

**Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2013**

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

Select Board actions

- 1. The minutes of the August 6 meeting were approved 3-0-1.**

- 1. Recycling. Members of the recycling committee came in to discuss placement of a Planet Aid clothing collection box at the Recycling Center. Clothing collected is reused or recycled for fiber. The company placing the box will assume liability and maintain it; the Town will receive five cents per pound of clothing collected. The Board voted 4-0 to enter into a one-year contract for the box.**

- 1. Septic system grants. Aaron reported he has received a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding possible grants to correct malfunctioning septic systems that are causing environmental or nuisance problems. We will look into this program further to see if there are any situations in Town that could benefit.**

- 1. Flood insurance. Sue Baker representing the State came in to give a presentation on the Federal flood insurance program. Most towns in the State do participate, although Whitefield does not. The program would provide property owners with flood insurance if they are within a mapped flood zone. There is no cost to the town, but an ordinance would have to be adopted. Updated flood zone maps are currently being prepared for Lincoln County and drafts will be available this fall. In terms of building, there is some possible overlap between this program and Shoreland Zoning rules. Also, more research is needed to determine if there would be any practical benefit to the Town in cases of disaster assistance if the flood insurance program was adopted in town.**

On a related note, Aaron report he received an e-mail from AquaFortis, the owner of Clary Lake Mill, supporting the Town joining the program.

- 1. Auditing services. Representatives of Berry, Talbot and Royer came in to meet the Board and explain their firm's services in response to our request for proposals for annual auditing services. Two more firms will be coming in the next weeks.**

1. Tax acquired properties. The Board met with former owners of two tax acquired properties to discuss reclaiming the properties. One party was interested in a repurchase agreement and will get the paper work from the town office on Friday. The other party is pursuing a bank loan; the Board offered to meet with the bank if that would be helpful. The Board voted 4-0 to sell the former Miller property on Cooper Road by sealed bid. The family has previously indicated they did not want the land.

1. Two warrant were signed.

1. Tax commitment. Aaron reported that he has received legal advice from MMA on what value to use for the school budget in calculating the tax commitment. The law stipulates that the budget passed by the RSU's open town meeting that occurred on Aug 12 will stand unless and until another budget is adopted. Thus, if the validation vote to be held on Sep 10 fails, the budget adopted on Aug 12 should be used for the tax commitment.