**WARRANT FOR MARCH 4, 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

To Dianna Rollins, a resident of the Town of Solon in the County of Somerset:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required by law to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the 4th day of March AD 2023 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there, in accordance with the Revised Statues of the State of Maine 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended, to elect a moderator, and to transact all other business as enumerated in this Warrant.

For the election of officials, the polls will open immediately after the election of a Moderator and will remain open until 12:15 PM. The Clerkr will open absentee ballots at 10:00 AM on March 4, 2023. The transaction of other business as enumerated will begin at 1:30 PM.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Article 2: To elect by secret ballot all municipal officials and school committee members as are required to be elected.

Nominated Candidates:

Selectman, 3-year term: Zane Brown, John Dunay, & Lois Miller

Road Commissioner, 1-year term: Gary Bishop

RSU # 74 School Board Director, 3-year term: Laura Layman

Article 3: Shall the Town increase the property tax levy limit of $715,660, established for the Town of Solon by State law, in the event the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to take $618.32 from the 2022 Surplus for overage in Accounts Overage account.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

Salaries & Benefits $179,987

Insurance $ 39,465

Town Office Utilities $ 20,400

Town Charges $ 28,350 plus fees

Town Office Maintenance $ 3,000

Training, Books, & Dues $ 2,900

GIS Mapping Reserve $ 2,500

Assessing Revaluation Reserve $ 15,000

Town Office Security System $ 360

TRIO Program Fees $ 7,600

Town Line Survey Reserve $ 2,500

Town Flags Reserve $ 2,000

Town Records Preservation Reserve $ 4,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $306,000 plus fees

Article 6: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC WORKS.

Winter Roads $141,000

Summer Roads $137,000

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $278,000 plus reimbursements.

Article 7: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the TRANSFER STATION

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $99,000 plus fees & income

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $23,000 plus reserve funds, fees, and investment income

Article 9: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Fire Chief $ 8,275

Fire Department $36,725

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $45,000 plus reimbursements & donations

Article 10: To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Fire Hydrants $24,900

Street Lights $ 8,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $33,400

Article 11: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for SOCIAL SERVICES.

General Assistance $15,000

KVCAP Transportation Service $ 550 (request $550)

Hospice $ 1,000 (request $1,000)

Spectrum Generations $ 750 (request $750)

Kennebec Behavioral Health $ 500 (request $500)

Community Health & Counseling $ 200 (request $200)

Solon Food Cupboard $ 4,000 (request $4,000)

Lifeflight Foundation $ 200 (request $527)

American Red Cross $ 150 (request $150)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $22,350

Article 12: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CODE ENFORCEMENT.

Code Enforcement Officer $ 6,000

911 Addressing Officer $ 250

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $6,250

Article 13: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for LEISURE SERVICES.

Recreation Program Reserve $1,500

Recreation Facilities & Maintenance Res. $1,000

Swim/Camp Program Reserve $1,500

Special Events $1,000

4th of July Fireworks $2,000

Baker Mountain Ski Club $1,250

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $8,250

Article 14: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $6,800

Article 15: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CEMETERIES.

Cemeteries $19,000

Cemetery Maintenance Reserve $ 4,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $23,500

Article 16: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ANIMAL WELFARE.

Animal Shelter $3,150

Animal Control Officer $3,375

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $6,525

Article 17: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ORGANIZATION DUES.

Kennebec Council of Governments $1,622 (requested $)

Maine Municipal Association $2,278 (requested $2,278)

Somerset Economic Development $ 100 (requested $100)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $4,000

Article 18: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for DEBT SERVICE.

Fire Truck Loan (principal balance $8,363.10)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $8,600

Article 19: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

Road Paving Reserve Account $225,000

Gravel Roads Reserve $ 10,000

Highway Equipment Reserve $ 10,000

Sidewalk Repair Reserve $ 2,000

Transfer Station Truck & Equipment Res. $ 7,500

Coolidge Library Capital Reserve $ 3,000

Municipal Buildings Maintenance Reserve $ 3,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $261,000

Article 20: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to use up to $5,000 from undesignated revenue in the event of overdrafts, unforeseen events or emergencies. Any use of this contingency arrangement must be voted on at a Select Board meeting and the expenditures made will be listed in the subsequent town report. The total transfer of undesignated revenues for this purpose shall not exceed $5,000 within the fiscal year. Transfer of undesignated revenues in excess of $5,000 must be authorized by a town meeting vote.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 21: Shall the town approve providing funding for Health Insurance and Retirement Benefits for all full-time town employees based on the Health Insurance and Retirement Benefit Policy adopted by the Selectmen and Advisory Committee.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and raising $27,000 by taxation.

Article 22: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to use up to $50,000 from the Road Paving Reserve for crack sealing the paved roads.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 23: Shall the town create a Public Works Garage Building Committee with the purpose of planning and designing a new Public Works building to replace our existing town garage. The committee will be composed of the Road Commissioner, a Selectman, and 3 citizens.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 24: Shall the town appropriate from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funds (aka ARPA or American Rescue Plan Act) an amount to purchase land for a new town garage and for planning and design costs for the new town garage.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes and using up to $60,000 of the ARPA funds.

Article 25: Shall the town appropriate from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funds (aka ARPA or American Rescue Plan Act) an amount to purchase a baler and other associated equipment for the Transfer Station.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes and using up to $15,000 of the ARPA funds.

Article 26: Shall the town appropriate from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funds (aka ARPA or American Rescue Plan Act) an amount to purchase or lease solar panels for the town office and the fire station and to purchase heat pumps for the fire station.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes and using up to $38,774.63 of the ARPA funds.

Article 27: Shall the Town of Solon vote to approve a Community Development Block Grant project development application for the Public Infrastructure program in the amount of $820,000 and to submit same to the Department of Economic and Community Development and if said program is approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such programs. Furthermore, the Town of Solon is cognizant of the requirement that should the intended National Objective of the CDBG program not be met all CDBG funds must be repaid to the State of Maine CDBG program.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 28: Shall the town approve having half of the Code Enforcement & Building Permit Fees, not including Plumbing Permit Fees, going into the General Fund to help defray the costs of Code Enforcement.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 29: Shall the town create a Hiring Committee. The committee will interview and choose candidates for various administrative positions when a vacancy occurs. The Board of Selectmen will have final approval authority. The committee will be composed of 1 Selectman and 4 members of the Advisory Committee.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 30: Shall the Road Commissioner also serve as the Public Works Director beginning with the 2024 Annual Town Meeting with duties as prescribed by the Select Board.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 31: Shall the town change the office of Road Commissioner from an elected to an appointed office beginning with the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, said position to be appointed by the Select Board for a term of 3 years and said Road Commissioner to also serve as the Public Works Director with duties as prescribed by the Select Board.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 32: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to dispose of tax acquired property belonging to Anthony Bostic for non-payment of 2020 property taxes. The property taxes for 2020 ($493.12), 2021 ($477.04), 2022 ($476.42), 2016 2 Tree Growth Non-filing Penalties ($500 & $500), and the 2018 Tree Growth Removal Penalty ($545.17) plus interest and lien costs are owed on the property. The property is located on 33 Rowell Pond Road, Map R6 Lot 5-3.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend giving Anthony Bostic until March 16, 2023 at 3:45 pm to pay the 2020, 2021 and 2022 real estate taxes, and the 3 tree growth penalties, the interests and costs plus any other associated costs. If this amount is not paid by said date and time, the Selectmen will put the property out to bid, set a minimum bid amount, and will sell the property to the highest bidder.

Article 33: Shall the Town authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A Section 2953.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 34: Shall the town authorize the municipal officers to apply for, accept and expend grant money available from the State or Federal government or other organization for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town’s best interest and any needed matching funds are available within the current budget and/or reserve funds.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 35: Shall the town give the Selectmen and/or the Fire Chief permission to apply for, accept and expend any grants to purchase equipment, firefighting equipment and safety equipment for the Fire Department.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 36: Shall the town accept the following tax related articles:

1. Shall the town authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to apply any property tax overpayment of less than $100 to that person’s next year’s property taxes.

2. Shall the town authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S A Section 506.

3. Shall the town raise and appropriate from the overlay to pay for tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year 2023.

4. Shall the town use any surplus funds in excess of $110,000.00 to reduce taxes.

5. Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to procure a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the purpose of paying municipal indebtedness; such note to be repaid during the current fiscal year from taxes paid during the municipal year.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 37: If the Town accepts Article 36-2, what, if any, interest shall the Town pay on these prepaid taxes? (If the Town votes to pay interest, it cannot be more than 7%.)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend 0%.

Article 38: Shall the town set September 19, 2023 as the date when all unpaid 2023 taxes become interest bearing at the rate to be set by the State. (Rate being 7%)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 39: Shall the town set the interest rate to be paid by the town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and at a rate of 0%.

Given under my hand this 25th day of January A.D., 2023,

Elaine Aloes, Chair of Selectmen

Wayne Johnson, Vice Chair of Selectmen

Lois Miller, Selectman

Attest true copy: Leslie Giroux, Town Clerk

Pursuant to within warrant, I have hereby notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the fourth day of March AD 2023 at eight o'clock in the morning then and there in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine, 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended to act on all articles herein enumerated in this warrant posted at the Solon Town Office, Solon Post Office, Solon Corner Store, and Griswold's Store, conspicuous and public places within Solon, on the 1st day of February AD 2023, which is at least seven days prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Dianna Rollins, a resident of Solon.