

**Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2016**

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

Select Board actions

- 1. The minutes of Feb 16 were approved 4-0-1.**

Accounts payable and payroll warrants were signed.

- 1. Mowing contract. The owner of AJ Mowing came in to discuss the bidding of our lawn and cemetery mowing contract. This contract had been offered to AJ Mowing and then rescinded based on concerns with the bidding and subsequent counter offers in conjunction with Chelsea. He suggested that the contract be based on a flat rate rather than a per-mowing basis as was the old contract. After some discussion, the Board decided to take this advice under advisement as a new bid request is prepared.**
- 4. Utility pole permit. The Board signed an application from CMP to locate a new utility pole on Townhouse Road.**
- 5. Town meeting warrant. The Board discussed the final warrant for town meeting, including some wording changes to the article on solar power. Aaron will circulate the latest copy for Board members to review before signing it next week. The latest copy was not printed in the town report as the deadline for the printers has come and gone, so there may be some minor differences from the final copy.**
- 6. Annual audit. The Board voted 5-0 to enter into negotiations with Barry, Talbot and Royer for possible extension of their contract to do the annual audit.**
- 7. Projected revenue. Aaron distributed a draft of revenue projects. Historically, such projections have not been entered into the computer system to help track revenues. After some discussion, some changes and edits to the draft were recommended.**
 - 1. Foreclosures. Aaron reviewed the latest list of pending foreclosures and reported the number of properties dropped from 32 last week to 20 this week. Board members will make an effort to visit residences on the list to make sure owners have had one last contact before foreclosure on Feb 29.**
- 9. Senior tax deferment ordinance. The Board conducted an information meeting on the proposed ordinance to allow some seniors to defer property taxes. Four citizens attended and participated in a**

discussion of the proposal. This is based on a relatively new and unused state law. We will explore changing language to better define the conditions under which a property might not be included due to land use of code violations. The intent is to not include minor problems and only focus on serious problems that affect the town's equity going forward. Additionally, it was felt that person in the program should provide annual statements of income levels, including tax returns.

10. Vigue Road culvert. The state DEP has opened up the next round of grants for culvert replacement. Two private groups have indicated they intend to offer financial support for the replacement of the Finn Brook culvert on Vigue Road. The Board voted 5-0 to proceed with an application for a grant and authorized spending up to \$1,000 for preliminary engineering.

11. Absentee ballots. Aaron reported that state law requires that absentee ballot be picked up 3 days before an election, unless a person claims a hardship or personal problems than makes it necessary to get a ballot later. Aaron said this requirement has not caused any problems when requested.

12. Lester said a resident on Cooper Road has asked for a "blind drive" sign be placed as the driveway has a poor line of sight. Lester will ask the Road Commissioner to place a sign.

Next week. Sign town meeting warrant, possible presentation about solar panels, questions for suggestion box at town meeting.

Assessor's Actions:

None.