

Whitefield, Maine
Annual Town Meeting
March 15, 2003

The Whitefield Town Meeting was held at the Whitefield School on March 15, 2003, to vote on Articles for the July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004, fiscal year.

The meeting was called to order by Gwyn Dixon at 10:00 a.m. She read the preamble to the warrant and constable's return and acted upon Article 1.

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Brian Huntley was elected moderator.

Mrs. Dixon administered the oath of office before the assembled voters. Mr. Huntley then declared the polls open. Polls were open until 5:00 p.m. There were approximately 53 people present at 10:00 a.m.; approximately 87 at 10:30 a.m.

Article 2. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year: 392 votes were cast with 45 write-in votes for various candidates.

Office	Candidate	Vote
Selectman (3-year term)	Bartlett, Charlene M.	232 *
Selectman (3-year term)	Hardman, Jr., David V.	50
Selectman (3-year term)	Monroe, Frank M.	89
School Committee (3-year term)	Marple, Marianne B.	337 *
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	Boynton, David A.	349 *
Planning Board (2-year term)	Bills, Robert J.	284 *
Planning Board (2-year term)	Hanrahan, Thomas D.	191
Planning Board (2-year term)	Richards, Karl S.	226 *
Planning Board (2-year term)	Smith, Stephen C.	213 *

Article 3. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Officers salaries for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$92,998.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$92,998.00.

Article 4. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for

insurance for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$9,700.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$9,700.00.

Article 5. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool for liability and bond insurance.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool for liability and bond insurance.

Article 6. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Public Officials Liability Insurance Group.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Public Officials Liability Insurance Group.

Article 7. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation Fund.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation Fund.

Article 8. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for joining the Maine Municipal Association for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$2,281.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$2,281.00.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to fix the wages of people, trucks, and other equipment of the highways for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend State wages.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the selectmen's recommendation to fix the wages of people, trucks, and other equipment of the highways at State wages for the ensuing year.

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for cutting brush, grading, surfacing, paving, and repairing Town roads for the

ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to appropriate from excise taxes \$68,768.00, and to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,232.00. Total of \$128,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to appropriate from excise taxes \$68,768.00, and to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,232.00. Total of \$128,000.00.

Article 11. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for snowplowing and sanding roads for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to appropriate from excise taxes \$143,232.00 and to raise from taxes \$3,218.00. Total of \$146,450.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to appropriate from excise taxes \$143,232.00 and to raise from taxes \$3,218.00. Total of \$146,450.00.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town of Whitefield, to sell the land and building, known as the Town Garage, located near the intersection of the Mills Road and Piper Road, Map 26, Lot 25, for such terms as they deem advisable and execute quit-claim for same.

A motion was made and seconded to approve this Article.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to amend the Article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town of Whitefield, to sell the land and building, known as the Town Garage, located near the intersection of the Mills Road and Piper Road, Map 26, Lot 25, by using sealed bids only and accepting the highest bid and execute quit-claim for same.

The Article, as amended, carried by a majority vote.

Article 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for salt shed maintenance for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$39,313.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$39,313.00.

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Office operations for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$15,047.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$15,047.00.

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Townhouse repair and maintenance for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$4,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$4,000.00.

Article 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be divided equally among the three volunteer fire departments in Kings Mills, North Whitefield, and Coopers Mills stations for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$39,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$39,000.00.

Article 18. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for replacing personal protective gear for current Fire Department members for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

Article 19. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for air pack replacement for Firefighters. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$8,500.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$8,500.00.

Article 20. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Firefighter physicals for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

Article 21. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Whitefield First Responders. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$9,735.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$9,735.00.

Article 22. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department truck loan. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$15,385.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$15,385.00.

Article 23. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for civil defense for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

Article 24. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for forest fires for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$500.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$500.00.

Article 25. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Hepatitis B vaccine for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$500.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$500.00.

Article 26. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the

General Assistance Program for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

Article 27. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Bicentennial in the year 2009. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$750.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$750.00.

Article 28. To see if the Town of Whitefield will vote to authorize one of the two following options:

1. To hold local and referenda elections on the Friday preceding the third Saturday of March, with voting to be held at the Townhouse during the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. and to hold the open portion of Town Meeting the third Saturday of March beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the Whitefield School. If passed this proposal will begin in the year 2004.

OR

2. To hold local and referenda elections on the third Saturday of March at the Whitefield School with the polls opening at 10:00 A.M. and closing at 3:00 P.M. The open portion of Town meeting beginning at 6:00 P.M. the same day and place. If passed this proposal will begin in the year 2004.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Town to accept Option 1. The motion failed to carry by a vote of 8 in favor and 50 opposed.

Article 29. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for assistance with drafting a comprehensive plan for the Town of Whitefield. The Comprehensive Plan Committee requested \$10,000.00.

A motion was made and seconded to raise from taxes \$10,000.00.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the main motion to raise from taxes \$0.00 and appropriate same. The motion failed to carry.

A motion was made and seconded to cease debate on the main motion. The motion to cease debate carried by a two-thirds majority with 74 in favor and 15 opposed.

The original motion to raise from taxes \$10,000.00 carried by a majority vote.

Selectman Steve McCormick recognized outgoing Selectman Bruce Mathews for his twenty years of service to the Town of Whitefield as a Selectman and Planning Board member. He displayed a plaque that will be presented to Mr. Mathews.

At 12:15 p.m., a motion was made and seconded to recess Town Meeting until 12:45 p.m. The motion failed to carry by a majority vote and the School Committee Articles were acted upon. There were approximately 138 voters present at this time. A straw poll was conducted to determine if the voters were in favor of combining the school warrant articles. The result of the straw poll was 32 in favor and 13 opposed.

A motion was made by Michael McGuire, seconded by Brian Huntley and carried by a two-thirds majority vote to allow Francis N. Boynton, Superintendent, to address the Town Meeting. The School Committee presented an overview of the school budget which raised several questions concerning apparent discrepancies in the local increase between the printed warrant articles and the School budget summary provided by the School Committee.

Article 30. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Elementary Programs. School Committee recommends \$900,903.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$900,903.00 for Elementary Programs.

Article 31. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Secondary Programs. School Committee recommends \$933,850.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$933,850.00 for Secondary Programs.

Article 32. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Special Education Programs. School Committee

recommends \$887,602.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$887,602.00 for Special Education Programs.

Article 33. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Food Service Programs. School Committee recommends \$101,335.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$101,335.00 for Food Service Programs.

Article 34. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Undistributed Expenditures.

213, 221, 222, 231, 232,	Support Services &
241, 253, 255	Administration
260	Operations and Maintenance
270	Transportation
510	Debt Service
410	Other Public Instruction

School Committee recommends \$794,905.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$794,905.00 for Undistributed Expenditures.

Article 35. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate from the foundation allocation for school purposes (Recommend \$2,684,526.00) and to see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise as the local share of the foundation allocation. School Committee recommends \$998,440.23.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to appropriate \$2,684,526.00 from the foundation allocation and to raise \$998,440.23 as the local share of the foundation allocation.

Article 36. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate from the debt service allocation (recommend \$53,228.03) and to see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise as the local share of the debt service allocation. School Committee recommends \$23,175.49.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to appropriate \$53,228.03

from the debt service allocation and to raise \$23,175.49 as the local share of the debt service allocation.

Article 37. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise in additional local funds under the provisions of 20-A MRSA Section 15614. School Committee recommends \$467,663.04.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the School Committee recommendation. A motion was made and seconded to amend the main motion to read:

To see if the Town of Whitefield will raise up to \$467,663.04 in additional local funds under the provisions of 20-A MRSA Section 15614. The motion failed to carry.

The main motion carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to raise \$467,663.04 in additional local funds under 20-A MRSA Section 15614.

Article 38. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for roof repair/replacement. Any funds not expended under this article shall be designated for the school building fund. School Committee (5-0) recommends \$10,000.00

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$10,000.00.

Article 39. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004 from the foundation allocation, debt service allocation, unexpended balances, local appropriations, state subsidy, and other receipts in support of schools. School Committee recommends \$3,618,595.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$3,618,595.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004.

Article 40. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate for Adult Education (Recommend \$12,853.29) and to see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise as the local share (Recommend \$10,611.52) with authorization to expend said appropriated sums and any additional incidental, or miscellaneous receipts and grants. School Committee recommends \$10,611.52.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation to appropriate \$12,853.29 for Adult Education and raise \$10,611.52 as the local share.

Article 41. To authorize the School Committee to transfer up to four percent (4%) of any warrant line item account to another. School Committee recommends this article.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation.

Article 42. To see if the Town of Whitefield will vote to accept and expend any additional miscellaneous funds, receipts, and grants in support of the school. School Committee recommends this article.

Note: This budget does not include the estimated amount of \$218,216.00 in employer share of teacher retirement cost that is paid directly by the State.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to adopt the School Committee recommendation.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority vote to combine Articles 43 through 69 for simultaneous consideration.

Article 43. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer up to 10% of any line item account to another.*

Article 44. *To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$225,000.00 from surplus to reduce the amount of money needed to be raised in taxes for the municipal budget.*

Article 45. *To see if the Town will fix a date when the taxes shall be due and payable, and to see if the Town will fix a rate of interest to be charged on unpaid taxes after said date. Selectmen recommend November 30, 2003, and April 30, 2004, and an interest rate of 7.0 percent.*

Article 46. *To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town of Whitefield, 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 quit-claim for same.*

Article 47. *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for solid waste for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$24,000.00.*

- Article 48.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the recycling program for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$3,000.00.*
- Article 49.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the maintenance of a recycling building. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$500.00.*
- Article 50.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for tax maps/tax cards for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$15,000.00.*
- Article 51.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town records restoration for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$2,000.00.*
- Article 52.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for street lights for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$3,500.00.*
- Article 53.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Planning Board for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,500.00.*
- Article 54.** *To see if the Town of Whitefield will vote to earmark all funds received from the Snowmobile Registration refund program, to be used to maintain trails and bridges within the Town of Whitefield. All expenditures to be approved by the Selectmen. Selectmen recommend this article.*
- Article 55.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Kennebec Valley Humane Society for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$3,137.00.*
- Article 56.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Red Cross for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$200.00.*
- Article 57.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Catholic Charities Maine Family & Community Services. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$50.00.*
- Article 58.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the decoration of soldiers graves in town for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$650.00.*

- Article 59.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for New Hope for Women. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$150.00.*
- Article 60.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Kennebec Valley Mental Health Center for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,957.95.*
- Article 61.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Senior Spectrum for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$958.00.*
- Article 62.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Kno-Wal-Lin Community Health Center for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,810.00.*
- Article 63.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Coastal Economic Development for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.*
- Article 64.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Hospice of Kennebec Valley for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$763.00.*
- Article 65.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Coastal Trans for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$200.00.*
- Article 66.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Whitefield Food Bank for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$200.00.*
- Article 67.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Young at Heart Senior Citizens for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$150.00.*
- Article 68.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Arlington Grange window replacement project for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$500.00.*
- Article 69.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Healthy Kids for the ensuing year. Requested \$1,000.00. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$200.00.*

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Selectmen's recommendations on Articles 44 through 69, provide authorization on Articles 43 and 46, appropriate from surplus in Article 44, and to

