

MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING WHITEFIELD 03/15 & 16, 2019

Article 1. To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting. 3/15/2019.

Meeting was called to order by Clerk, Darlene Beaulieu.

-A motion to elect Jeffery Frankel as moderator was made and seconded, Voting took place by written ballot and passed to elect Jeffrey Frankel as moderator.

Article 2. To elect by secret ballot municipal officers namely, two Select Board Member/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor for three-year terms; three RSU12 School Board Members, one for a three-year term, one for a two-year term and for a one-year term; and three openings on the Planning Board for two-year terms.

Election took place on 3/15/2019.

-Vote results: Select Board; Lise Hanners and Keith Sanborn. Planning board; Glenn Angell, Marianne Marple and Stephen Sheehy. RSU12 board of directors; Lynnette Conroy (3year term) Stephen Smith (2year term) Christine Lapado-Breglia (1year term)

-Motion made and seconded to allow non-residents Darlene Beaulieu (Town Clerk) and Scott Higgins (Fire Chief) to speak at said meeting. Vote passed. 03/16/2019.

Sue McKeen spoke on the Library in the process of purchasing the Grange Building. There is a lot of work to be done to get it up and running but the future of the uses in the building looks promising. The library has a website and will post information about up and coming fund raising for them. The residents support of the fundraising efforts will be appreciated.

-Jim Torbert, Planning Board chair person, recognized Judy Maldovan for her time as Planning Board Recording Secretary. The Planning board appreciates her time donated to the town.

-Charlene Donahue, Select Person, thanked and wanted to recognize Anthony Marple and Frank Ober for their terms served on the Select Board.

Spirit of America Award –

-Scott Higgins announced the winner as being Lynn Talako. Former Deputy Fire Chief and former EMS Director. Lynn gave 32 years of his time to the town of Whitefield with many of those being volunteer hours.

Town Notification Sheet-

-Anthony Marple gave an overview of the budget after he thanked Frank Ober for his years of serving on the Select Board and Darlene Beaulieu (Administrative Assistant) for her help and job well done in her role as Administrative Assistant. Over all the towns financial position was very strong. Fiscal year 2018 was down but in good shape. The School Budget and Lincoln County taxes may go up this year. Administration is up 11.6% with staff hours and reorganization. The communication has improved, Darlene Beaulieu has worked to keep costs down by “shopping around” for a better cost-effective health insurance for full time employees.

The town has formed a facilities committee thanks to Charlene Donahue, (chairperson) to help with keeping costs down on building and grounds maintenance and issues. We are looking to hire a maintenance person this fiscal year. The budget was up for capital improvement on the roads. The increase was mostly due to the Senott road Leonard's Bridge Culverts at \$50,000 each. Our Solar Lease can be bought in 2022. Coopers Mills Fire Station roof is \$12,600.00. The Municipal Budget has a 3% increase. Non-property tax is up.

Property Evaluations-

According to our assessor the property evaluations are up a small amount so the property subsidies from the State go down.

The Amish have been more involved in their own horse and buggy safety. They have added more reflective tape and 2 large oil lantern (one high and one low) to help get them in compliance with the State requirements. They are committed to being compliant.

-Stephen Smith voiced concerns about not having a Planning Board Recording Secretary and the resources to hire someone.

Article 3. To see if the Town will fix dates when taxes shall be due and payable, and to see if the Town will fix an annual interest rate to be charged on unpaid taxes after said dates, and to allow the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept the prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A §506. 18/19 budget year interest rate 4%.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: Taxes due December 2, 2019 and April 30, 2020 and a 4% interest rate for unpaid taxes.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Vote passed as written.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from surplus funds to pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Vote passed as written.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a "tax club" payment plan for property taxes, whereby:

- the taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the Town based on his or her estimated and actual tax obligation for the current year property taxes;
- the Town agrees not to charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement;
- the Town authorizes the Town Tax Collector to accept tax club payments for current taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes.
- the agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due dates and interest dates and rates as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club.

- only taxpayers who do not have any outstanding tax obligations for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club program.
- taxpayers wishing to participate in a tax club for a particular property tax year shall enter into an agreement with the town by a publicly-advertised deadline determined by the Town Tax Collector.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Vote passed as written.

Article 6. To see if the town will authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A §944 upon finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property subject to the lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Vote passed as written.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts to negotiate optimal value for the procurement of certain necessary services to the Town.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Discussion on what the services included. Vote passed as written.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, for such terms as they deem advisable and execute quitclaim deeds for the same; with the exception that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by the new elderly tax law 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for a qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

-Motion made and seconded. Vote passed as written.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept gifts of money or personal property to the Town and to appropriate and expend such gifts for such public purposes as the Select Board deem to be in the best interest of the Town.

-Motion made and seconded. Vote passed as written.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept state and federal grants and grants from nonprofit organizations on behalf of the Town for municipal purposes including, when necessary, the authority to sign the grant contract and accept the conditions that accompany grant funds, and to appropriate and expend grant funds for the authorized purposes.

-Motion made and seconded. Vote passed as written.

Article 11. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to dispose of town owned property valued up to \$1,000. Property valued over \$1,000 will be sold through auction or sealed-bid process.

-Motion made and seconded. Discussion on if this information will be available on the website. -
Vote passed as written.

Article 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to provide compensation to the Select Board during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$18,500

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$18,500 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$18,500 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept Select Board recommendation. Vote passed as recommended by Select Board.

Article 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the purpose of providing compensation and employee benefits to Town employees during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$157,010

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$173,564 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$173,564 (6-0)

Note: a) This includes salaries, insurances, Social Security for all departments (including part time employees), and retirement, travel, and training. b) Estimated amounts include salaries for the Administrative Assistant, Tax Collector, Office Assistants, and benefits for full-time town employees scheduled for 32 or more hours per week. C) Training for the 2020 budget is for all Town departments, boards and committees.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the Select Board recommendation. Discussion on cost of increases and salaries for employees and benefits for regular employees. Vote passed as recommended by Select Board.

Article 14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for general expenses associated with the operation of Town government during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$100,439

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$112,570 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$112,570 (6-0)

Notes: Includes audit fees, assessing fees, MMA dues, computer software, maintenance, utilities, supplies, equipment, liability insurance, workers compensation insurance, contracted services, etc. Legal services were a separate warrant article item last fiscal year.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the Budget Committee recommendation. Vote passed as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Article 15. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Elections expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$1,650

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$4,569 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$4,569 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept the Budget Committee recommendation. Discussion on why there was an increase. Vote passed as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Article 16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Planning Board expenses and Code Enforcement Officer expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$10,400

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$11,400 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$11,400 (6-0)

-Motion was made and seconded to accept the Select Board recommendation. Discussion on losing the Recording Secretary and needing extra money to replace her. A motion was made and seconded to amend the amount recommended by the Select Board of an increase of \$6,000. Discussion was had. A motion was made and seconded to limit discussion and vote. Vote passed to limit discussion and vote. Vote on Select Board recommendation of \$11,400 and extra \$6,000 not passed.

-A motion was made and seconded to amend the amount recommended by the Select Board of an increase of \$1,000 specifically for the Recording Secretary. Discussion involved that this was needed for the Planning Board. A motion was made to limit discussion and vote. Vote passed to limit discussion and vote. Vote passed on Select Board recommendation of \$ 11,400 and extra \$1,000.

Article 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Townhouse (Historical Society) building expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$300

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$100 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$100 (6-0)

-Motion was made and seconded to accept the Select Board recommendation. Vote passed as recommended by Select Board.

Article 18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Facilities Maintenance during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$14,500

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$23,860 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$23,860 (6-0)

Note: Maintenance of town facilities is now budgeted in one department.

The town is reimbursed \$3,400 from the Will Turner Cemetery Trust for the mowing of Coopers Mills Cemetery.

-Motion was made and seconded to accept an amended amount of appropriating \$4,482.00 from the Coopers Mills dam repair fund and raise \$19,378.00 from taxes for a total of \$23,860.00 as recommended by the Select Board. Vote passed as amended and recommended by the Select Board.

Article 19. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Water Supply maintenance during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$1,000 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$1,000 (6-0)

Note: This amount is for the monthly water testing only.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the Select Board recommendation. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 20. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the operation of the Whitefield Fire Department during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$85,347

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$91,494 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$91,494 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept the Select Board recommendation. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 21. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Animal Control Contract during the ensuing fiscal year during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$5,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$5,000 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$5,000 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept as recommended Select Board. Discussion on Select Board's voting 4-1 and how we hire the ACO. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 22. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for repairs and maintenance of Town roads during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$397,375

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$432,381 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$432,381 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to amend the original amount by appropriating \$110,000 from carryover and raising \$ 322,381 from taxes. Vote passed to vote on the amended amount.

-Motion made and seconded to accept the amended amount. Vote passed as amended by the Select Board.

Article 23. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for winter maintenance of Town roads during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$269,182

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$279,517 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$279,517 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept as recommended by the Budget Committee. Question was asked if this was a contracted position, Select Person Frank Ober verified that it is.

Vote passed as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Article 24. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the General Assistance Program during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$3,250

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$3,000 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$3,000 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 25. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in support of the following outside services: Lincoln County Humane Society, \$2,645; Hatch Hill, \$23,000 during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$25,300

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$25,645 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$25,645 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Discussion on Hatch Hill Land Fill and the amount Whitefield pays for services. The Select Board was encouraged to try to amend the amount to reflect what other towns in our area pay. Select Person Anthony Marple stated that we are in a non-negotiable contract and the cost won't lower. Mr. Marple also suggested to bring recyclables with your trash and the tipping fee would be less.

Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 26. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for salaries, utilities and maintenance for the Recycling Center during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$2,661

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$2,901 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$2,901 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept as recommended by the Select Board and the Budget Committee. Discussion on amending to lower the amount by \$1,000. The Recycling center was thanked for the good work. A motion was made and seconded to vote on the amended amount. Vote passed. Vote passed to accept the amended amount of \$1,901.00.

Article 27. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department capital outlay during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$9,000.00

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$9,000 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$9,000 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Vote passed to accept as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 28. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be expended for repairs of the Leonard's Bridge Culvert on South Hunts Meadow Road.

18/19 Budget \$50,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$50,000 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$50,000 (6-0)

-Motion made to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Discussion on what the planning was who was involved in coming up with the cost. The Road Committee relayed that the State says the culvert failed and the cost is \$150,000.00 to replace and the total is spread out over three years. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 29. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds for the purchase of the Solar Panels to be put in a reserve fund for future purchase of the solar installation.

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$8,910 (3-2)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$8,910 (6-0)

-Motion made to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 30. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Senott Road Culvert Replacement and to allow the fund to not lapse until the projects are completed.

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$50,000 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$50,000 (6-0)

-Motion made to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Discussion was had on the Army Corp of Engineers being involved, when the question was raised on how we come up with the figures and time frame. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 31. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds for the replacement of the roof for the Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Department building

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$12,600 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$12,600 (6-0)

-Motion made and seconded to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to provide a Public Water Supply for citizens which is located at the Central Fire Station.

-Motion made and seconded to accept as written. Discussion was had on the School water supply and if that could be made available to the public. It was determined they are not part of the town. Information was given that there is a public spigot at the Central Fire Station and the State is working with the town and testing the water. Signs will be posted if there are issues with consuming the water. It was suggested that we consider Kings Mills Fire Station. Vote passed to accept the article as written.

Article 33. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Public Water Supply Treatment System.

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$0 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$0 (6-0)

-Motion made and amended and seconded to accept as amended(minus the Town House) by the Select Board. Vote passed to accept the amended article as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to lapse all balances into undesignated Fund Balance except those which must be carried forward by statute and the balances of the following accounts: Town Roads, Town House, Emergency Management Operations, Fire Department Capital, Leonard's Bridge Culvert, and the Facilities Maintenance that accounts will not lapse and to allow the Select Board to expend from them in future years for their designated purposes during the ensuing fiscal year.

-Motion made to accept article as written. Vote passed to accept as written.

Article 35. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a Tax Anticipation Note during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$600

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$600 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$600 (6-0)

-Motion made to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 36. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for soldiers' graves and Whitefield Cemetery during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$3,300

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$3,300 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$3,300 (6-0)

-Motion made to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to support the debt service incurred for the Fire Department and fire truck during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$53,201

Fire Truck Principal \$16,451

Fire Truck Interest \$ 5,155

Fire Station Principal \$18,272

Fire Station Interest \$ 6,142

\$46,020

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$46,020 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$46,020 (6-0)

-Motion made to accept as recommended by the Select Board. Vote passed as recommended by the Select Board.

Article 38. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for donations to the following organizations:

	18-19 Budget	19-20 Select Board	19-20 Budget Committee
American Red Cross	\$250	\$250 (3-2)	\$250 (3-2-1)
Midcoast Maine CAP	\$1,000	\$1,000 (3-2)	\$1000 (6-0)
Maine General Hospice	\$1,137	\$1,137 (3-2)	\$1,137 (6-0)
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$1,000	\$1,000 (3-2)	\$1,000 (6-0)
New Hope for Women	\$580	\$610 (3-2)	\$610 (6-0)
Spectrum Generations	\$500	\$730 (3-2)	\$730 (6-0)
Young at Heart	\$150	\$150 (3-2)	\$150 (6-0)
Children's Ctr. Early Intervention	\$0	\$1,142 (3-2)	\$1,142 (3-2-1)
Healthy Kids	\$1,000	\$1,000 (3-2)	\$1,000 (6-0)
Waldo County CAP	\$0	\$0 (3-2)	\$245 (5-1)
Health Equity Alliance	\$0	\$0 (5-0)	\$0 (6-0)
Lifeflight	\$0	\$0 (5-0)	\$575 (5-1)
TOTAL	\$5,617	\$7,019	\$7,839

SELECT BOARD votes are posted next to the recommended amounts.

BUDGET COMMITTEE votes are posted next to the recommended amounts

Please note: Waldo CAP requested \$245; Health Equity Alliance requested \$500 and Lifeflight requested \$575.

-Motion to accept as recommended by the Budget Committee. A second motion to move directly at once to a vote to pass the recommended amounts all together at the same time. Vote passed to vote on all the organizations at once. Discussion on why the Select Board and the Planning Board amounts were different on this article. It was discussed and decided that one of the Select Board Members didn't have all the information, therefore he didn't recommend the amount. The Budget Committee and Select Board discussed their difference of opinion. A motion was made to end discussion and move directly to the vote. Vote passed to move directly to vote on the articles. Vote passed to accept the recommended Budget Committee amount.

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds received by the Town from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose. These funds are to be used for the maintenance of snowmobile trails within the Town.

-Motion to accept article as written. Vote passed to accept as written.

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to approve a Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance to authorize local control of food production and exchange.

LOCAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ORDINANCE

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the municipal officers and voters of the Town of Whitefield (the "Town") support the rights of the residents of the Town to produce, process, sell, purchase, and consume local foods in order to promote self-reliance, the preservation of family farms, and local food traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that family farms, sustainable agricultural practices, and food processing by individuals, families, and non-corporate entities offer stability to a rural way of life by enhancing the economic, environmental, and social wealth of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to support food systems that respect human dignity and health; nourish individuals and the community; and sustain producers, processors, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to enact a local food sovereignty ordinance pursuant to the Town's home rule authority granted it by the Constitution of the State of Maine that facilitates the ability of individuals to acquire, produce, process, prepare, preserve, and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment and sustenance; to barter, trade, and purchase food; and to save and exchange seed from the sources of their own choosing for their own physical health and well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the voters of the Town of Whitefield, Maine, as follows:

1. Title

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance," and is referred to herein as "this Ordinance."

2. Purpose

Pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 283, it is the policy of this State to encourage food self-sufficiency for its citizens. The purpose of this Ordinance is to:

- A. Through local control, preserve the ability of individuals and communities to save and exchange seed and to produce, process, sell, purchase, and consume locally produced foods;
- B. Ensure the preservation of family farms and traditional foodways through small-scale farming, food production, and community social events;
- C. Improve the health and well-being of residents of the Town of Whitefield by reducing hunger and increasing food security through unimpeded access to wholesome, nutritious foods by encouraging ecological farming; Promote self-reliance and personal responsibility by facilitating the ability of individuals, families and other entities to prepare, process, advertise, and sell foods directly to customers intended solely for consumption by the customers or their families;
- D. Enhance rural economic development and the environmental and social wealth of rural communities; and
- E. Protect access to Local Food through Direct Producer-to-Consumer Transactions, as defined in Section 4, below.

3. Authority

This Ordinance is adopted and enacted pursuant to Article VIII, Part Second of the Constitution of the State of Maine, 30-A M.R.S. § 3001, and 7 M.R.S. § 281-286.

4. Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings stated below:

- A. **DIRECT PRODUCER-TO-CONSUMER TRANSACTION:** A face-to-face transaction involving food or food products at the site of production of those food or food products.
- B. **LOCAL FOOD:** Any food or food product that is grown, produced, processed, or prepared by individuals who exchange that food as part of a Direct Producer-to-Consumer Transaction.
- C. **PROCESSOR:** An individual who processes or prepares products of the earth, soil, or animals for food or drink.
- D. **PRODUCER:** A farmer or gardener who grows or raises any plant or animal for food or drink, whether for commercial sale or not.

5. Exemption from Licensure and Inspection

In accordance with 7 M.R.S. § 284, the Producers and Processors of Local Food intended for Direct Producer-to-Consumer Transactions in the Town Whitefield shall be exempt from state licensure and inspection, and the State of Maine shall not enforce those state food laws, rules, or regulations with respect to Direct Producer-to-Consumer Transactions.

6. Meat and Poultry

This Ordinance is not applicable to any meat or poultry products that are required to be produced or processed in compliance with the Maine Meat and Poultry Products Inspection Program, Title 22, Chapter 562-A, of the Maine Revised Statutes and the rules adopted thereunder.

7. Liability Protection; No Waiver of Municipal Immunity

Producers and Processors of Local Food may enter into private agreements with consumers to waive any liability for the consumption of Local Food. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as a waiver of the Town of Whitefield's immunity from liability pursuant to the Maine Tort Claims Act or any other immunities or defenses available to the Town

8. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its enactment

9. Severability Clause

To the extent any provision of this Ordinance is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision will be removed, and the balance of the Ordinance shall remain valid.

-Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written. Discussion on what the local food vendors impact would be if this passes. A local vendor voiced concern about safety. She noted that people can get a home processing license from the state. Questions were asked about the experience of other towns that have passed this ordinance and if it will put our Amish neighbors at an unfair advantage, but the ordinance is open to all residents. It was stated that there are about 50 other towns with no known consequences. Alna was favorable for the Food Sovereignty Ordinance. It was noted there was a concern about the effect on concession stands and fund raisers, it was decided that shouldn't change. Vote passed the ordinance as written.

Article 41. Shall the Town vote to adopt an ordinance entitled Re-Establishment of Whitefield Planning Board" pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. Section 3001? The Planning Board which has been acting as Planning Board for the Town of Whitefield shall hereby be re-established as the legal planning board for the purposes of this ordinance. All actions taken by the Planning Board prior to the adoptions of the ordinance are hereby declared to be the acts of the legally constituted Planning Board for the Town of Whitefield.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF WHITEFIELD PLANNING BOARD

Establishment

Pursuant to M.R.S. Constitution, Article VIII-A and 30A M.R.S. Section 3001, the Town of Whitefield hereby re-establishes the Whitefield Planning Board.

1. Appointment

Appointments to the board shall be made by municipal election.

- A. The board shall consist of 5 members.
- B. The term of each member shall be 3 years, except the initial appointments which shall be as follows:
 - 1) The two members elected in 2018 shall continue until their term expires in 2020, at which time the term for those two positions shall increase to 3 years.
 - 2) Current members elected in March of 2019 shall serve two years until March 2021. At that time two positions will convert to three-year terms (ending in 2024) and one will go to one year (2022).

- 3) In 2022 the one term expiring will be replaced to a three-year term.
- C. When there is a permanent vacancy, the municipal officers shall within 60 days of its occurrence appoint a person to serve for the unexpired term.
- D. Persons holding another municipal office cannot serve on the Planning Board.

2. Organization and Rules

- A. The board shall elect a chairman and a secretary from among its members and create and fill such other offices as it may determine. The term of all offices shall be 1 year with eligibility for re-election.
- B. Any question of whether a member shall be disqualified from voting on a particular matter shall be decided by a majority vote of the members except the member who is being challenged.
- C. The chairman shall call at least one regular meeting of the board every month.
- D. No meeting of the board shall be held without a quorum consisting of 3 members.
- E. The Board shall adopt rules for transaction of business and the secretary shall keep a record of its resolutions, transactions, correspondence, findings and determinations. All records shall be deemed public and may be inspected at reasonable times as designated by the Select Board.

3. Duties and Powers

- A. The Board shall prepare a Comprehensive Plan as defined by 30A M.R.S. Section 4326. A comprehensive plan that is adopted by the board shall control until superseded by provisions adopted by the Whitefield legislative body.
- B. The Board shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as are provided by Whitefield ordinance and the laws of the State of Maine.
- C. The Board may obtain goods and services necessary to its proper function within the limits of appropriations made for the purpose.

-Motion made and seconded to adopt the article as written. Vote passed to adopt the article as written.

Article 42. To authorize the Select Board to accept and expend any other revenue from State, Federal, local and private sources for the support of the Town during the ensuing fiscal year.

-Motion made and seconded to adopt the article as written. Vote passed to adopt the article as written.

Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to move funds in the municipal budget from categories with balances to those with deficits during the ensuing fiscal year.

-Motion made and seconded to adopt the article as written. Vote passed to accept the article as written.

Article 44. To be decided by written ballot:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Whitefield by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

-Motion made and seconded to decide by written ballot to accept the article as written. Written ballot vote took place(57 yes and 54 no) Vote passed to accept the article as written.

Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, and to authorize the Select Board to expend, up to from the following General Fund revenue sources to be used toward the July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 budget appropriation, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised from property taxes.

18/19 Budget \$756,600

Auto Excise	\$400,000
BMV Agent	\$7,500
Revenue Sharing	\$100,000
Homestead Exemption	\$50,000
Business Equipment Tax Exemption	\$5,000
Veterans' Exemption	\$2,000
Tree Growth	\$7,000
Interest on Taxes	\$2,800
Lien Cost	\$5,000
Other non-property	\$26,119
Unassigned Surplus	\$100,000
Local Roads Assistance Program	<u>\$47,000</u>
Total	\$752,419

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$752,419 (4-0) one Board member absent

-Motion made and seconded to adopt the article as written. Vote passed to accept the article as written.

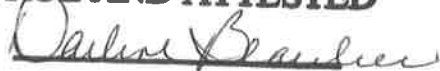
Floor discussion: Dan Joselyn suggested that a high school student or other run the microphone on the floor in the future.

Facilities Committee would like to gather ideas on town owned property on 17 Fox Farm Road for recreational purposes.

-Motion made and seconded to adjourn made at 1:09 P.M. Vote passed to adjourn.

Minutes done by:
Carman Douglas
Deputy Town Clerk

TRUE AND ATTESTED



TOWN CLERK