

**Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2014**

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

Select Board actions

- 1. The minutes of the December 30 meeting were approved 4-0.**

- 1. One warrant was signed for postage needed to send foreclosure notices.**

- 1. Planning Board. The Board received written notice from Ann Roberts that she is resigning from the Planning Board. To fill the vacancy, the Board voted 3-0-1 to fill the vacancy by appointment. The Board then voted 3-0-1 to appoint Marianne Marple to fill the remainder of Ann's term, until the municipal elections in March 2015. Tony abstained from both votes.**

- 1. Ripley property. Shane Michaud came in representing the Ripley family to express concerns about the Town's action to return Nancy Ripley's tax acquired property to her by quit claim deed instead of other family members as they had wanted. They felt this had been expressed to the Board in previous discussions. While there may have been some misunderstandings, the Town has checked with legal counsel and nothing can be done at this point, as the deed has been recorded. A family member has power of attorney for Nancy and can independently transfer the property to meet the family's wishes. As a general policy, the Board will always convey property back to a former owner when taxes are paid off, unless it is put out to publicly advertised sale.**

- 1. Fire truck vote. Aaron reported that a citizen has requested that any vote on purchasing a new fire truck, as has been discussed, be done by secret ballot. A secret ballot can be initiated by the Board or by citizen petition. If an issue is to be decided by secret ballot, a public hearing must be held in advance. After some discussion, the Board voted 3-1 (Dennis opposed) to have any truck purchase be debated and voted on at the annual town meeting.**

- 1. Budget reports. Aaron distributed updates on the current year's revenue and expenditures. He reported the current bank balance is \$744, 525. Amounts carried forward from last year need to be shown on the reports.**

- 1. Sand and salt. The Town's salt supply has been used up. The regular supplier of road salt is temporarily out. Aaron was able to find supplier at a higher price and one load was ordered. An additional load will be ordered from the regular supplier for later in the week or next week. The sand supply is also getting low, and Aaron will contact the Road Commissioner to have some more put up.**

- 1. Maine Gravel Service. Aaron reported the DEP has issued a permit modification to allow MGS (Crooker) to excavate below the ground water table. A permit issued under the Town's development ordinance requires a two-foot separation between excavation and ground water be maintained. Thus it appears Planning Board review will be required and approval.**

- 1. Fire Department. Scott Higgins, Tom Feeney, and Lynn Talacko were present to discuss purchase of a new pumper-tanker to replace two old trucks in Coopers Mills. They have met with various vendors and have selected one to recommend for purchase. This is an Emergency One truck with a 2000 gallon tank. The price is \$269,000. A \$3000 discount would be available if the total purchase price is paid in advance. About 10 years ago, a comprehensive plan for fire department capital needs was done and this proposed truck is consistent with the plan to replace one piece of equipment every 10 years. The engine in Kings Mills was the first purchase under the plan and the loan on that is now paid off. The two trucks in Coopers Mills have increasing maintenance costs and part are becoming harder to get.**

- 1. Budget Committee. The Budget Committee convened for its first meeting. Members Malinda Caron, Carl Ribeiro, Charlene Donahue, David Hayden, Erik Ekholm, Barry Tibbetts and Sue McKeen were present. Sue was elected as chair and Malinda will keep notes. The Fire Department representatives met with the committee, and are proposing a flat budget for next year. They also explained the truck purchase proposal noted above. The Committee also heard from the Board on changes in the Administrative and Snow and Ice budget lines. On the latter, the Committee had some concerns about the condition of Moosehead Lane that will be considered for town acceptance at town meeting. More information on the subdivision approval may be helpful.**

Assessors' Actions

None.