

TOWN OF JONESPORT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
March 11, 2024 – 3:30 p.m.
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
JONESPORT-BEALS HIGH SCHOOL GYM

To: Howard (Buddy) Mills, Jr., a resident of the Town of Jonesport, in the County of Washington, 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 Jonesport, qualified to vote in Town Affairs, to assemble at the Jonesport-Beals High School Gymnasium at Snare Creek, in said Town on Monday, the eleventh (11th) day of March, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1: To elect, by ballot, a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect the necessary member(s) of the Board of Selectmen to serve for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE 3: To elect the necessary member(s) of the Jonesport School Committee, who will also be member(s) of the Moosabec Community School District School Committee for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE 4: To elect the necessary member(s) of the Moosabec Community School District Committee for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE 5: To elect the necessary member(s) of the Moosabec Community School District Board of Trustees for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE 6: To elect three (3) Overseers of General Assistance.

ARTICLE 7: To elect a Fire Chief/Fire Inspector.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will authorize the Town Selectmen to appoint a committee of five (5) to govern and enforce the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance regarding shellfish harvesting.

ARTICLE 9: To see what the Town will vote to charge for interest on delinquent Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes for Year 2024, if said taxes are not paid by the delinquent date of

December 31, 2024. (The State Treasurer has determined 8.5% (eight and 50/100 percent) as the highest conventional rate of interest for Year 2024.)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to allow a 3% (three percent) discount on all Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes for the Year 2024, if taxes are paid in full on or before thirty (30) days from post office mailing date of tax bills by the Tax Collector. (MRSA, Title 36, Section 505).

ARTICLE 11: If the town votes yes on Article 10, to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Tax Discount. **SR/BCR: \$ 40,000.00**

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to MRSA, Title 36, Section 506.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to accept and appropriate the categories of funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature. (estimated in the amount as listed below and based on Treasurer's Receipts of 7/1/22 to 6/30/23).

State and Local Road Assistance \$ 9,020.00

State Grants I Aid:

Municipal Revenue Sharing	130,000.00
Snowmobile Registration Reimbursement	192.00
Veterans' Exemption	1,628.00
Tree Growth	15,343.00
General Assistance	1,085.00
Homestead Exemption	<u>115,252.00</u>
Total :	\$ 272,520.00

State Aid to Education (including Federal pass-through funds)

Educational Subsidy	\$ 231,068.00
Other Revenues	<u>11,178.00</u>
Total:	\$ 242,246.00

Federal:

Local Entitlement Grant	\$ 30,456.00
Rural Education Achievement Program	5,457.00
Title IA -Tier III	22,816.00
Title 1A- Disadvantaged	141,154.00
Title1A -Tier III(SIG)	11,959.00
Title IIA -Teacher Quality	10,878.00
Title IVA-Student Support- Enrichment	30,000.00
School Emergency Relief Fund-2	<u>10,281.00</u>
Total:	\$263,001.00

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to direct the Assessor to deduct the Excise Taxes and other anticipated revenues received by the Treasurer in 2024-2025 from the Year 2024 appropriation.

Vehicle Excise Tax	\$	300,000.00	
Boat Excise Tax		10,000.00	
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Delinquent Tax		1,000.00	
State Municipal Revenue Sharing		225,000.00	
Snowmobile Registration Reimbursement		00.00	
State Park Fee Sharing		00.00	
Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement		1,500.00	
General Assistance		00.00	
Checking & Sweep Interest & other revenue		5,000.00	
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement		110,000.00	
Fire Dept. Revenues (Town of Beals)		<u>22,667.00</u>	
	Total:	\$	675,167.00

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend revenues generated from each of the following accounts to be applied toward the operation of each program generating said revenue:

- a. Shellfish Conservation Expense (sale of licenses)
- b. Planning Board (building, medical marijuana fees, subdivision permits and CEO fees)
- c. Concealed Firearms Permits (Town's share of fees)
- d. Campground (donations collected for cost of operation and maintenance)
- e. Mooring Fees collected
- f. Dog License fees
- g. Fines/Reimbursements
- h. Town website
- i. Cemetery funds
- j. General Assistance donations

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow or appropriate from unappropriated surplus as they deem advisable, to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Creation of a form of contingency account can often avoid the necessity of calling a significant number of special town meetings during the year when minor issues can be resolved with the expenditure of minor funds, but monies have not been appropriated for those purposes.)

Not an Appropriation **SR/ BCR: \$20,000**

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for nonpayment of taxes thereon,

on such terms as they deem advisable to the best interest of the Town, and to execute Quit Claim Deeds for such property after three (3) weeks of publication in a local newspaper.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, if permissible, to apply for, accept, and expend Federal and State Grant Funds during Fiscal Year 2024-2025; i.e., Community Development Block Grants; Public Facilities/Infrastructure Programs for Building Construction/Wastewater Systems/Wells; Small Community Grants (Wastewater systems); Maine Community Foundation; Maine Historic Preservation Comm.; Federal Emergency Mitigation Assistance Grants (FEMA) and Maine Emergency Mitigation Assistance (MEMA); Dept of Transportation’s Small Harbor Improvements Program (SHIP); Eastern Maine Development Corp., and any other grants which would be beneficial to the Town.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to MRSA, Title 23, Section 2953.

~Key to abbreviations used in the following articles of this warrant~

BCR: Budget Committee Recommends

SR: Selectmen Recommends

GENERAL GOVERNMENT/ADMINISTRATION:

ARTICLE 20: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Administration:

General Administration Expense	\$ 50,000.00
Office Personnel	68,500.00
Legal Fees	20,000.00
Computer Software	16,000.00
Computer Equipment	1,000.00
Town Maps	500.00
Grant Writer	<u>10,000.00</u>
SR /BCR:	Total:
	\$ 166,000.00

ARTICLE 21: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Elected/Appointed Officials:

Assessor’s Office	\$ 20,000.00
Board of Selectmen	3,000.00
Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector	43,172.00
Registrar of Voters	200.00
Payroll Taxes (Appointed/Elected Officials)	<u>9,950.00</u>
SR/BCR:	\$ 76,322.00

PROTECTION:

ARTICLE 22: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Protection:

Jonesport Vol. Fire Department Inc.	\$ 68,000.00
Fire Truck Maintenance	00.00
Local Emergency Director	1,500.00
Harbor Master Salary & expenses	13,660.00
Float Repairs	5,000.00
Public Shore Access	0.00
Special Events Security	1,000.00
Shellfish Warden Salary/exp	11,000.00
Ambulance	100,845.00
Additional Sheriff Protection:	<u>20,000.00</u>

TOTAL PROTECTION SB/BCR: \$ 221,005.00

ENFORCEMENT:

ARTICLE 23: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Enforcement.

CEO Expense/Payroll Taxes	\$ 00.00
Animal Control Officer/Expense	00.00
Planning Board Salaries (to be paid from reserve)	<u>00.00</u>

TOTAL ENFORCEMENT SR/BCR: \$ 00.00

PUBLIC WORKS:

ARTICLE 24: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Works.

Streets & Roads (E-911 Costs included)	\$ 25,000.00
Streetlights	30,000.00
Sidewalks and Crosswalks	5,000.00
Sand/Salt Stockpile	32,000.00
Sand/Salt Maintenance/Lights	1,800.00
Snow/Ice Removal	<u>167,864.00</u>

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS SB/BCR: \$ 261,664.00

HEALTH & SANITATION:

ARTICLE 25: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Health & Sanitation.

Beach Property Maintenance	00.00		
General Town Maintenance	<u>3,000.00</u>		
TOTAL HEALTH & SANITATION	SB/BCR:	\$	3,000.00

CEMETERIES:

ARTICLE 26: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Cemeteries.

Greenwood Cemetery	\$ 19,000.00		
General clean-up & Memorial Day Flags	500.00		
Tree Removal	<u>00.00</u>		
TOTAL CEMETERIES	SR/BCR:	\$	19,500.00

SOCIAL SERVICES:

ARTICLE 27: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Social Services.

General Assistance	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>		
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES	SR/BCR:	\$	5,000.00

LEISURE SERVICES:

ARTICLE 28: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Leisure Services.

Peabody Memorial Library	\$ 19,500.00		
4 th of July	10,000.00		
Tennis/Basketball Courts	1,000.00		
West Jonesport Park	00.00		
Skating Pond	1,500.00		
Campground (self-supporting)	<u>00.00</u>		
TOTAL LEISURE SERVICES	SR/BCR:	\$	32,000.00

ORGANIZATIONS (Third Party Requests): ARTICLE 29: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Third Party Requests.

Third Party Requests: \$ 1,000.00

TOTAL ORGANIZATIONS (Third Party Requests) SR/BCR: \$ 1,000.00

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

ARTICLE 30: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Economic Development.

Economic Development Committee \$ 5,000.00

TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SR/BCR: \$ 5,000.00

SURPLUS PAYBACKS:

ARTICLE 31: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Paybacks:

Grant Writer payback	\$ 7,210.00
Roads -Mar. 2022 ('24 final)	35,000.00
Shore & Harbor ('24 final)	7,000.00
Roads -July 2022 ('24 final)	67,699.44
War Monument('24,25,26,27 remaining)	5,750.00
Campground Rd March ('24-32 remaining)	<u>11,046.00</u>

SR/BCR: \$ 133,705.44

ARTICLE 32: To see what sum the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to direct the Assessor to deduct from the reserved Revenue Sharing Account for the Year 2024-25 appropriation.

SR/BCR: \$ 150,000.00

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to establish the Henry Point Working Waterfront and Campground to remain a town-owned working waterfront and campground in perpetuity.

Article 34: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to withdraw \$35,000 (thirty-five thousand dollars) out of surplus to pay for an access right of way to the Campground for the Working Waterfront project.

Article 35: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) from surplus to cover the costs to have Haley-Ward do an environmental review of the working waterfront and campground property; which includes any other expenses for the completion of Phase 1 of the project. The funds to be paid back to surplus on or before the completion of the project from funds received from the HUD grant.

Article 36: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow \$14,000 (fourteen thousand dollars) from surplus to repair Polk Lane. The funds to be paid back to surplus

over a three-year period at \$4,867 (four thousand eight hundred sixty-seven dollars) per year. (Total pay back \$14,601.)

Article 37: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend the annual fees collected from marijuana businesses to date. The Medical Marijuana Ordinance states that all fees collected must be spent on 1. Youth Recreation Activities and Facilities; 2. Sandy River Beach Improvements; 3. Alcohol and Tobacco Education and Recovery; finally, 4. Community Marketing. Expenditures would be as follows: \$15,000 put into an account for improvement of recreational projects such as the Skating Pond, Sandy River Beach Park, tennis courts and basketball court. The other \$5,000 to be used by the Economic Development Committee to promote the Town.

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Jonesport as written. A public hearing was held on December 14, 2023.

TOTAL Selectmen & Committee Recommendations for 2024-2025 SR/BCR: \$ 924,196.44

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Reference to Article 13 the figures are based on the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Treasurer's Receipts. This is in accordance with the "State of Maine Fund Acceptance Law" that requires all municipalities to specifically vote to accept any funds provided to them by the State Legislature after July 1, 2024. The law requires separate warrant articles for each category of state funding. It is also a requirement to indicate an estimate of the amount that may be received for each category based on the Town Treasurer's Receipt Records and then use "unknown" if funds have never been received previously. The law further provides that if a town fails to accept state funds to which it is or may be entitled in accordance with the procedure outlined above, the state is prohibited from releasing those funds after July 1, 2024. The State Treasurer will withhold those funds until the Town can show proof that it has voted to accept state funds by adopting a specific warrant article dealing with that category of state funding.

Due to the fact the Town has not received dollar (\$) allocations for Elementary Education from the State of Maine nor has the Town been notified of the County Tax Assessment and the Moosabec Community School District Assessment; we are unable to provide a budget at this time. A meeting to vote on action for these articles will be held at a future date.