

Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2017

Present: Lester Sheaffer, Sue McKeen, Tony Marple and Dennis Merrill
Administrative Assistant Aaron Miller
Absent: Frank Ober

Select Board actions

1. The minutes for February 21 were approved 4-0
2. An accounts payable warrant was signed.
3. Vehicle damage. A resident of Hunts Meadow Road came in with concerns about damage done to his truck's windshield by rocks flying up from a passing snowplow. He reported the truck was in the driveway and the plow truck was traveling too fast, an estimated 40 mph. On his return trip, the plow driver acknowledged the damage. The Board stated that the Town is not liable for damage caused by a private contractor. The person said he had contacted the contractor who refused to address the damage. We will discuss the matter with the contractor.
4. Employee health insurance. The Board discussed issues with the current health insurance for the full time staff. Difficulty with shopping in the ACA marketplace has been a problem as have been surcharges on individual's income taxes due changes in subsidy amounts. Further, there is uncertainty in the ACA program going forward. Other levels of coverage under the ACA are available at possibly modest increases, although exact amounts cannot be obtained as the enrollment period is not open and subsidy amounts are specific to an individual. Tony prepared a chart comparing the levels of coverage offered by the ACA and a group plan offered by the MMA. The MMA plan is far more costly to the town (ACA subsidies lower the town's costs there) and the individual deductibles are higher. The Board discussed possible options to help provide a good, affordable health insurance coverage; see Budget Committee actions below.
7. Speed limit complaint. A resident of Hunts Meadow Road had contacted the town office with concerns about speed on that road. She rides horses there and has had issues with motorists. There are no speed limit signs on that segment of road. We will order caution signs to alert drivers of horses ahead and will contact MeDOT to see if a list of all speed limits in Town is available. Such a list will help in getting speed limit signs installed as needed.
8. Foreclosures. The Board reviewed the list of 33 properties that will go to foreclosure on March 13 if the taxes are not paid. We will visit some of these to get information on the structures there.
9. Amish signs. Aaron reported the MeDOT has issued a work order for installation of signs cautioning drivers of Amish buggies on State roads. Also, he has ordered signs for Town roads.

11. Possible grant. The Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission is soliciting ASK grant applications to assist towns in planning for technical, engineering, business development or health and safety projects. Grants can be up to \$2,000. It was decided to apply for a grant to assist with design of replacement culverts in locations that have been historic problems with beavers and flooding. We will contact our engineer to get the ball rolling.

12. Budget Committee. The Budget Committee met to consider two adjustment to the proposed budget. Present were David Hayden, Erik Ekholm, Barry Tibbetts, Mike McMorrow, and Charlene Donahue. The Budget Committee and Select Board participated in joint dissuasions. First the employees' health insurance (see #6 above) was discussed. To address uncertainties, it was proposed to add \$5,000 to the proposed administrative budget. The Select Board voted 4-0 and the Budget Committee voted 5-0 to approve this change. Second, there was a discussion of snow blocking the doors on the East side of the fire station. To correct this, two 8'x8' shed type roofs could be built over the doors. To do this, the Select Board voted 4-0 and the Budget Committee voted 5-0 to add \$4,000 to the article for improvements at the town office.

10. Executive session. Pursuant to 1 MRSA, §405(6)(F), the Board voted 4-0 to go into executive session to discuss a poverty abatement. Following the session, no formal action was taken.

Assessor's actions. None.

Dennis Merrill, Chair

Lester Sheaffer

Franklin A. Ober

Tony Marple

Susan McKeen