

**Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2013**

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

Administrative Assistant Aaron Miller

Select Board actions

- **The minutes of the September 10 meeting were approved 4-0.**

- **A check for MPX company was signed. This is for the printing of the tax bills.**

- **Fire Department. Scott Higgins was present to discuss several issues:**

 - **He has received an estimate of \$572.82 for electrical work to wire the new air compressor. The Board voted 4-0 to authorize that work.**
 - **Engine 2 is going in for service to correct a leaking tank. This work is under warranty.**
 - **During the thunderstorm last week, the Fire Department generator failed to start, and a late night service call was necessary. There is an issue with the gas supply. Steve will check the pressures tomorrow morning. Aaron has scheduled the annual service visit and this can be coupled with whatever repairs are needed.**
 - **Scott is working on a grant application to MMA for safety equipment, including a flammables cabinet, traffic cones and safety vests.**
 - **The Department has new member who is a professional firefighter and EMT in Westbrook. Due to his work schedule, he may be available during some weekdays.**

- **Credit cards. Aaron is working on getting the Town to accept most major credit cards, and the Board voted 4-0 to authorize this and signed the papers for the bank's use. A separate account is being set up for the credit card payments to keep that activity completely separate from the Town's general account. The cost to use a credit card will be 2.45% of the transaction amount for purchases over \$40; \$1 for purchases under that amount.**

- **Land sale bids.** The Board opened sealed bids received for the tax-acquired parcel of land on Cooper Road, formerly owner by the Miller estate. The bids were:

David Spicer	\$1550
Laura Kinney	\$2291.56
Bill and Gail Brooke	\$5500
Randolph Sherwood	\$7700

The Board vote 4-0 to award the Town’s interest in the property to Randolph Sherwood.

- **Whitefield Day.** The Board voted 4-0 to send letters of appreciation and thanks to Sue McKeen and the Lions Club for their work and donations respectively in making Whitefield day a success.
- **Repurchase agreement.** The Board signed a repurchase agreement with Patrick Thayer and Sara Mae Edgerly for the repurchase of their tax-acquired property on Petticoat Acres Lane over a two-year period.
- **DAR request.** The Daughters of the American Revolution sent a letter asking that the Town declare the week of September 17 to 23 as “Constitution Week”. The Board voted 4-0 to do this and signed the proclamation to the effect provided by the DAR.
- **The Board voted 4-0 to approve a draft letter to taxpayers to be sent with the tax bills.** Note will be made in the letter that the Town can accept credit cards.

Assessor’s actions

Tom Hayes was present to participate in a discussion with Bill Gauvin about the value of two buildings at 168 Main St. Mr. Gauvin asserted that the buildings were in poor condition and are worthless. He wants to demolish them. A part of one building has been taken down since April 1 of this year, and it was pointed out to Mr. Gauvin that annual taxes must be based on what existed on April 1. Tom recommended reducing the value for the total property (buildings and land from \$183,628 to \$117,727. Due to a computer glitch, the tax bill will be sent out at an amount about \$19,000 higher and this will be fixed. Mr. Gauvin was given an abatement request form in the event that he is not satisfied with the revised valuation.