

Town of Whitefield  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2017

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

Select Board actions

1. The minutes for February 14 were approved 4-0-1 (Sue abstaining)
2. Accounts payable and payroll warrants were signed.
3. Liquor license. The Board voted 5-0 to renew the license for Sheepscot Links.
4. Liquor license. The Board held a public hearing on the new application of Sheepscot General for a license for consumption of beer and wine on the premises. Business owners Taryn and Ben Marcus were present to explain their plans and that on-site consumption must be in designated areas and separate from over the counter sales. No other comments were received. Following the hearing, the Board voted 5-0 to grant the license.
5. Road signs. Communication has been received from the Maine Local Roads Center offering to make regulatory road signs available to the town at reduced prices through a 75% matching grant. These would replace old, worn signs and place new signs as needed. The MLRC will come to a town to assist with an inventory and identification of needed signs. The Board voted 5-0 to participate in this program.
6. Townhouse improvements. Resident Erik Ekholm came in to explain proposed improvements to the upstairs of the Townhouse. A person interested in supporting the Historical Society has offered to fund better insulation and installation of a heat pump to better control the climate. Erik has obtained estimates for this work, with the recommended proposals amounting to \$6706. A rebate of \$750 for the heat pump might be possible as well. After some discussion, the Board voted 5-0 to accept any grants offered to improve the Townhouse and use the money for that purpose. Article 29 of the last annual town meeting warrant authorizes the Select Board to do this.
7. Employee insurance. With the office staff present, the Board discussed employee health insurance. The quality of current coverage (e.g. high deductibles), difficulty of managing private accounts and the uncertain future of the ACA are all concerns. Aaron presented information about the group coverage offered by Maine Municipal Association. The cost is more than the current budget proposal for next year, however, and would add \$13,522. The Board agreed to look into this further and decided to re-convene the Budget Committee next week to decide on what to do.
8. Fire station. Resident David Hayden came in to discuss snow building up on the back side of the fire station building due to drifting and sliding off the roof. He provided the Board with pictures. The concern is for safety as snow is blocking the doors on that side of the building. He has been volunteering to shovel the doors free of snow, but feels a better solution - roofs over the doors - is needed.

9. Spirit of America. The Board voted 5-0 to nominate Barbara and David Hayden for the annual SOA award in recognition of there many public service efforts, including recent work to shovel out the Historical Society and fire station.

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.

Next week. Budget Committee meeting, foreclosure list, budget update, Amish signs update, poverty abatement.

Assessor's actions. None.

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Dennis Merrill, Chair

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Lester Sheaffer

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Franklin A. Ober

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Tony Marple

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Susan McKeen