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2020

## Annual Town Meeting Minutes Jonesport Maine 2020

Jonesport, Me.

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**TOWN OF JONESPORT**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**  
**March 09, 2020 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**  
**JONESPORT-BEALS HIGH SCHOOL GYM**

Tonia Merchant, Clerk, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Pastor Phyllis Merritt opened with prayer and Tonia led in the salute to our Country's flag.

To: Howard Mills, 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 ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) day of March, 2020, at 3:30 p.m., to act on the following articles, to wit:

Motion was made and seconded to dispense the reading of the warrant in its entirety; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect, by ballot, a Moderator to preside at said meeting.  
Nomination was made and seconded for William (Billy) Milliken.  
Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease; none opposed.  
10 votes were cast for William (Billy) Milliken.

Billy appointed Harry Fish, Jr. to be his deputy moderator. Billy also explained that he would be using the Maine Moderator's Manual as the rules for governing the meeting.

At this point, Billy turned the meeting over to his deputy, Harry Fish.

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect the necessary member(s) of the Board of Selectmen to serve for a three (3) year term.  
Nomination was made and seconded for William (Billy) Milliken.  
Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease; none opposed.  
12 votes were cast for William (Billy) Milliken.

At this point Harry turned the meeting back over to Billy.

A motion was made and seconded to allow non-residents Bill McDonald and three Kingfish representatives to speak during the meeting.

The motion carried 55-0.

**Article 3:** To elect one individual who will serve the three (3) positions of Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Tax Collector for a three (3) year term.

Nomination was made and seconded for Tonia Merchant.  
Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease; none opposed.  
13 votes were cast for Tonia Merchant.

**ARTICLE 4:** To elect the necessary member(s) of the Board of Assessors for a three (3) year term.  
Nomination was made and seconded for Jean Guptill.  
Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease; none opposed.  
9 votes were cast for Jean Guptill.

**ARTICLE 5:** 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.  
Nomination was made and seconded for Ernest Kelley, Jr.  
Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease; none opposed.  
9 votes were cast for Ernest Kelley, Jr.

**ARTICLE 6:** To elect the necessary member(s) of the Moosabec Community School District Committee.  
Nomination was made and seconded for Loren Faulkingham.  
Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease; none opposed.  
9 votes were cast for Loren Faulkingham.

**ARTICLE 7:** To elect the necessary member(s) of the Moosabec Community School District Board of Trustees.  
Nomination was made and seconded for Clifford Norton, III.  
Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease; none opposed.  
6 votes were cast for Clifford Norton, III.

**ARTICLE 8:** To elect three (3) Overseers of General Assistance.  
Motion was made and seconded to elect the Board of Selectmen to be the Overseers of General Assistance.  
Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 9:** To elect a Fire Chief/Fire Inspector.  
Nomination was made and seconded for Boyde Crowley.  
Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease; none opposed.  
11 votes were cast for Boyde Crowley.

**ARTICLE 10:** 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.  
Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read.  
Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see what the Town will vote to charge for interest on delinquent Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes for Year 2020, if said taxes are not paid by the delinquent date of December 31,

2020. (The State Treasurer has determined 9% (nine and 00/100 percent) as the highest conventional rate of interest for Year 2020.)

Motion was made and seconded to approve the article with 3% interest.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 12:** 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 2020, 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).

Motion was made and seconded to approve the article with 0% discount.

Motion carried; 6 opposed.

**ARTICLE 13:** If the town votes yes on Article 12, to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Tax Discount. **SR/BCR: \$40,000.00**

**No action was taken because no discount was approved in article 12.**

**ARTICLE 14:** 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.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 15:** 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 7/1/18 to 6/30/19.)

State and Local Road Assistance	\$ 9,952.00
State Grants I Aid:	
Municipal Revenue Sharing	64,661.00
Snowmobile Registration Reimbursement	139.00
State Park Fee	00.00
Veterans' Exemption	1,085.00
Tree Growth	16,640.00
General Assistance	00.00
Homestead Exemption	<u>81,257.00</u>
Total :	<b>\$ 173,734.00</b>
State Aid to Education (including Federal pass through funds)	
Educational Subsidy	208,835.00
Other Revenues	<u>13,711.00</u>
Total:	<b>\$ 222,546.00</b>
Federal:	
Title 1A	\$ 120,745.00
Proficiency Based Education	00.00
Title 11A	14,928.00
Title IVA-SSAE	30,000.00

Title VI	29,814.00
Local Entitlement Grant	35,662.00
Preschool Grant	2,269.00
PEPG Grant	00.00
Gearup Grant	<u>6,048.00</u>
Total:	<b>\$ 239,466.00</b>

**Total State and Federal Education: \$ 635,746.00**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to direct the Board of Assessors to deduct the Excise Taxes and other anticipated revenues received by the Treasurer in 2020-2021 from the Year 2020 appropriation.

Vehicle Excise Tax	\$ 250,000.00
Boat Excise Tax	9,000.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Delinquent Tax	1,000.00
State Municipal Revenue Sharing	85,000.00
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	6,500.00
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	65,000.00
Fire Dept. Revenues (Town of Beals)	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total:	<b>\$ 438,000.00</b>

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 17:** 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 and 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

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**Article 18:** 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 2020-2021. (Creation of some form of contingency account can often avoid the necessity of calling a number of special town meetings during the year when relatively 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*

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read with the recommended amount of \$20,000.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 19:** 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.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 20:** 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 2020-2021; 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.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 21:** 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.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as read.

Motion carried; none opposed.

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At this point a straw poll was taken to see how the Town felt about opting in to allow Sales of adult use marijuana. A yes vote would mean in favor of pursuing the legal issues of opting in for sales.

Poll results 18 yes; 39 No

4:20- 5:00 p.m. the meeting recessed for a short supper break.

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

**BCR:** Budget Committee Recommends

**SR:** Selectmen Recommends

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT/ADMINISTRATION:**

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

General Administration Expense		\$ 50,000.00	
Office Personnel		49,663.00	
Legal Fees		20,000.00	
Computer Software	<b>SR \$10,800</b>	10,000.00	
Computer Equipment		750.00	
Town Maps		<u>800.00</u>	
	<b>SR \$ 132,013</b>		<b>BCR: \$ 131,213.00</b>

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the Selectmen's recommended amounts for a total of \$132,013.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**ARTICLE 23:** 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		2,500.00	
Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector		36,743.00	
Registrar of Voters		200.00	
Payroll Taxes (Appointed/Elected Officials)		<u>8,782.00</u>	
			<b>SR/BCR: \$ 68,225.00</b>

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amounts.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**PROTECTION:**

**ARTICLE 24:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Protection:

Jonesport Vol. Fire Department Inc.		\$60,000.00	
Fire Truck Maintenance		00.00	
Moosabec Ambulance Service		20,000.00	
Local Emergency Director		1,500.00	
Harbor Master Salary & expenses		12,660.00	
Float Repairs		5,000.00	
Public Shore Access		0.00	
Special Events Security		500.00	
Shellfish Warden Salary/exp		<u>11,000.00</u>	

**TOTAL PROTECTION** **SR/ BCR:** **\$ 110,660.00**

**Additional Sheriff Protection:** **SR/BCR:** **25,000.00**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the article with the recommended amount of \$110,660.00. (Additional Sherriff protection not to be included.)

Motion was made and seconded to amend the motion to include the additional Sherriff protection for a total of \$135,660.00.

The motion to amend carried: 41 Yes; 5 No.

The amended motion to include all recommended amounts carried; 1 opposed

**ENFORCEMENT:**

**ARTICLE 25:** 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 ( <i>to be paid from reserve</i> )		<u>00.00</u>

**TOTAL ENFORCEMENT** **SR/BCR:** **\$ 00.00**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amount of \$0.00.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

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

Streets & Roads (E-911 Costs included)	\$	17,500.00
Road Paving ( <i>Pay Back to surplus</i> )		32,500.00
Street Lights		21,000.00
Sidewalks and Crosswalks		00.00
Sand/Salt Stockpile		20,000.00
Sand/Salt Maintenance/Lights		1,200.00
Salt/Sand Shed ( <i>Pay Back to surplus</i> )		10,000.00
Snow/Ice Removal		<u>144,000.00</u>

**TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS** **SR/BCR:** **\$ 246,200.00**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amounts.

Motion carried; none opposed.

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**HEALTH & SANITATION:**



**ARTICLE 27:** 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>2,800.00</u>

**TOTAL HEALTH & SANITATION** **SR/BCR:** **\$ 2,800.00**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amounts.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**CEMETERIES:**

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

Greenwood Cemetery	\$ 17,000.00
General clean-up & Memorial Day Flags	4,000.00
Tree Removal/expansion	<u>2,500.00</u>

**TOTAL CEMETERIES** **SR/BCR:** **\$ 23,500.00**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the article with the recommended amounts.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**SOCIAL SERVICES:**

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**ARTICLE 29:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Social Services.

General Assistance	<u>\$ 00.00</u>
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**TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES** **SR/BCR:** **00.00**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amount of \$0.00.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**LEISURE SERVICES:**

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**ARTICLE 30:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Leisure Services.

Peabody Memorial Library	\$ 23,000.00
4 <sup>th</sup> of July	10,000.00
Town Clock	5,000.00
Tennis/Basketball Courts	00.00
West Jonesport Park	00.00
Skating Pond	1,000.00

Campground (self-supporting) 00.00

**TOTAL LEISURE SERVICES** **SR/BCR:** **\$ 39,000.00**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amounts.  
Motion carried; none opposed.

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**ORGANIZATIONS (Third Party Requests):**

**ARTICLE 31:** 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**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amount.  
Motion carried; none opposed.

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

**ARTICLE 32:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Economic Development.

Economic Development Committee \$1,000.00

**TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** **SR/BCR:** **\$ 1,000.00**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amounts.  
Motion carried; none opposed.

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**ARTICLE 33:** To see what sum the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to direct the Board of Assessors to deduct from the reserved Revenue Sharing Account from the Year 2020 appropriation.

**SR/BCR:** **\$ 40,000.00**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the article with the recommended amount of \$40,000.  
Motion carried; none opposed.

**Article 34:** To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to deduct an additional sum of \$5,000 from surplus towards a new War Monument. (Town raised \$15,000 in prior years).

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article with the recommended amount.  
Motion carried; none opposed.

**Article 35:** To see if the Town will vote to accept \$118,000 from the Land for Maine’s Future to buy an easement at the Campground/Marina. These funds will be retained for the Town’s future project needs, specifically for Working Waterfront Access.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**Article 36:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw the sum of \$25,000 from surplus to purchase an update to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan from the Washington County Council of Governments. The funds will be paid back over a two year period.

Motion was made and seconded to withdraw up to the sum of \$25,000 to be paid back over a two-year period.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**Article 37:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$20,000, as the Town’s share of a Stream Crossing Grant, to rebuild the stream overflow on the Kelley Point Road. (Stillman’s Creek). A grant of \$66,000 has been awarded to the Town from DEP.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article to raise \$20,000.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**Article 38:** To see if the Town would approve the relocation of the current fire sub-station area on Mason Bay Road – to the area which includes: the sand shed, picnic area and tables.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written.

After much discussion the question was called. Call the question passed 45-3.

The motion failed with only one in favor.

**Article 39:** To see if the Town will vote to abolish the elected board of assessors and create in its place the office of a single assessor to be appointed by the Selectmen pursuant to 30-1 M.R.S.2526(5), effective at the 2021 annual town meeting. The assessor shall perform all duties and responsibilities provided for assessors under general law. The Selectmen shall determine the salary, hours and working conditions of the assessor. The assessor may be removed by the Selectmen for cause after notice and hearing. Cause shall not include any disagreement with respect to an assessing practice employed by the assessor where such practice is generally accepted and lawful.

Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written.

Motion carried; none opposed.

**Article 40:** To see if the Town will vote for the Selectmen to appoint an individual as Town Treasurer, Tax Collector and Clerk, effective at the 2023 annual town meeting. The term of the appointment shall be for three years. The appointee shall perform the duties and responsibilities provided for Town Treasurer, Tax Collector and Clerk under general law. The Selectmen shall determine the salary, hours and working conditions. The Treasurer, Tax Collector and Clerk may be removed by the Selectmen for

just cause, after notice and hearing. Cause shall not include any disagreement with respect to accountant duties employed by the Treasurer, Tax Collector and Clerk, where such practice is generally accepted and lawful.

Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written.

Motion carried; none opposed

Motion was made and seconded at 6:23 p.m. to adjourn; none opposed.

Amount raised/appropriated: \$669,398.00

Attested:

Tonia J. Merchant, Clerk

