

DRAFT
Town of Bethlehem, NH
Town Meeting 2014 Warrant

To the inhabitants of the Town of Bethlehem, New Hampshire, Grafton County in New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the **first session** (deliberative) of the annual meeting of the Town of Bethlehem will be held at the Bethlehem Town Building Meeting Room located at 2155 Main Street in said Bethlehem on February 3rd, 2014 at 6:00 pm. Warrant articles may be amended at this session per RSA 40:13, IV a, with the exception of Warrant Articles whose wording is prescribed by law and cannot be amended per RSA 40:13 a. Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion as amended.

You are further notified that the **second session** of the annual meeting of the Town of Bethlehem will be held at the Bethlehem Town Building Meeting Room on Tuesday, March 11th, 2014 at 8:00 am for the choice of town officers elected by official ballot, to vote on the questions required by law to be inserted on the official ballot, and to vote on all warrant articles from the first session on official ballot per RSA 40:13, VII. The polls for the election of town officers and other action required to be inserted on said ballot will open on said date at 8:00 am in the forenoon and will not close until 7:00 pm in the evening.

Article 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year and to bring in your votes for Executive Councilor. (Ballot Vote)

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to update Article XVIII Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance, Paragraph C. on page 50 of the Bethlehem, NH Zoning Ordinance 2011.

Which reads as follows: ***bold italics wording to be deleted***

C. ALL construction/renovation of structures within the Town of Bethlehem shall conform to the applicable sections of ***the BOCA national building code. (Adopted 3/10/87) All single-family dwellings are exempt from the B.O.C.A. Code.*** (Amended 3/97) All Construction/Renovation projects shall secure a building permit from the board of Selectmen or from the Zoning Board of Adjustment as herein after. A Building permit shall become void if:

And replace with the following wording; ***bold italics wording to be replaced***

C. All Construction/Renovation of structures within the Town of Bethlehem shall conform to applicable sections of the ***New Hampshire State Building Code as adopted by NH RSA 155-A.*** All Construction/Renovation projects shall secure a building permit from the Board of Selectmen or from the Zoning Board of adjustment as herein after. A building permit shall become void if:
(*The Planning Board recommends the article*)

Article 3: 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 \$ 2,768,998 (Two Million Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Eight Dollars) should this article be defeated, the Operating Budget shall be \$2,711,133 (Two Million Seven Hundred Eleven Thousand One Hundred Thirty Three Dollars) 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. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

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

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Town Library Capital Reserve Fund created in 2000. (Majority ballot vote).

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Prospect Street Bridge Capital Reserve fund created in 2004 with said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. (The fund balance as of December 31, 2013 was \$6,584.47).

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 (Fifty Five Thousand Dollars) to finish demolishing the Cruft Building (2111 Main Street) and clean up the site to make available to sell by sealed bid or auction with stipulation that sale price include reimbursement for clean-up costs. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,500 (Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) to replace the Fire Department roof. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 8: 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. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Highway truck Capital Reserve Fund. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to the Fire Department Emergency Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 13: 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. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Distressed Buildings Capital Reserve Fund. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article*)

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to retain Tax Map 206 Lot 14, taken by Tax Collector's Deed dated 07/29/13 and having a street address of 2323 Main Street, Bethlehem, to be used for public purposes, in part, and in part to be sold by sealed bid or auction. The intent of this article is to allow the Town to retain the cited tax lot in order to obtain a boundary line adjustment or subdivision to add part of the parcel to the existing parcel being Tax Map 206 Lot 15 owned by the Bethlehem School District by

deed recorded on November 5, 1978, in the Grafton County Registry of Deeds at Book 1327, Page 449. The part of the parcel being added to the School District's parcel is to be used for parking at the Bethlehem Elementary School located at 2297 Main Street, or for other school purposes. The remaining land not added to the School District's parcel shall be sold by sealed bid or auction.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to retain Tax Map 203 Lot 32.200, taken by Tax Collector's Deed dated 07/29/13 and located on Pleasant Street in Bethlehem, and grant discretionary authority to the Board of Selectmen to dispose of the property either by public bid or auction, or, should any offer fail to meet the Board's minimum bid-to be set by the board-to grant an option to Habitat for Humanity Ammonoosuc Region to purchase the property for the purchase price of \$1 with an option period of up to 12 months, on such further terms as negotiated by the Board of Selectmen, and to sell the property, without further Town Meeting action, if and when Habitat for Humanity Ammonoosuc Region exercises the option to purchase, to allow redevelopment of the property as part of a Habitat for Humanity project.

Article 18: Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37 for an exemption for the blind from the assessed value of residential real estate for property tax purposes? This statute provides that every inhabitant who is legally blind shall be exempt each year, for property tax purposes, from the assessed value on a residence to the value of \$15,000.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,500 (Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) for the purpose of work for the pool area and/or buildings to make ADA compliant.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,425 (One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five Dollars) and vote to change the compensation of Town Clerk per RSA 41:25 from a combination of fees and salary to only salary with the salary amount of \$26,302 for the 2014 budget year. This amount currently included in the Town Clerk budget under salary and fees is \$24,750. The \$1,425 represents the difference. This change is to be effective April 1st 2014. This salary is to be set during the budget process annually by the Board of Selectmen and be included in the default and proposed budget for future years.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to change the compensation of the Tax Collector per RSA 41:33 from a combination of fees and salary to only salary with the salary amount of \$16900 for the 2014 budget year. This amount is currently included in the Tax Collector budget under salary and fees and is \$20,000. This represents a difference of \$3,100. If this Warrant Article is approved the proposed budget will be reduced by \$3,100. This change is to be effective April 1st 2014. This salary is to be set during the budget process annually by the Board of Selectmen and be included in the default and proposed budget for future years.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 (Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) for the purpose of providing live musical entertainment, free to the public, to be held at the Bethlehem Gazebo in 2014. *(This article is submitted by petition). (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article)*

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. through the Littleton Area Senior Center and the ServiceLink Resource Center for services for Bethlehem residents in 2014. These services include congregate meals, home delivered meals, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. In FY2013, the Littleton Area Senior Center provided services for 100 Bethlehem residents, and ServiceLink provided services for 64 residents. The cost of providing these services was \$64,103.28. *(This article is submitted by petition) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article)*

Article 24: Tri-County Community Action Program, a private, non-profit agency, is requesting \$7,200 in funding from the town of Bethlehem. The funds requested are used in 2 very important ways. We

receive matching grants to continue providing direct assistance to your citizens. Secondly, your local Community Contact Office is only funded by the Fuel Assistance programs from December through April. We start taking applications in July so applications can be processed by the time the program opens, saving towns substantial money in their Town Welfare budget for emergency heating assistance. Through the efforts of TCCAP, the citizens of Bethlehem have received a total of \$165,943 in assistance. *(This article is submitted by petition) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article)*

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$5,800) for Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Ins. (ACHS). ACHS is a non-profit community health center that **provides primary preventive health care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay.** This will help ACHS continue to provide high quality care to **894 current BETHLEHEM patients**, as well as reach more of those in need. *(This article is submitted by petition) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article)*

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,121.20 as the town's contribution to the White Mountain Mental Health and Common Ground, programs of Northern Human Services, servicing the mental health and developmental service needs of Bethlehem residents. *(This article is submitted by petition) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article)*

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 for North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency, Inc. The purpose of home health visiting nurses services for underinsured-uninsured Bethlehem residents. *(This article is submitted by petition) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article)*

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 (one thousand and no dollars) to support the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country in order to provide a healthy, safe, and productive after school and vacation camp environment for children from Bethlehem and other are towns. *(This article is submitted by petition) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article)*

GOVERNING BODY (SELECTMEN)

Leona Blanchard *Sandy Lufeme* *Mark S. Lovett*
Muti J. L. *Muti J. L.*