

**Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2014**

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

Select Board actions

- 1. Approval of last week's minutes was deferred until next week.**

- 1. Payroll and accounts payable warrants were signed.**

- 1. Fire department. Chief Higgins reported that two trucks have passed their annual inspections and engine 5 will be inspected later this month. The Coopers Mills annual auction will be on Saturday. Training for three new department members is progressing well. When the new fire truck is delivered, Scott will contact ISO for a courtesy inspection. This will afford an opportunity for the agency to see our fleet of equipment and to chart the next steps toward improving the Town's insurance rating. Finally, Scott has been contacted about water supply at Coopers Mills in the event the dam were to be removed. In earlier plans to do so, provisions for supply were satisfactory.**

- 1. Clary Lake. George Fergusson came in to update the Board on the Clary Lake water level order. That order has been appealed to the Superior Court and is now in mediation. Although under appeal, the order must still be complied with and the dam owner has not made satisfactory submittals to DEP. DEP has sent two letters of warning thus far. A notice of violation from the agency would be the next step. Clary Lake Association is considering installing the required lake level monitor including the necessary survey work on its own. Also, the Association is considering installing a dry hydrant near the dam on land owned by Jane Chase as a community service. Chief Higgins thought this would a good idea. George noted the lake is experiencing an algae bloom and he attributes this, at least in part, to the lowered water levels. George would like to move the overall process along in any way possible, including enforcement of the existing order conditions. To that end, the Board voted 3-0 to send a letter to the Assistant Attorney General assigned to the case.**

- 1. RSU. The Board has a general discussion about the upcoming votes in Windsor and Palermo to withdraw from RSU 12. If these withdrawals were to occur, there would likely be impacts on the**

remaining towns, although the Superintendent cannot estimate what those might be at this time. The Board agreed we need to monitor the situation but withhold serious discussions until after seeing how the votes on Nov 4 come out. There will be a public hearing on the withdrawal on August 28 at Windsor School.

1. **Roadside mowing.** Mowing is underway by the contractor we hired. He has noted that the Town's roadsides are in generally poor condition with lots of debris. He will be making a proposal for cutting brush as well.

Next meeting: Review references for the selected paving contractor, discuss assessing priorities.

Assessor's Actions

Tom Hayes came in to brief the Board on methods of assessing shorefront property in Town. Presently, all parcels with lake frontage are assessed an extra \$10,000 while frontage on the river adds \$5,000. These values are the same no matter how large a parcel is or what the character of the frontage is like. Other towns assess water frontage at much higher rates. Tom suggested two other possible methods. First, the length of frontage could be assessed on a per foot basis. Second, the length of frontage could be multiplied by a certain distance back, say 200 feet, to arrive at an acreage that could be assessed on a declining scale. In either case, adjustment factors could be applied for the type of frontage such as deep water, sand or swampy. After some discussion, the Board agreed that updating the methods and rates should be done. However, timing should be considered in light of resolution of Clary Lake water level problems and other assessing priorities. This is something we need to be working on to have an updated system ready when it is needed.