

Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2012

Present: Steve McCormick, Frank Ober, Tom Colpitt, Lester Sheaffer, and Dennis Merrill

Administrative Assistant Aaron Miller
Select Board actions

1. The minutes of the October 23 meeting were approved 5-0.

2. Municipal valuation. The State municipal valuation return was signed. This serves as the basis for some State grants and payments to the Town.

3. Fire Department. Scott Higgins reported that during hurricane Sandy, the Department ran a mock disaster event as a training exercise. All went well. Scott introduced Richard Parlin, a firefighter, who is interested in the Emergency Management Director job. He will complete a job application form and the Board will then take action on that application. A large tree is broken off and hung up near Townhouse Road. While on private property, this poses a public hazard if it were to fall. The road commissioner will be contacted and asked to notify the property owner and request the tree be taken down.

4. Fire truck. Chief Higgins asked the Board to sign a form that will allow him to investigate acquiring a federal surplus 5 ton truck through the Maine Forest Service. This would be valuable as a heavy-duty forest fire truck. Cost – free, although we would have to outfit it with a water tank and pump. The truck would carry 1,000 gallons of water, and that would also be helpful in responding to all fires. The Board voted 5-0 to sign the form. This only authorizes looking at a potential truck should one become available but does not authorize any purchase.

5. Handley Lane. This discontinued road is accessed through East Pittston. A property owner there has inquired about winter maintenance. We will let that person know the road is not an active Town road. Also, there were some questions about the addressing of this road for 911 purposes. It was an extension of Philbrick Lane and if that name is still being attached to the road, it could be a problem in directing emergency responders.

6. General assistance hearing. The Board held a brief public hearing on adoption of a revised Appendix C to the GA ordinance. No comments were received and the Board voted 5-0 to adopt the new appendix.

7. Route 126. The Board received notice that the State DOT intends to repave Route 126. The intersection of Rooney Road is a safety concern due to line of sight on a curve and we will contact the DOT to see if corrections can be made in conjunction with the paving project.

8. Administrative Assistant. Aaron Miller reported on several items:
 - a. He is now using a logbook to record mileage for Town business. Reimbursement will be at the IRS approved rate;
 - b. He will be attending a training course for tax collecting. Robin will be invited to attend as well.

- c. The general assistance program in seeking the names of veterans receiving GA to include them in other assistance programs.
- d. The general fund currently has a balance of about \$351,000, including the proceeds of the tax anticipation note we recently took out.
- e. Tax receipts Since July 1 have been about \$523,000.
- f. At Aaron's request, the Board signed letters of authorization to our banks adding him to the accounts and removing Gwyn.

9. Tax acquired property. After some discussion, the Board decided to advertise for public sale tax map 11, lots 34 and 35. The abutters will be notified of the sale. The properties at tax map 7 lot 41 and 42 appear to be part of the same deed. This would affect the tax and interest owed. We will refigure the amount due eliminating one base lot and present this information to the owner of record before proceeding with sale of the property.

Assessors' Actions

1. The Board signed four abatements: Corbin, Ryan and Smith (2)..
2. The Board voted 5-0 to approve three abatement requests: 1) Perry and Jumars for part of a parcel of land they did not purchase. 2) Jamison Grady for a part of a parcel he did not purchase (a supplemental bill will be sent to the person retaining the balance of the property). 3) Soule removing the base lot for a parcel that is mostly in resource protection and not buildable.
3. The Board voted 5-0 to adopt the policy of allowing undeveloped lots of 5 acres or more to be combined for tax purposes, provided the action is consistent with State law. This includes parcel divided by a road, power line, etc.
4. A request from Richard Howell and Dorothy Burns to combine lots on both sides of Townhouse Road, Map 13, Lots 8, 13 and 56 was approved 5-0.

Steve McCormick, Chair Lester Sheaffer Tom Colpitt

Dennis Merrill Franklin Ober