3:

A **YES** vote allows a second amendment to the current zoning ordinance adding definition as to what is meant by “Formula Retail and Formula Fast Food Restaurants”.

A **NO** vote agrees with the Town’s legal counsel that this article and that of #2 should not be approved.

Article 4:

A **YES** vote allows the Town to raise and appropriate sufficient funds as an operating budget for 2013. This does not include those special warrant articles on the ballot.

A **NO** vote would allow the Town to raise and appropriate funds under the default budget which is higher than the proposed operating budget.

Article 5:

A **YES** vote allows the Town to raise sufficient monies to provide for the Revaluation required by the DRA in order to correct any discrepancies that occurred during the past few years.

A **NO** vote is really immaterial as the Town would still need to raise these funds to cover the DRA required Revaluation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

Article 6: Police Department (Special Equipment Fund)

A **YES** vote means an additional \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars) will be raised through taxes, and the money will be earmarked for police equipment.

A **NO** vote means there **will not** be an additional \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars) raised through taxes for the police departments special equipment fund.

Article 7: Police Department (Cruiser Fund)

A **YES** vote means an additional \$15,000.00 (fifteen thousand dollars) will be raised through taxes, and the money will be earmarked for a new Police Cruiser.

A **NO** vote means there **will not** be an additional \$15,000.00 (fifteen thousand dollars) raised through taxes, and no money will be allotted this coming year for a new Police Cruiser.

Article 8: Highway Department (Truck Fund)

A **YES** vote means an additional \$60,000.00 (sixty thousand dollars) will be raised through taxes, and the money will be earmarked for a new truck for the Highway Department.

A **NO** vote means there **will not** be an additional \$60,000.00 (sixty thousand dollars) raised through taxes, and no money will be allotted this coming year for a new truck for the Highway Department.

Article 9: Fire Department (Emergency Safety Equipment)

A **YES** vote means an additional \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) will be raised through taxes, and the money will be earmarked for new emergency safety equipment.

A **NO** vote means there **will not** be an additional \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) raised through taxes, and no money will be allotted this coming year for emergency safety equipment.

Article 10: Fire Department (New Truck)

A **YES** vote means an additional \$20,000.00 (twenty thousand dollars) will be raised through taxes, and the money will be earmarked for a new Fire Truck.

A **NO** vote means there **will not** be an additional \$20,000.00 (twenty thousand dollars) raised through taxes, and no money will be allotted this coming year for a new Fire Truck.

Article 11: Fire Department (New Ambulance)

A **YES** vote means an additional \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) will be raised through taxes, and the money will be earmarked for a new Ambulance.

A **NO** vote means there **will not** be an additional \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) raised through taxes, and no money will be allotted this coming year for a new Ambulance.

Article 12: Town Building Maintenance

A **YES** vote means an additional \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars) will be raised through taxes, and the money will be earmarked for Town Building Maintenance.

A **NO** vote means there **will not** be an additional \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars) raised through taxes, and no money will be allotted this coming year for Town Building Maintenance.

Article 13:

A **YES** vote will allow the Town to expend money on evaluation and/or cleaning of abandoned or dangerous properties if necessary for the safety of the Town and its residents.

Article 14:

This article allows use of the money left from last year's warrant article to finish the pool renovation. There will be no tax impact from this article.

Article 15:

The library has to become the property of the Town of Bethlehem. This is the official ballot to allow that requirement to be completed.

Article 16:

This money is for the maintenance and utilities if the library should move into the new library building before December 31, 2013. This is in addition to the regular money amount budgeted in the General Budget.

Articles 17 through 29:

A **YES** vote will authorize the specified amount of money in the article to be raised by taxation and give to the specified organization stated in the article.

A **NO** vote means no money will be raised by the Town and given to the specified organization.