

**TOWN OF JEFFERSON  
2024 MUNICIPAL WARRANT**

To Amy Boynton, 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 16th day of April, AD, 2024 at eleven o'clock in the morning, then and there to act upon Article 1 by written ballot and then upon Article 2 through 31 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, three members of the budget committee for a two-year term, and one member of the School Committee for a three-year term.

Art. 3. Shall the Town of Jefferson vote to charge 8.5% interest on personal and real estate taxes after October 1<sup>st</sup> following commitment?

Art. 4. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$460,476 for Administration of local government?

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

Recommended by Budget Committee: (9-0-0)

<u>Administration</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Officers' Salaries	17,500	17,500
General Salaries	254,817	260,076
Officers' Expenses	2,000	2,000
Office Expenses	60,000	60,000
Legal	7,000	7,000
Audit	20,800	22,500
Insurance/Bonding	15,000	16,500
Planning Board	2,000	2,000
Appeals Board	400	400
Code Enforcement	13,000	15,000
Liens/Discharges	8,500	8,500
Assessors' Agent Salary	26,000	30,000
Elections/Town Meeting	12,500	18,000
Contingency Fund	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTALS	440,517	460,476

Art. 5. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$446,207 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: (9-0-0)

<u>Protection/Health</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Transfer Station	99,518	119,263
Streetlights/911 Signs	5,500	5,500
Jefferson Fire Department	60,000	65,000
Forest Fire Suppression	500	500
Animal Control	10,000	14,000
General Assistance	3,000	3,000
Emergency Management	500	500
Ambulance Service	<u>216,800</u>	<u>238,444</u>
TOTALS	395,818	446,207

Art. 6. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$454,170 for roads and highways?

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

Recommended by Budget Committee: (9-0-0)

<u>Roads/Highways</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Wages	9,500	9,500
General Road Repair	44,400	44,000
Winter Maintenance	85,000	85,000
Snow Plowing Contracts	<u>282,339</u>	<u>315,670</u>
TOTALS	421,239	454,170

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: (9-0-0)

<u>Unclassified</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Unorganized Cemeteries	1,000	1,000
Memorial Day	750	750
Public Library	7,561	7,561
Jefferson Scholarship	3,000	3,000
Jefferson Annual Scholarship	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
TOTALS	15,311	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 2024 budget during the period from January 1, 2025, to the 2025 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 2024?

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. To see if the Town will vote to require the municipal officers to provide the former owner(s) of tax-acquired property, or if deceased his/her/their heirs, personal representative or devisees six months to repurchase the property on terms the Board deems in the best interests of the Town; if the former owner does not repurchase the property the municipal officers may sell the property through the sale process in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, provided that if the former owner does not timely request that process or the Board is unable to list or sell the property as required by § 943-C(3), the Board may sell the property in any manner it deems in the best interests of the Town. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

*This article reflects law changes enacted by the State of Maine and became effective June 30, 2023.*

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 12. To see if the Town will vote to decrease the Budget Committee from twelve (12) to seven (7) members elected to staggered 3-year terms; this change, if approved, to become effective at the March 2025 annual town election, at which time only two (2) board members shall be elected to a new 3-year term; at the 2026 annual election only two (2) board members shall be elected for a new 3-year term; and at the 2027 annual election only three (3) members shall be elected for a new 3-year term; thereafter at each annual election either 2 or 3 board members shall be elected for a new 3-year term.

Art. 13. Shall the Town of Jefferson repeal the "Ordinance Governing the Issuance, Suspension and Revocation of Special Amusement Permit" approved by voters on March 28, 2017?

*Explanation: The State of Maine no longer requires this ordinance.*

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 14. Shall the Town of Jefferson vote to approve one revision to “The Town of Jefferson Building Ordinance” in Section 3 E-3?

*Explanation: This changes the word “and” to “and/or” in the first sentence of Section 3 E-3.*

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 15. Shall the Town vote in accordance with 30-A MRS § 2501 (3) to be governed by the provisions of 21-A MRS §§ 696(2)(C) & 722-A for the purpose of determining and counting write-in votes?

*Explanation: This article would require anyone who desires to be a write-in candidate to follow the state statute by filing a declaration with the municipality.*

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 16. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to deposit all new funds received from the annual Alewife harvest into the Meserve Mill Dam Fund reserve account for future repairs to the dam?

Funds to be used with Select Board approval.

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed and to pay an 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. 18. Shall the Town of Jefferson expend from the State Block Grant the sum of \$53,660 for reconstruction of Town Roads?

Submitted by the Select Board and Road Commissioner

Art. 19. 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. 20. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000 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. 21. Shall the Town of Jefferson transfer up to \$100,000 from the school long term maintenance fund for the Special Education Facilities construction project?

Submitted by the School Committee

Art. 22. 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. 23. 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. 24. 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. 25. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,300 for the benefit of Healthy Kids?

Submitted by Charlene C. Corbett, Executive Director

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

Art. 26. 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. 27. 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. 28. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect the Select Board to serve as members of the Fish Committee for jurisdiction of alewife rights?

Art. 29. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect Donald B. Johnston trustee for the Clary Memorial Highway Fund for a three-year term?

Art. 30. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect Candace Hilton for Davis Worthy and Deserving Poor and Shepard Charitable Trust Fund for a three-year term?

Art. 31. 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 16, 2024.

Pamela J. Grotton

Claudia A. Orff-Reed

Robert E. Clark, Jr. (Jigger)

A true copy of the warrant

Attested: