

**Town of Whitefield  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 2016**

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

**Select Board actions**

- 1. The minutes for April 19 were approved 4-0-1 with the following amendments. Names of dissenting voters should be shown and the last item in #5 should be removed.**
- 1. An accounts payable warrant was signed.**
- 3. CMVFD. With Fire Chief Scott Higgins present, the lease for the Coopers Mills fire station was discussed. Sue and Tony reported they met with the association and agreed on some changes. The major point of discussion was clarification of responsibilities for maintaining vs. capital improvements of the property. In general, the Town would take care of routine maintenance while the association would be responsible for capital improvements. The association will redraft the lease and we will await that document for further action. We should also meet with the Kings Mills association to work toward having the leases be essentially the same.**
- 4. Petty cash policy. Aaron presented a draft procedure for handling petty cash in the office. He will follow up with more information on how funds are journaled back to the relevant accounts.**
- 5. Cell phone towers. Jim Torbet and Marianne Marple of the Planning Board present, there was a discussion of amending the cell phone tower ordinance to allow towers of up to 199 feet from the current of 120 feet. This is based on discussion with a consultant representing a cell phone provider indicating a taller tower would make better coverage in Town more practicable. The Board voted 5-0 to place this change on the ballot for June 14, pending concurrence of the full Planning Board at their meeting on April 27.**
- 6. Elderly tax deferment ordinance. Marianne Marple asked the Board to reconsider its vote to place the proposed elderly tax deferment ordinance on the June 14 ballot for a re-vote. After some discussion, the Board declined to do so.**
- 7. June 14 election. The Board signed a warrant setting a special town meeting for June 14, with two secret ballot question to be decided: enactment of an elderly tax deferment ordinance and revision of the cell phone tower ordinance. Also to be voted on are the RSU 12 budget and a state level primary election.**

**8. Pubic hearings.** The Board discussed holding public hearings for the ordinances to be voted on June 14. Aaron will review the legal requirements for doing this a schedule a date for a joint hearing with the Planning Board as soon as possible.

**9. Foreclosed properties.** The Board discussed some foreclosed properties and efforts of the former owner to reclaim them:

Peaslee - Aaron reported the bank involved will being paying this off.  
Fairservice - Tony spoke with him and while behind, he intends to catch up on payments.

W+S Wood Products - Aaron will contact Pittston since part of the parcel is in that town.

**10. Recycling attendant.** Aaron and Dennis will interview an applicant for this position.

**11. MMA insurance.** We received a proposal from MMA for supplemental liability insurance to cover damage to private wells due to road salt. We will contact the town's attorney for advice on this.

**12. Assessing services.** Aaron circulated an RFP for assessing services based on one from Farmingdale. We will discuss next week.

**13. Town policies.** All town policies should be placed on the web site.

**Next week: Assessing RFP, recycling attendant, MMA insurance**

**Assessor's Actions:**

**Assessor's Agent Tom Hayes presented four abatement requests:**

**1. Jones property on Philbrick Lane.** The Board voted 5-0 to grant an abatement due to the very poor condition of the building.

**2. Charles Miller estate on Cooper Road.** The Board voted 5-0 to grant an abatement due the condition of the building, several changes to the description of the building and removal of 2 acres.

**3. Charles Miller estate #2.** Based on the condition of the building, the Board voted 5-0 to grant an abatement.

**4. Clary Lake properties.** Four properties on Clary Lake have requested abatement due to the water level issue. Before taking action, the Board would like to review information previously presented on property values for lakeshore properties and a recent sale on Clary Lake.