

**Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2013**

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

Select Board actions

- 1. The minutes of the July 9 meeting were approved 4-0-1 with a spelling correction.**

- 1. Two warrants were signed. Since there is no new school budget, the monthly payment is in the same amount as for last year.**

- 1. Tax acquired properties. Aaron reported he was advised by MMA that the former owner of a tax acquired property is liable for claims against the property, so long as the property is not abandoned. Aaron will contact Bob Bills regarding a repayment agreement and ask that an amended version be signed as soon as possible.**

- 1. General assistance. Monthly general assistance report forms to DHHS were signed.**

- 1. Fire station lease. Aaron obtained a completed copy of the lease agreement for the Coopers Mills station. The lease is self-renewing if no changes are proposed. The Board voted 5-0 to extend the lease without changes.**

- 1. Jewett Road. The Jewett Road is reportedly in poor condition and has had a lot of logging truck traffic of late; residents have called to request repairs. David Boynton will do the work within the week.**

- 1. Road Committee. After some discussion, the Board decided to form a citizen committee to evaluate and develop long range plans for maintenance of town roads. We will seek 5-7 members for the committee, and the group's duties will include:**

- 1. Assess the condition of the town's 39 miles of roads by using Department of Transportation or other suitable evaluation tools.**

- 2. Develop short and long-term plans for maintaining and improving the town's roads.**
- 3. Consider alternative approaches to road maintenance and improvement.**
- 4. Assist in the preparation of the town road budget and potential financing arrangements.**

1. Whitefield Day. The Board decided to keep the Recycling Center open on Whitefield Day. Parking and traffic will be reviewed to avoid conflicts.

1. Fire station. Frank spoke with a neighbor of the fire station and discussed two issues. There was no concern with using the area for Life Flight helicopters. Since the station's construction, drainage has been altered and the abutting land is wetter than it was. We will enlist the help of a resident who is a soil scientist to evaluate the situation.

1. Recycling program. Dennis reported the Recycling Committee is considering placing a "Planet Aid" clothes collection box at the Recycling Center. There has not been much interest from local roofing contractors in replacing the building's roof; we will place an ad in the newspaper to solicit bids.

1. Auditing services. Aaron reported he has had some questions about the Town's request for proposals for annual auditing services. The audit firms were concerned with a one-year arrangement as that was not enough to develop a sound relationship. The Board decided to amend the request to a three-year basis.

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

Assessor's actions

An abatement for the Bob Bills property approved last week was signed.