**WARRANT FOR MARCH 2, 2024 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 2nd day of March AD 2024 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 Clerk will open absentee ballots at 10:00 AM on March 2, 2024. 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 required to be elected.

 Nominated Candidates:

 Selectman, 3-year term: Write in candidate.

 Road Commissioner, 1-year term: Gary Bishop, Jeffrey Cyr

 RSU # 74 School Board Director, 3-year term: Keith Plourd

Article 3: Shall the Town increase the property tax levy limit of $757,776, 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 $7,843.87 from the 2023 Surplus for overage in the Winter Roads 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 $209,875

 Insurance $ 40,000

Town Office Utilities $ 8,000

Town Charges $ 43,140

 Town Office Maintenance $ 2,500

 Training, Books, & Dues $ 2,385

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $305,900 plus fees

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

 Winter Roads $149,000

 Summer Roads $143,000

 Transfer Station $ 99,500

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $391,500 plus fees, income, & reimbursements.

Article 7: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $25,600 plus reserve funds, fees, and investment income

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the FIRE DEPARTMENT.

 Fire Department $49,200

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $49,200 plus reimbursements & donations

Article 9: To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC UTILITIES.

 Fire Hydrants $24,900

 Street Lights $ 8,000

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $32,900

Article 10: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for SOCIAL SERVICES.

 General Assistance $15,000

 KVCAP Transportation Service $ 750 (request $750)

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

 Spectrum Generations $ 788 (request $787.50)

 Kennebec Behavioral Health $ 500 (request $500)

 Sexual Support & Crisis Center $ 300 (request $342)

 Solon Food Cupboard $ 6,000 (request $6,000)

 Lifeflight Foundation $ 200 (request $978)

 American Red Cross $ 150 (request $150)

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $24,688

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

 Code Enforcement Officer $ 6,200

 911 Addressing Officer $ 260

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $6,460 plus fees

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

 Recreation Program Reserve $3,000

 Recreation Facilities & Maintenance Res. $1,500

 Swim/Camp Program Reserve $1,500

 Special Events $1,000

4th of July Fireworks $2,200

 Baker Mountain Ski Club $1,250

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $10,950 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

Article 13: 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 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

Article 14: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CEMETERIES.

 Cemetery Maintenance Reserve $24,700

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $24,700 plus reserve funds, fees, and investment income

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

 Animal Shelter $2,000

 Animal Control Officer $3,500

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $5,500

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

 Old Canada Road Byway $ 500 (requested $500)

Kennebec Council of Governments $1,700 (requested $1,700)

 Maine Municipal Association $2,350 (requested $2,350)

 Somerset Economic Development $ 100 (requested $100)

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $4,650

Article 17: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

 Road Paving Reserve Account $ 15,000

 Gravel Roads Reserve $ 10,000

Highway Equipment Reserve $220,000

Transfer Station Truck & Equipment Res. $ 7,500

 Coolidge Library Capital Reserve $ 3,000

 Municipal Buildings Maintenance Reserve $ 3,500

 Fire Truck Reserve $ 8,000

Fire Department Capital Reserve $ 1,000

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $268,000

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

Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve $12,000

GIS Mapping Reserve $ 2,000

Assessing Revaluation Reserve $10,000

 Town Line Survey Reserve $ 2,500

 Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve $ 2,500

Town Flags Reserve $ 2,000

Town Records Preservation Reserve $ 4,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $35,500

Article 19: Shall the Town approve closing the Tree Planting Reserve Account and moving the $1,000 in that account to the Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve Account?

 The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 20. Shall the Town create a Web Site Fee Reserve Account for the purpose of maintaining our town website.

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen.

Article 21. Shall the Town raise by taxation a sum of money for the Web Site Fee Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $2,000

Article 22: Shall the Town create a Fire Department Safety Equipment Reserve Account for the purpose of purchasing safety equipment for our fire fighters.

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen and the Fire Chief.

Article 23: Shall the Town raise by taxation a sum of money for the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend $5,000

Article 24: Shall the Town create a Town Garage Reserve Account for the purpose of putting aside funds for the replacement or renovation of the town garage.

Recommendation: Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen and the Road Commissioner.

Article 25: Shall the Town approve transferring funds from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Reserve to the Town Garage Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and transferring $45,000

Article 26: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend grant money the purpose of building a new Public Works Garage Building to replace our existing town garage.

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 27: Shall the Town raise an amount by taxation for account overdrafts, unforeseen events, or emergencies. Any use of this contingency arrangement must be voted on at a Select Board meeting and any expenditures will be listed in the subsequent town report.

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and an amount of $5,000

Article 28: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to use funds from the Highway Equipment Reserve to purchase a new truck, plow assembly, and dump body/sander.

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and to expend up to $238,000

Article 29: Shall the Town approve using $98,628.98 from FEMA’s Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement for the May 1, 2023 rain flooding event to reimburse the LRAP funds used to cover the Summer Roads budget overage.

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 30: Shall the town appropriate from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) an amount to purchase a baler and other associated equipment for the Transfer Station.

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

Article 31: Shall the Selectmen be authorized to enter into discussions with MDOT and the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway Committee regarding ownership, maintenance, and improvements of the Robbins Hill Scenic Overlook (Map R7 Lot 26, Map 8 Lot 10, and Map 8 Lot 15) and to create a committee as needed.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 32: Shall the town change the office of Road Commissioner from an elected to an appointed office beginning with the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

 Selectmen make no recommendation and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 33: Shall the Town name the road starting on S. Main Street (Route 201) at GPS location 44.927011 69.830953 and going in a northeasterly direction to McCarty Road at GPS location 44.937111 69.823875 the Woods Road. (this currently unnamed road is across the road from 447 S. Main St.)

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 34: Shall the Town approve the use of LRAP funds to extend the length of the 3 culverts at Michael Stream on the Hole in the Wall Road.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and using up to $40,000

Article 35: 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 36: 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 37: 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 38: 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 2024.

 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 39: If the Town accepts Article 38-2, 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 40: Shall the town set September 20, 2024 as the date when all unpaid 2024 taxes become interest bearing at the rate to be set by the State. (Rate being 7%)

 Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 41: 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 7th day of February A.D., 2024,

Elaine Aloes, Chair of Selectmen

Wayne Johnson, Vice Chair of Selectmen

John Dunay, 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 2nd day of March AD 2024 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 12th day of February AD 2024, which is at least seven days prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Dianna Rollins, a resident of Solon.