

**Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2016**

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

Select Board actions

- 1. The minutes for April 5 were approved 4-0**
- 2. An accounts payable warrant was signed.**

3. Mowing Bids. The Board opened five bids for mowing of cemeteries and town properties, with the following annual prices.

Lawns and More	\$6,600
AJ Mowing	\$8,000
Joshua Savon	\$7,250
A Cut Above	\$8,450
Acorn and Sons	\$7,450

All five bidders were present. In response to a question, all indicated their bid amount included clearing of leaves, brush, etc. to restore some of the small cemeteries to their original boundaries. We will review the bids to compare equipment and contact references. Frank will take the lead on this by initially following up on the three lowest bidders.

4. Junk yard permit. On a vote of 4-0, the Board approved the application of Paul's Pick a Part for annual renewal of its junk yard permit, contingent upon a satisfactory report from the Code Enforcement Officer.

5. Hanley Road. Dennis reported he had visited Hanley Road and spoken with a Selectman from Pittston. The situation is somewhat unique in that the turn around used for Pittston's plows and Whitefield's school bus is just over the town line into Whitefield. The abandoned road is in need of some gravel to improve the turn around. Pittston will consider a cost sharing arrangement to get this small job done collaboratively. We will await word on their position.

6. Coopers Mill fire station. The statement for the annual rent was sent last September but has not been paid; Aaron will be asked to place this on the warrant for next week. Also, the current lease needs to be updated to reflect that the building has been improved and the equipment list has changed. There was some discussion on what maintenance the Town should be responsible for under the lease and the Board generally felt that we should take care of maintenance but not capital improvements. Board members would like to receive a copy of the

current lease for review before scheduling a meeting with the CMVFD to work out details of changes in the lease.

7. Foreclosed properties. The Board reviewed the list of 10 recently foreclosed properties. Arrangements are pending with some former owners.

Fairservice: we need to check on the status of payments to see that all were properly credited

Chase: Tony will contact to get an update on efforts to sell another property

Peaslee: more information is needed on the status of this account

Pinkham: the Board voted 4-0 to sell this undeveloped land through our broker

Uhl: the Assessor's Agent will be asked to clarify the status of the lot as there is question if it really exists at all

W+S Wood: more information is needed

8. RSU positions. To clarify last week's vote, the Board voted 4-0 to assign Keith Marple to the RSU Board seat formally held by Malinda Caron and to assign Tara Delisle to the seat formerly held by Hilary Holm. Each appointment is until the next municipal election in March, 2017.

9. Hunts Meadow Road. Frank noted there are several large trees along the road that are dead and that may pose safety concerns. He will flag them and we will proceed to get quotes for their removal.

10. Deeds. Dennis reported he checked with the town's attorney who confirmed that once a property is foreclosed, the Town can choose when a deed is given to a former owner having paid the back taxes - either for the year causing the foreclosure (while other more recent liens remain) or once all liens are cleared. She recommended the latter in most cases.

11. Contract language. We will have the town's attorney review the standard language we use in contracts for various work bid out by the Town.

12. Assessing services. We will ask Farmingdale for a copy of the RFP they recently used to contract our assessing services.

Next week: award of mowing contract

Assessor's Actions:

None