

**WARRANT**  
**2024 TOWN MEETING**

**THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM NOON TO 8:00 P.M.**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Jefferson in the County of Coos in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You hereby notified to meet at the Jefferson Community Center/Town Office 178 Meadows Rd. in said Town of Jefferson on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March next, at 7:30 of the clock in the evening, to act upon the following subjects:

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year (ballot vote)\*\*

**ARTICLE 2:** Are you in favor of Amendment #1 to the Jefferson Land Use Plan Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board as follows: Add a new Article XII regarding Recreational Campgrounds to define and follow recreational campgrounds by special exception and to provide minimum standards for recreational campgrounds, including frontage, lot size, campsite size, setbacks, and screening. (ballot vote)\*\* YES NO

**ARTICLE 3:** Are you in favor of Amendment #2 to the Jefferson Land Use Plan Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board as follows: Add a new Article XIII regarding Short Term Rentals to define and allow short term rentals by special exception, and to provide additional special exception considerations for short term rentals. (ballot vote)\*\* YES NO

**ARTICLE 4:** Are you in favor of stopping any new developments of new campgrounds being built in the town of Jefferson? Petitioned Article (ballot vote)\*\* YES NO

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,103,003 for general municipal operations for the ensuing year. Select Board recommend. **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Funds as listed. Select Board recommend. **PASSED**

\$50,000 Highway Vehicle CRF

\$5,000 Highway Repair & Maintenance CRF

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 to be added to the Expendable Trust Funds as listed. Select Board recommend. **PASSED**

\$4,000 Athletic Expendable Trust

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Building Capital Reserve Fund. Select Board recommend. **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Funds as listed. Select Board recommend. **PASSED**

\$2,000 Dump Closure CRF

\$2,000 Transfer Station CRF

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Funds as listed. Select Board recommend. **PASSED**

\$50,000 Fire Truck CRF

\$5,000 Fire Station CRF

\$10,000 Fire Dept. Equipment CRF

**ARTICLE 11:** Are you in favor of discounting the Broadband Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the town's general fund. As of 2023 year end, the amount in the Broadband Capital Reserve Fund is approximately \$2,630. (Majority Vote Required) **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 12:** Are you in favor of establishing an Airport Road Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintaining the Jefferson side of Airport Road, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in the fund. This amount to come from TAXATION. Further, to name the Select Board as the agent to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 2 to 3. (Majority Vote Required) **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 13:** Are you in favor of modifying the Veteran's Tax Credit and the All Veteran's Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II and RSA 72:28-b from the current tax credit of \$50 per year to \$500 per year. (Majority Vote Required) **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 14:** Are you in favor of adopting the provisions of RSA 76:15-a to provide for the semi-annual collection of taxes? If this is adopted, two tax bills will be issued each year – one payable in July and one payable December 1. **AMENDMENT MADE ON FLOOR TO START CALENDAR YEAR 2025. PASSED**

**ARTICLE 15:** Are you in favor of establishing a Solar Power Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purposes of installing solar panels on town buildings and/or properties, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be placed in the fund. This amount to come from TAXATION. Further, to name the Select Board as the agent to expend from said fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 2 to 3. (Majority Vote Required) **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to allow the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes in accordance to RSA 80:52-a **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the Select Board salary from \$2,174 to \$3,000 and raise the sum of \$2,477 for this purpose. Select Board recommend. **TABLED**

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the Treasurers salary from \$2,302 to \$3,000 and to raise the sum of \$698 for this purpose. Select Board recommend. **TABLED**

**ARTICLE 19:** Resolution for the Town of Jefferson to consider short term rentals not owned by a current or previous Jefferson resident as businesses bound by all state and federal laws on lodging and accommodations. The Land Use Ordinance states that when considering an application for Special Exception "Hotel, motel, tourist accommodations and lodging units shall be defined in the strictest sense". The best way to adhere to that is to stop regulating business model short term rentals (purchased by non residents for the purpose of renting) with verbiage from the Land Use Ordinance regarding Home Based Businesses and to designate them as the just businesses. Owner occupied rentals, ancestral homes of the owner, and those operated in the former home of the owner (provide the latter occupied the house a minimum of five years) are exempt. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 20:** Resolution for town boards and committees to be more transparent. Requiring all boards, committees, and departments of Jefferson, New Hampshire to surpass New Hampshire's 91/A Right to Know law by posting meeting and hearing notifications, agendas, and minutes (including drafts) on the town's website: Meeting and hearing announcements to be posted to be posted no fewer than two days in advance, draft minutes no more than five days after, and agendas no later than 3 p.m. the day of meeting or hearing at 6 p.m. or later, or by 3 p.m. the preceding day if the meeting is during the daytime. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 21:** Select Board- By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Jefferson to see if the Townspeople will vote to clarify that in March of 2019 the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson were presented with Warrant Article #13 which, once passed, authorized the Select Board salary to be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. No warrant has been presented to the Townspeople since that time to raise and appropriate additional funds for this elected position. On January 15, 2024 the Select Board voted to increase their salary from \$2,000 to \$3,000 each, at their Select Board meeting. They also voted at this meeting to increase the salary of the Select Board Chair position from \$100 to \$500. If the Select Board members were paid higher than \$2,000 in any year 2019 or after, the Townspeople further request that the Town Clerk produce the record(s) showing the Townspeople's authorization of said increase(s). Town Clerk must exhaust all efforts to immediately produce and publicly post this record(s), including any applicable meeting minute attested copies or other verification from the Town's records, the State of New Hampshire or any other applicable agency that may have retained copies. Per NH RSA 91-A:4 IV (b) "If a public body or agency is unable to make a governmental record available for immediate inspection and copying the public body or agency shall, within 5 business days of request: (1) Make such record available; (2) Deny the request; (3) Provide a written statement of the time reasonably necessary to determine whether the request shall be granted or denied and the reason for the delay." The Townspeople further request that in making the record available, the aforementioned record(s) shall be posted on the Town website and at two local physical locations, such as the Jefferson Post Office and the Old Corner Store. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 22:** Town Clerk- By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Jefferson to see if the Townspeople will vote to clarify that in March of 1998 the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson were presented with Warrant Article #16 which, once passed, authorized the Town Clerk salary to be increased from \$700 to \$1,000.

No warrant has been presented to the Townspeople since that time to raise and appropriate additional funds for this elected position. The 2022 Town Annual Report page 23 shows payments of \$14,443 to the Town Clerk and \$1,519 to the Deputy Town Clerk for a total of \$15,962. If the Town Clerk was paid an amount higher than the \$1,000 in any year 1998 or after, the Townspeople further request that the Town Clerk produce the record(s) showing the Townspeople's authorization of said increase(s). Town Clerk must exhaust all efforts to immediately produce and publicly post this record(s), including any applicable meeting minute attested copies or other verification from the Town's records, the State of New Hampshire or any other applicable agency that may have retained copies. Per NH RSA 91-A:4 IV (b) "If a public body or agency is unable to make a governmental record available for immediate inspection and copying the public body or agency shall, within 5 business days of request: (1) Make such record available; (2) Deny the request; (3) Provide a written statement of the time reasonably necessary to determine whether the request shall be granted or denied and the reason for the delay." The Townspeople further request that in making the record available, the aforementioned record(s) shall be posted on the Town website and at two local physical locations, such as the Jefferson Post Office and the Old Corner Store. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 23:** Treasurer- By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Jefferson to see if the Townspeople will vote to clarify that in March of 1998 the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson were presented with Warrant Article #16 which, once passed, authorized the Treasurer salary to be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. No warrant has been presented to the Townspeople since that time to raise and appropriate additional funds for this elected position. The 2022 Town Annual Report page 24 shows that in 2022 the Treasurer was paid \$2,118. If the Treasurer was paid an amount higher than \$2,000 in any year 1998 or after, the Townspeople further request that the Town Clerk produce the record(s) showing the Townspeople's authorization of said increase(s). Town Clerk must exhaust all efforts to immediately produce and publicly post this record(s), including any applicable meeting minute attested copies or other verification from the Town's records, the State of New Hampshire or any other applicable agency that may have retained copies. Per NH RSA 91-A:4 IV (b) "If a public body or agency is unable to make a governmental record available for immediate inspection and copying the public body or agency shall, within 5 business days of request: (1) Make such record available; (2) Deny the request; (3) Provide a written statement of the time reasonably necessary to determine whether the request shall be granted or denied and the reason for the delay." The Townspeople further request that in making the record available, the aforementioned record(s) shall be posted on the Town website and at two local physical locations, such as the Jefferson Post Office and the Old Corner Store. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 24:** Tax Collector- By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Jefferson to see if the Townspeople will vote to clarify that between 2008 and 2012 the Tax Collector was paid yearly; between 2013 and 2017 the Tax Collector was paid \$8,500 yearly; between 2018 and 2020 the Tax Collector was paid \$9,000 yearly and on or about June 28, 2021, the Select Board voted to increase the Tax Collector's pay to \$14,000, at their Select Board meeting. The 2022 Town Annual Report page 24 shows that the Tax Collector was paid \$14,826. If the Tax Collector was paid an amount higher than \$9,000 in any year 2020 or after, the Townspeople further request that the Town Clerk produce the record(s) showing the Townspeople's authorization of said increase(s). Town Clerk must exhaust all efforts to immediately produce and publicly post this record(s), including any applicable meeting minute attested copies or other verification from the Town's records, the State of New Hampshire or any other applicable agency that may have retained copies. Per NH RSA 91-A:4 IV (b) "If a public body or agency is unable to make a governmental record available for immediate inspection and copying the public body or agency shall, within 5 business days of request: (1) Make such record available; (2) Deny the request; (3) Provide a written statement of the time reasonably necessary to determine whether the request shall be granted or denied and the reason for the delay." The Townspeople further request that in making the record available, the aforementioned record(s) shall be posted on the Town website and at two local physical locations, such as the Jefferson Post Office and the Old Corner Store. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 25:** Supervisors of the Checklist- By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Jefferson to see if the Townspeople will vote to clarify that in March of 1995 the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson were presented with Warrant Article #17 which, once passed, authorized the Supervisors of the Checklist salary to be increased from \$125 to \$200. No warrant has been presented to the Townspeople since that time to raise and appropriate additional funds for this elected position. The 2022 Town Annual Report page 23 shows payments of \$212 to each Supervisor of the Checklist for a total of \$636. If the Supervisors of the Checklist were paid an amount higher than \$200 in any year 1995 or after, the Townspeople further request that the Town Clerk produce the record(s) showing the Townspeople's authorization of said increase(s). Town Clerk must exhaust all efforts to immediately produce and publicly post this record(s), including any applicable meeting minute attested copies or other verification from the Town's records, the State of New Hampshire or any other applicable agency that may have retained copies. Per NH RSA 91-A:4 IV (b) "If a public body or agency is unable to make a governmental record available for immediate inspection and copying the public body or agency shall, within 5 business days of request: (1) Make such record available; (2) Deny the request; (3) Provide a written statement of the time reasonably necessary to determine whether the request shall be granted or denied and the reason for the delay." The Townspeople further request that in making the record available, the aforementioned record(s) shall be posted on the Town website and at two local physical locations, such as the Jefferson Post Office and the Old Corner Store. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 26:** Town Records- By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Jefferson to see if the Townspeople will vote immediately halt the destruction of any and all Town Records

by any elected official, appointed official, Town employee, or any other person(s) having custody of Town Records and to further state that in order to prevent the destruction of any Town record(s) that may:

- (1) Be on the Municipal Records Disposition and Retention Schedule (NH RSA 33-A:3-a);
- (2) Have historical or intrinsic value; or
- (3) Appear to be an original, irreplaceable document that may be significant to a Townsperson(s) such as a deed, vital record, or similar record.

The Townspeople further state that the identification and disposition of Municipal Records shall be at public Municipal Records shall be at public meetings and shall include all municipal officers referenced in NH RSA 33-A:3, as well as at least one percent of the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson who are not also a municipal officer referenced in NH RSA 33-A:3. If any of the aforementioned parties are unavailable to physically attend, then destruction of any record will be delayed until which time all parties are able to physically attend said meeting. These meetings are to occur separately from other board and committee meetings and minutes must be retained and posted as applicable by law. This warrant article is also to clarify that the Select Board meeting minutes state records were shredded and/or otherwise destroyed by person(s) on multiple occasions since Town Hall fire of February 1, 2021, and without the Townspeople knowing what types of records were destroyed and if these records may have been one of the items listed above. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 27:** By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Jefferson to see if the Townspeople will vote to immediately revoke the Select Board's authority as agents to expend funds from any and all Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) accounts without prior specific approval from the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson. These funds shall only be expended by the authority of the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson shall be voted upon by warrant article applicable by law. This warrant article, if passed, includes:

- (1) Any and all CRF's and expendable funds currently within the custody of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, including but not limited to those listed on page 22 of the 2022 Town Annual Report: Highway Vehicle, Dump Closure, Bridge Repair & Maintenance, Fire Truck, Buildings, Highway Repair, Transfer Station, Perambulation Town Lines, Town Library Fund, Cemetery Maintenance Fund, Fire Department Equipment, Fire Station, Jefferson Municipal Community Center, Broadband Infrastructure. If one of the aforementioned fund accounts are designated to be closed and the funds are directed to be deposited within the general fund in another warrant article and presented at the same time as this warrant article then this warrant article invalidates that vote and the funds and said closure will be placed on hold until which time the funds can be designated for another specific purpose by the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson.
- (2) Any and all Capital Reserve Funds or Expendable Funds newly created in another warrant article and presented to the Townspeople at the same time as this warrant article. This warrant article does not prevent the Townspeople from creating a new CRF, but does revoke the Select Board's authority as agents to expend funds without the approval of the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson.

- (3) Any and all accounts that has or is intended to hold any and all funds received from Primex or other sources, as payment for the loss of our Town Hall building on February 1, 2021. This includes the \$440,603.34 received and referenced in the Select Board meeting minutes dated August 7, 2023, as “being parked in the town’s ICS” under the authority of the “Select Board Chair”, as well as any further payment(s) from the loss of our Town Hall building.

This does not include any Primex funds intended to replace items lost in the fire, nor does it prevent the creation of a new CRF. This warrant article revokes the Select Board’s authority as agents to expend funds pursuant to the Town Hall building loss without the approval of the registered voters of the Town of Jefferson and invalidates that authority including if it may be presented in another warrant article at the same time as this warrant article. **FAILED**

**ARTICLE 28:** To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

Given under our hands and seal this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

A True Copy: ATTEST

NORMAN A. BROWN, Chair

TERRI LARCOMB, Member

KEVIN M. MEEHAN, Member

Select Board, Town of Jefferson, NH