

2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Wakefield in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified of the First and Second Session of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting as follows:

FIRST SESSION

You are notified to meet for the First Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to be held in the Town Hall Opera House, 2 High Street, Sanbornville, New Hampshire, on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The First Session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to debate, propose and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by state law.

SECOND SESSION

You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the Annual Town Meeting to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as may be amended at the First Session, to be held at the Opera House of the Wakefield Town Hall, 2 High Street, Sanbornville, New Hampshire, on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m., unless the town votes to keep the polls open to a later hour.

Article 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Article 2: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's zoning ordinance as follows: Adopt a new Article 24C Solar Energy Systems Ordinance that will distinguish between accessory solar energy systems designed to supply electricity to the existing structures on site and primary use systems that are to provide energy to offsite uses or the wholesale market. Accessory solar energy systems are proposed to follow the current requirements under the Zoning Ordinance. Accessory ground mounted systems will now require the submission of a site plan sketch. Primary use solar energy systems will require a major site plan application and additional requirements are placed upon the conditional use permit application to allow for review of the site layout, safety protocols, and plan for site reclamation at end of life. Associated changes are proposed to Table 1 – Permitted Uses and Article 33 – Definitions. The Planning Board recommends this amendment. (Majority vote required.)

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose set forth herein, totaling \$7,663,490? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$6,931,137 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law, or the 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. This appropriation is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$1.24 per \$1000 of assessed valuation; Default Budget estimated tax impact: \$.92 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000) to be added to the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.03 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) to be added to the Highway Construction Project Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 2-1, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10-1. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.22 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Transfer Station Trucks Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.004 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Wastewater Treatment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.01 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This appropriation is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.03 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This appropriation is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.04 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$30,775) to be added to the Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This appropriation is recommended by the Board of

Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.01 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This appropriation is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.02 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) to be added to the Public Safety Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.02 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be added to the Town Hall Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This appropriation is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$0.04 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000) to be added to the Assessing Statistical Update Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This update is legally required by the State of NH. This appropriation is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.005 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to establish a "Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)" Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacement of the Firefighters SCBA's used for breathing in hazardous conditions, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$81,800) to be placed in this fund; further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. \$45,000 to come from the December 31, 2023 unassigned fund balance, and \$36,800 to come from taxation. This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$.02 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from December 31, 2023 unassigned fund balance, with no amount to be raised from taxation. This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0, and recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10-1. (Majority vote required). *Estimated tax impact: \$0.00 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.*

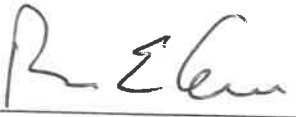
Article 17: By Petition: Request that the Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department shall dedicate and name its new Pavilion proposed at the ball field complex the “Gary Miliner Memorial Pavilion” in honor of Gary Miliner, whom for many years coached, mentored and helped many Wakefields youth achieve their goals and happiness through team efforts and individual determination. Gary loved everything about his hometown and was proud of Wakefield as he inspired many of us to do our best and never give up on any challenge presented to us. Gary also dedicated many years to the Town in the role of Santa Claus for the happiness of the children during the Holiday Season.

Article 18: By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to combine the offices of the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector to create a new single office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector with a term of office of 3 years. If approved, the combined position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector would be elected at the next annual meeting in 2025. (Majority vote required).

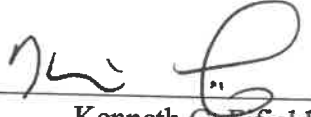
Article 19: To transact any further business that may legally come before this meeting.

Given under our hands and seal, this 24th day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

WAKEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Richard C. Edwards, Chair


Mark P. Duffy


Kenneth G. Fifield