

**Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2013**

**Present: Steve McCormick, Frank Ober Lester Sheaffer, and Dennis Merrill
Administrative Assistant Aaron Miller**

Select Board actions

- 1. The minutes of the January 22 meeting were approved 4-0.**
- 2. Two warrants were signed.**
- 3. Auditor's report. After some discussion, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the independent auditor's report for FY 12. Aaron has spoken with the auditor and determined what information must be printed in the town report. This includes the balance sheets on pp. 10-11, and any significant findings and recommendations (none were found for us). Also recommended is the management and analysis on pp. 2-8.**
- 4. Fire Department. Scott Higgins briefly reported on the recent structure in Sommerville. Due to the cold, this was a very difficult fire and many departments responding had damaged equipment. Whitefield faired well in that regard. Scott pointed out that the hydrant in Coopers Mills was the only effective water source in the region. There are some rocks in the road near the hydrant that make plowing difficult. Some fill is needed. Since the area is near the Sheepscot River, a DEP permit may be needed; Steve will follow up.**
- 5. Proposed warrant articles. The Board reviewed and discussed a list of possible warrant articles for the town meeting. Several of these are recommendations from MMA to make sure we are following State law. Othesr were variations of existing articles. Some are new ideas. No final decisions were made and not votes were taken; more discussion to follow.**
- 6. File cabinets. The Board voted 4-0 to dispose of two fire resistant file cabinets in the Town Office. These have been in the storage room for many years and never used. They have little or no value.**
- 7. Broadband. Dennis reported that the next round of State grants for expanding broadband is coming up. He has contacted Time Warner and FairPoint to see if either company has any interest in working with the Town.**
- 8. General Assistance hours. The Board voted 4-0 to set new hours for accepting General Assistance applications. Applications will be accepted on Mondays 7 AM-Noon and 4-8 PM, and Fridays 7 – 10 AM.**
- 9. Auto graveyard permit. The Board voted 4-0 to approve an auto graveyard permit for Whitefield Auto Recycling.**
- 10. Executive session. The Board voted 4-0 to go into executive session to discuss a poverty abatement application pursuant to 36 MRS §841.**

Following the session, the Board voted 4-0 to grant an abatement for the current year's interest until June 1, 2013.

Assessors' Actions

1. The Board voted 4-0 to grant an abatement to Ruth Ellen Cushing for property on Townhouse Road. The property is owner by her family but not by her. Dennis Binns will be responsible for the taxes and he will be issued a supplemental assessment.

2. The Board signed supplemental tax assessments for three properties previously voted on: Grady, McGuire and Tupper.