

**Town of Whitefield  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
March 10,**

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

**Select Board actions**

- 1. The minutes for March 3 were approved 5-0.**
  
- 1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants were signed.**
  
- 1. Audit report. It was noted we need to prepare a written response to the “management letter” included with the annual audit report. Changes to implement the recommendations in the letter need to be implemented next week. Aaron agreed with the three-person option recommended for financial controls. Tony and Aaron will work on the response to the letter.**
  
- 1. Abatements previously approved were signed.**
  
- 1. Foreclosures. The Board discussed the status of upcoming foreclosures and some outstanding tax accounts.**
  
- 1. Town Meeting. The Board discussed logistics for the upcoming Town Meeting.**
  
- 1. Inter community meeting. The Board discussed the March 16 meeting with other towns and area legislators regarding state budget concerns. Aaron noted that the town does many functions on behalf of the state, including agent for motor vehicles, Fish and Wildlife, vital records, and elections. We also are expected to provide accounting for those programs. We also provide plowing on state aid roads.**
  
- 1. Executive session. Pursuant to 1 MRSA §841, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session to discuss a poverty abatement request. Following the session, the Board voted 5-0 to grant an abatement in the amount of \$2,305.87 for tax year 2013. A letter will be sent to the property owner discussing obligations for subsequent tax years.**

## **Assessor's Actions**

**Assessor's Agent Tom Hayes was present to discuss several issues.**

- 1. The Peaslees from Benner Road came in to discuss their abatement request. Tom reported their home had not been correctly valued based on size, condition and other factors. This resulted in an abatement for the current year's taxes being approved by the Board 5-0. Additionally, the Peaselees requested that the Board also consider abatements for preceding years, based on the same circumstances. Tom supported that based on most, but not all, of the factors used for the current year. He will do some research and report back.**
  
- 1. The Kellers on Grand Army Roads asked for an abatement for an unoccupied building they purchased next to their home. Tom reported the building has a non-functional well and septic system and has had the interior stripped out and is uninhabitable. The structure is in poor condition. The Board approved an abatement 5-0.**
  
- 1. Tom distributed a sample of the paperwork he proposes to send to businesses regarding personal property they have. He will also forward to the Board a list of businesses on his mailing list. These materials will be discussed next week in advance of being sent out.**