

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

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

Select Board actions

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

- 1. Two warrants were signed signed.**

- 1. Fire Department. Scott Higgins and Lynn Talacko were present. The primary discussion was about proposals for purchase of a new pumper-tanker. Tony reported that the Maine Bond Bank often does 15-year loans for trucks and the rate would be around 3.5%. Bonds are issued in May and November. The Department has one more equipment vendor to interview. They will prepare recommendations and a possible timeline.**

- 1. Tax acquired properties. The Board discussed two properties and efforts to return them to their former owners. One person's family is interested in helping reclaim the property but the owner has not been very responsive to efforts. Tony will contact the person directly. For another property, the former owner has not been very responsive to a letter sent from the town office so Frank will visit that person.**

- 1. Trail committee. Tony reported the trail committee visited two properties where there is a possibility of new trails being established. One is land on Hunts Meadow Road with an existing conservation easement and very nice views. The other is the town-owned parcel on Route 17. Tony will investigate if there are any restrictions on the use of the town property.**

- 1. Budget discussions. The Board continued its review of the budget for next year, focusing on the various lines where more information is needed. The Board will propose to set up a non-lapsing fund to cover EBT time being carried forward. The \$5,200 needed to establish this would come from surplus so there would be no direct tax impact. Other administration changes include adding a matched IRA contribution for Aaron. Also, Aaron found cheaper (and better) health insurance under the ACA. The Board agree to hold this budget line the same and offer the staff dental**

insurance if they provide a 25% match. In the various other areas, several lines must be confirmed (e.g. animal shelter, carry-over amounts, copier costs). The major remaining area to be discussed is the Roads; David Boynton will be asked to attend the Dec. 30 meeting.

- 1. Warrant articles. To support the budget, some warrant articles should be developed. These include the non-lapsing fund to cover EBT, authorization to purchase a fire truck, fire equipment, the Whitefield Cemetery, and authorization to carry over line for roads, the Townhouse, legal expenses and Coopers Mills dam.**

Assessors' Actions

None.