

Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017

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

Select Board actions

1. The minutes for January 10 were approved 5-0
2. Accounts payable and payroll warrants were signed.
3. Paul Kelley. The former partner in Pleasant Pond Mill, LLC came in to ask the Board clarify his status vs. the LLC in town records. He has been sued personally over matters he said involved only the LLC and maintains that he has never been personally involved in transactions with the town. During all dealings with the Planning Board, et al he states that he appeared as a representative of the LLC. Paul asked the town write a letter clarifying this position. We will seek legal counsel before taking any action.
4. Land proposal. Steve Smith Sr. has sent a letter to the Board offering to negotiate sale of land on Rt. 17 to the town for development for general use by residents of town. The Board voted 5-0 to not pursue the offer as there does not appear to be any public interest in the land.
5. Planning Board. Planning Board chair Jim Torbert will be taking a leave of absence and the question of appointing an alternate member has come up. Since that board is elected, we will seek legal advice on the matter.
6. Phone and internet. Aaron reported he has been investigating switching from Time Warner to Fairpoint for these services, and there would be a savings in doing so. Possible concerns in doing this would be changing the town's e-mail address and the need to ensure adequate speed of internet service. Aaron will continue to investigate and change the carrier as he sees fit.
7. Budget. The Board continued discussion of next year's proposed budget. Some minor changes and additions were made. The Board then voted on several sections of the budget:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Administration	\$265,369	5-0
Townhouse	\$900	5-0
Fire Department	\$82,000	5-0
Town Roads	\$350,375*	4-1 (Lester opposed)
Winter Roads	\$250,000	5-0
General Assistance	\$5,000	5-0
Recycling	\$3,500	5-0
Miscellaneous	\$3,300	5-0
Contracted Services	\$33,800	5-0

* plus \$50,000 in carryover for full budget of \$400,375

Still to be voted on are amounts for outside agencies and capital expenditures

8. Revenue projections. In conjunction with the budget, the Board discussed use of various revenue sources to reduce taxes. The consensus was to use the following amounts;

Excise tax \$350,000 (up from \$320,000 this year)

Other revenues \$30,000 (previously not budgeted and revenues have gone into surplus and are allocated toward the following year's budget. Includes items such as clerk fees, lien costs and interest, some state reimbursements, etc.)

Use of surplus \$300,000 (up from \$155,000 this year)

7. Marijuana moratorium. On a vote of 4-1 (Frank opposed) the Board revised its previous decision to have a moratorium voted on by secret ballot to a vote in open town meeting. This will remove the need for a public hearing but instead allow discussion on the floor of the meeting. It was noted that if the state enacts a similar moratorium, a town moratorium would be unnecessary.

Assessor's actions. None.

Dennis Merrill, Chair

Lester Sheaffer

Franklin A. Ober

Tony Marple

Susan McKeen