

**TOWN OF JEFFERSON
2023 MUNICIPAL WARRANT**

To Brenda Willaims, Clerk of the Town of Jefferson, County of Lincoln, State of Maine:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Jefferson in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble in the Jefferson Village School in said Town, on Tuesday the 18th day of April, AD, 2023 at eleven o'clock in the morning, then and there to act upon Article 1 by written ballot and then upon Article 2 through 30 as set out below by secret ballot. The polling hours will be from eleven o'clock in the morning until seven o'clock in the evening.

Pursuant to Title 21-A, Section 759 (7), absentee ballots will be processed at the polls at the following times: 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Art. 1. To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2. To elect by secret ballot the municipal officers for the ensuing year. Namely, one Select Board Member/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor for a three-year term, four members of the Budget Committee for a three-year term, one member of the Budget Committee for a one-year term, and two members of the School Committee for a three-year term.

Art. 3. Shall the Town of Jefferson vote to charge 4% interest on personal and real estate taxes after October 1st following commitment?

Art. 4. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$440,517 for Administration of local government?

Recommended by Select Board: (3-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee: (8-0-0)

<u>Administration</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Officers' Salaries	17,500	17,500
General Salaries	215,700	254,817
Officers' Expenses	2,000	2,000
Office Expenses	46,000	60,000
Legal	7,000	7,000
Audit	20,800	20,800
Insurance/Bonding	15,000	15,000
Planning Board	2,000	2,000
Appeals Board	400	400
Code Enforcement	12,000	13,000
Liens/Discharges	8,500	8,500
Assessors' Agent Salary	26,000	26,000
Elections/Town Meeting	12,500	12,500
Contingency Fund	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTALS	386,400	440,517

Art. 5. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$179,018 for protection and health and to allow the Select Board to expend Animal Control Revenue in order to offset Animal Control Expense?

Recommended by Select Board: (3-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee: (8-0-0)

<u>Protection/Health</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Transfer Station	99,671	99,518
Streetlights/911 Signs	5,500	5,500
Jefferson Fire Department	58,000	60,000
Forest Fire Suppression	500	500
Animal Control	10,000	10,000
General Assistance	3,000	3,000
Emergency Management	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
TOTALS	177,171	179,018

Art. 6. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$421,239 for roads and highways?

Recommended by Select Board: (3-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee: (8-0-0)

<u>Roads/Highways</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Wages	9,500	9,500
General Road Repair	44,400	44,400
Winter Maintenance	63,000	85,000
Snow Plowing Contracts	<u>273,916</u>	<u>282,339</u>
TOTALS	390,816	421,239

Art. 7. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,311 for unclassified expenses?

Recommended by Select Board: (3-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee: (8-0-0)

<u>Unclassified</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Unorganized Cemeteries	1,000	1,000
Memorial Day	750	750
Public Library	7,183	7,561
Jefferson Scholarship	3,000	3,000
Jefferson Annual Scholarship	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
TOTALS	14,933	15,311

Art. 8. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed 5/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2023 budget during the period from January 1, 2024, to the 2024 Annual Town Meeting?

Art. 9. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to borrow such sums of money as may be necessary to pay current expenses in anticipation of taxes, such sums not to exceed the current tax commitment?

Submitted by the Select Board

Explanation: This will allow the Select Board to borrow money in anticipation of tax income, should the town expenses exceed the balance on hand.

Art. 10. Shall the Town of Jefferson vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from unreserved surplus, as they deem advisable, to meet unanticipated expenses for emergencies in general assistance, winter road repair and winter maintenance that may occur during the fiscal year 2023?

Submitted by the Select Board

Explanation: This will allow the Select Board to continue road repair and maintenance during the winter when there has been an extreme number of storms as well as allowing the Select Board to continue issuing General Assistance to qualifying people in the event that there is a spike in applications. In both cases it will avoid the necessity of calling a special town meeting in order to plow the roads or to give assistance to a qualifying resident if appropriated funds run out.

Art. 11. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quit claim deeds for same? The Select Board is required to advertise the sale of such property for "sealed" competitive bid in the Kennebec Journal, Lincoln County News, and Portland Press Herald at least two weeks prior to such action and to sell such property to the highest bidder or sell it back to the previous owner. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. In the event that no bids are acceptable the Select Board may at their discretion choose another means available to sell the property, including listing with a real estate agent. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Art. 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed and to pay interest rate of 0% (zero) as a courtesy to taxpayers who wish to prepay some or all of their uncommitted taxes.

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 13. Shall an ordinance entitled “Town of Jefferson Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Commercial or Community Solar Energy Facilities” be enacted?

NOTE: A copy of the Proposed Moratorium Ordinance is attached to the end of this warrant.

Recommended by Planning Board (6-0-0)

Recommended by Select Board (3-0-0)

Explanation: Since Maine has allowed the construction of solar farms, it is the Town’s responsibility to create its own ordinance to control size, location, maintenance, and disposal requirements. The six-month moratorium will provide the Planning Board sufficient time to research what would be best for Jefferson and write a proposed Solar Farm Ordinance that would then be voted on by the Town of Jefferson in a future referendum.

Art. 14. Shall the Town of Jefferson expend from the State Block Grant the sum of \$46,528 for reconstruction of Town Roads?

Submitted by the Select Board and Road Commissioner

Art. 15. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,595 for an electronic sign similar to the school sign for the town office.

Submitted by the Select Board

Explanation: To provide our residents with up to date municipal information.

Art. 16. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to appropriate from unreserved surplus an amount of \$100,000 for repaving and reconstruction of Town roads with any unspent funds to be added to the Road Expense Account?

Submitted by the Select Board and Road Commissioner

Art. 17. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 for the Jefferson Fire and Rescue Fire Truck and Rescue Reserve Fund? These funds to be invested by the Town Treasurer until needed, with the Select Board’s approval of the Fund’s use.

Submitted by Jefferson Fire and Rescue

Art. 18. Shall the Town of Jefferson appropriate \$200,000 from unreserved surplus to the fire truck reserve account?

Submitted by the Jefferson Fire and Rescue and the Select Board

Explanation: In 2021 the town approved appropriating \$200,000 from unreserved surplus for the new rescue/pumper truck. It has taken longer than expected for the truck to be completed and as a result, the \$200,000 is no longer available because it has washed into surplus.

Art. 19. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$216,800 for the cost of ambulance service for the Town of Jefferson with any unspent funds to be carried over to help reduce future ambulance service costs?

Submitted by the Select Board

Art 20. Shall the town of Jefferson appropriate \$132,528.92 for Adult Education and raise \$12,157.92 as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program?

Submitted by Pamela J. Sperry, Director, CLC Adult Education

Art. 21. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to support Midcoast Conservancy in employing local youth, controlling Hydrilla, and protecting the water resources of Damariscotta Lake?

Submitted by Midcoast Conservancy

Explanation: Midcoast Conservancy staff and volunteers monitor water quality and hire local youth each summer to staff our Courtesy Boat Inspector program, keeping pollution and invasive plants out of Damariscotta Lake.

Art. 22. Shall the Town of Jefferson appropriate the amount of snowmobile registration refund monies received from the State for the benefit of the Jefferson Snopackers Inc.?

Submitted by the Jefferson Snopackers Inc.

Explanation: The monies are used to maintain the trail system for use by the general public.

Art. 23. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,428 for the benefit of Spectrum Generations?

Submitted by Lindsay MacDonald, Community Engagement Officer

Explanation: Provides home delivered meals, homemaker services, respite care, information referrals, etc.

Art. 24. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,300 for the benefit of Healthy Kids?

Submitted by Leslie Livingston M.S., Executive Director

Explanation: Home visits providing information on parenting, discipline issues, infant care, etc.

Art. 25. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$840 for the benefit of New Hope for Women?

Submitted by Joan R. Lemole, Development Director

Explanation: Provides a 24-hour hotline for abused/battered women, safe homes, and community education for domestic violence.

Art. 26. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to help with the operation of Jefferson Community Food Pantry?

Submitted by Candace F Hilton

Art. 27. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect the Select Board to serve as members of the Fish Committee for jurisdiction of alewife rights?

Art. 28. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect Brenda F. Williams trustee for the Clary Memorial Highway Fund for a three-year term?

Art. 29. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect Ann Liburt for Davis Worthy and Deserving Poor and Shepard Charitable Trust Fund for a three-year term?

Art. 30. Shall the Town of Jefferson appropriate from unexpended surplus an amount not to exceed available funds for the purpose of reducing the tax rate?

Recommended by the Select Board

The Select Board gives notice that the Registrar of Voters will be in session for the purpose of revising and correcting the list of voters on the day of said meetings, namely April 18, 2023.

Pamela J. Grotton

Claudia A. Orff-Reed

Robert E. Clark, Jr. (Jigger)

A true copy of the warrant

Attested: