

OFFICAL WARRANT ARTICLE BALLOT
MARCH 13, 2012

Article 2: 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 therein, totaling \$2,720,849 should this article be defeated, the Default Operating Budget shall be \$2,605,343 ; which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law or the local 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.

(Note: This Operating Budget does not include appropriations in any other Warrant Articles.)

A Yes vote will approve the town to raise \$2,720,849.00 by way of taxation to operate the town. A No vote will approve the town to raise \$2,605,343.00 by way of taxation to operate the town. This is the default budgets and cuts would be made from the proposed budget.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Maple Street Cemetery Addition Fund with said funds plus interest to date to be placed in the Town's general funds.

A Yes vote will close the Maple Street Cemetery Addition Fund and place the remaining balance in the general fund. A No vote will leave the money in the current account. This Article was written to fix a problem with our cemetery accounts. This money will help offset the costs of Warrant Article 4.

Article 4: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,905 (Ten Thousand, Nine Hundred and Five Dollars) for the purpose of bringing the Trustees of the Trust Funds reporting into compliance with State Law. Since 1989, Trustees of the Trust Fund have not tracked and reported individual Perpetual Care Trust balances as required by State Law.

A Yes vote will allow the town to raise \$10,905.00 by way of taxation to replace un-tracked expenditures from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund. Most of this money will be offset by a yes vote on Article 3. If both Article 3 and 4 pass the total amount the town will raise by way of taxation will be +/- \$3000.00 A No vote would move the town out of compliance with existing State law. This may facilitate action by the State to restore.

Article 5: Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c and discontinue the Recycle/Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund established in 2007. **(Majority ballot vote).**

A Yes vote will allow the town to close the Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund. A No vote will keep the fund open. This Article needs a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund-Police

Cruiser previously established. ***(The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.)***

A Yes vote will approve the town to raise \$10,000 by way of taxation to add to the capital reserve fund for a new Police cruiser. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand dollars) to be added to the Capital Reserve Police Specialized Equipment Fund already established. ***(The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.)***

A Yes vote will approve the town to raise \$10,000 by way of taxation to add to the capital reserve fund for Specialized Equipment for the Police Department. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds..

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 (Sixty-five Thousand dollars) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund, already established, for the purchase of a Highway truck. ***(The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.)***

A Yes vote will approve the town to raise \$65,000 by way of taxation to add to the capital reserve fund for a new Highway truck. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) to the Capital Reserve Fund-Fire Department Emergency Safety Equipment previously established. ***(The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.)***

A Yes vote will approve the town to raise \$10,000 by way of taxation to add to the capital reserve fund for Emergency Safety Equipment for the Fire Department. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for purchasing a new or used fire truck. ***(The Board of Selectmen recommends this warrant article.)***

A Yes vote will approve the town to raise \$20,000 by way of taxation to add to the capital reserve fund for a new or used Fire Truck. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing a new or used ambulance. ***(The Board of Selectmen recommends this warrant article.)***

A Yes vote will approve the town to raise \$10,000 by way of taxation to add to the capital reserve fund for a new or used Ambulance. A No vote

cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the Capital Reserve Fund-Town Building Maintenance already established. ***(The Board of Selectmen recommends this article).***

This article allocates \$5,000 for maintenance and repair of the town building to be held in the capital reserve. A Yes vote will approve the town to raise \$5,000.00 by way of taxation to add to the capital reserve fund for town Building Maintenance. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of painting the Prospect Street Bridge with \$160,000 (80%) to come from the State Department of Transportation and \$40,000 (20%) to be raised through taxation. ***(The Selectboard recommends this article)***

A Yes vote sets aside \$200,000 for the painting of the Prospect Street Bridge. The painting will preserve the bridge for 20-25 years. If we do not paint it now the painting will have to be done in five years. Done this year, the State Department of Transportation will pay 80% of the cost (\$160,000) and the Town will be responsible for \$40,000. It is likely that state support may not be available in five years. Legally the Town has to allocate the entire \$200,000 to start the project, but will in the end only have to pay \$40,000. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds and prevents painting of the bridge this year.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of rehabilitating the Town Pool.***(The Selectboard neither recommends nor supports this Article)***

A Yes Vote will allocate \$60,000 for the rehabilitation of the town pool. The work will be mostly done with volunteer labor. An intensive year long study has rehabilitated the plumbing and determined the source of any leaks, and this amount will cover the costs of materials. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising these funds.

Article 15: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars) for the demolition of the Maplehurst Hotel with \$360,000 coming from DES Grants and \$40,000 for the Town's share to come from taxation. ***(The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.)***

A Yes vote allocates \$400,000 for the demolition of the Maplehurst Hotel, now a town owned property. This would remove a dangerous structure and allow development such as a new library or recreation fields. DES grants would pay for \$360,000, and the town \$40,000. Again legally the Town has to allocate the entire \$400,000 but in the end the town will only have to pay \$40,000 both in cash and in kind contributions. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds for this project.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 (Seventy-five Hundred Dollars) (this is a \$1500 reduction from 2010) for the purpose of providing live musical entertainment be held at the Bethlehem Gazebo in 2012. **(This is a warrant article submitted by petition.) (The Selectboard recommends this Article)**

A Yes vote would allocate \$7,500 for live musical entertainment at the Gazebo in the summer of 2012. A No vote cancels or impedes the Town from raising funds.

Articles 17-22

These articles would allow contributions from the Town to these seven local non-profit organizations that provide services to Bethlehem residents. In the past these contribution have been a part of the budget, but this year the Selectboard feels that the town should vote on these contributions directly. A No votes on these articles cancels the Town's ability to donate to these individual charities.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,100 (Three Thousand, One Hundred Dollars) for the Littleton Regional Hospital for the purpose of providing support in improving the health and well being of the community.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars) for the Northwoods Home Health & Hospice, a Division of Weeks Medical Center for the purpose of providing support in assisting families and individuals who are unable to pay for home health and hospice services.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) for Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. for the purpose of providing support in the healthcare of 906 Bethlehem Residents and others in need of services.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,121 (Three Thousand, One Hundred Twenty-one Dollars) for Northern Human Services, White Mountain Mental Health for the purpose of providing services on a sliding scale to people who are uninsured or under insured.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,830 (Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty Dollars) to Tri-County Community Action for the purpose of helping defer the funds needed with overhead expenses that the programs administered do not cover.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250 (Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars) for the North Country YMCA, Inc. for the purpose of providing quality family based programs to more than 1200 families and individuals throughout the North Country.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to accept the road system known as Situ Road, located off Route #142 (Maple Street) provided 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 by September 30, 2012. Currently there are various multi-family dwelling on the road. **(This article has been submitted by petition.) (The Selectboard does not recommend this article.)**

A Yes vote would adopt Situ road (a side road of Maple Street) as a town road, provided that the applicants can prove that the road meets local and state road specifications and there is a current inspection by a certified engineer paid for by the applicant. A No vote would prevent the Town from taking over the maintenance of this road.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote of 2003 for the nonbinding recommendation that the Board of Selectmen sell the property on tax map 206, lot 018, formerly known as the Chase Camp property, at public auction, and henceforth make a section of this property available for use by the Bethlehem Public Library. **(The Selectboard recommends this Article)**

A Yes vote would rescind a previous warrant article in 2003 which authorized and recommended that the Town sell the Maplehurst Property. Once rescinded the Maplehurst property could then be used for town development.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to have the Road Agent, in addition to his usual duties perform care and maintenance of the town cemetery as per the provisions of RSA 231:63. **(The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article)**

A Yes vote allows the road Agent to supervise the care and maintenance of town cemeteries, a vote required by state law RSA 231:63. There is no cost to this article. A no vote prevents the road Agent from supervising the cemetery maintenance.