

Whitefield, Maine
Annual Town Meeting
March 15, 2008

The Whitefield Town Meeting was held at the Whitefield School on March 15, 2008, to vote on Articles for the July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, fiscal year.

The meeting was called to order by Gwyn Dixon at 8:17 a.m. She read the preamble to the Warrant and Return on the Warrant and acted upon Article 1.

Article 1. To elect 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 at 8:21 a.m. Polls were open until 12:21 p.m.

Article 2. To elect all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Office	Candidate	Vote
Selectman (3-year term)	McCormick, Steven C.	154*
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	Boynton, David A.	128*
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	Mark A. Labelle	42
School Committee (3-year term)	Soohey, Robert S.	130*
School Committee (3-year term)	Thurston, Michael	27*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Hall, IV, George W.	101*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Mitchell, Christi A.	117*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Whitman, Elizabeth	94

Candidates marked with an asterisk were elected: 174 ballots were cast with 66 write-in votes for various offices.

The moderator called the open portion of Town Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. There were 68 voters present at 2:10 p.m.

Article 3. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Officers salaries for the ensuing year.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 40 in favor and 11 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$133,693.00 and to appropriate from the Animal Control revenue account \$4,000.00. Total of \$137,693.00.

Article 4. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to join with other participating municipal and quasi-municipal employers in a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement for the provision of employee health benefits, as authorized by 24-A M.R.S.A. Section 6601 et seq., said Arrangement to be known as the “Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust” (Health Trust); and for that purpose and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements among participating employers, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Participation Agreement on behalf of the Town and take whatever other actions may be necessary. The authority granted herein shall continue until revoked.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 55 in favor and 0 opposed to authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust.

Article 5. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool for liability and bond insurance, Maine Municipal Association Public Officials Liability Insurance Group, and the Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation Fund.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 64 in favor and 0 opposed to authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool for liability and bond insurance, the Maine Municipal Association Public Officials Liability Insurance Group, and the Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation Fund.

Article 6. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for insurance for the ensuing year.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen’s recommendation to raise from taxes \$15,001.00.

Article 7. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for joining the Maine Municipal Association for the ensuing year.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen’s recommendation to raise from taxes \$2,492.00.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to fix the wages of people, trucks, and other equipment of the highways for the ensuing year at State wage rates.

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 9. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a capital reserve fund and needed expenses for Townhouse Road property adjacent to the Town Office.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$30,000.00.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the main motion to read "to raise from taxes \$10,000.00."

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to cease debate on the amendment. The amendment carried by a vote of 44 in favor and 21 opposed.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 53 in favor and 27 opposed to amend the main motion to read "to raise from taxes \$0.00."

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 59 in favor and 21 opposed to accept the amended main motion to raise from taxes \$0.00.

Article 10. To see what sum 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 \$68,624.00, to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,376.00 and to raise from taxes \$22,000.00. Total of \$150,000.00

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to appropriate from excise taxes \$68,624.00, and to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,376.00 and to raise from taxes \$22,000.00. Total of \$150,000.00.

Article 11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from excise taxes for salt shed maintenance, snowplowing and sanding roads for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to appropriate from excise taxes \$232,000.00, with \$2,000.00 for salt shed maintenance.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to appropriate from excise taxes \$232,000.00, with \$2,000.00 for salt shed maintenance.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer \$25,000.00 from Town Roads to Snow and Ice in the current budget year.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to transfer \$25,000.00 from Town Roads to Snow and Ice in the current budget year.

Article 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$53,053.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$53,053.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 36 in favor and 28 opposed to amend the main motion to read "to raise from taxes \$49,053.00."

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 69 in favor and 2 opposed to accept the amended main motion to raise from taxes \$49,053.00.

Article 14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for legal fees 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 15. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Office operations for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$18,082.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to cease debate on the amendment.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$18,082.00.

Article 16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Townhouse repair and maintenance and to carry forward the balance at June 30, 2008, to the 2009 fiscal year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$3,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$3,000.00 and to carry forward the balance at June 30, 2008, to the 2009 fiscal year.

Article 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for fire protection and rescue services for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend \$101,959.00, with \$98,959.00 raised from taxes and \$3,000.00 appropriated from Whitefield Rescue savings account, with \$48,000.00 to be divided equally among the three volunteer fire departments in Kings Mills, North Whitefield, and Coopers Mills, \$16,000.00 to Whitefield Rescue, and the remainder for purchase and replacement of Fire Fighting Equipment, Physicals, Hepatitis B Vaccine, Fire Education, Civil Defense, Forest Fires, and Fire Truck payment for the ensuing year.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$98,959.00 and to appropriate \$3,000.00 from Whitefield Rescue savings account.

Article 18. 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 19. 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 \$3,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$3,000.00.

Selectman Steven McCormick recognized Susan B. McKeen for her sixteen years of service on the Whitefield Planning Board.
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A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority vote to allow Al Hodsdon, Helen Smith and Charlie Baeder to speak to Article 20.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to repair the Coopers Mills Dam for a sum not to exceed \$200,000.00. Selectmen recommend this article.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to cease debate.

The motion failed to carry by a vote of 25 in favor and 62 opposed.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$27,000.00 for the repair of the Coopers Mills dam. Selectmen recommend this article.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

There were approximately 51 in attendance at 4:50 p.m. when the School Committee articles were acted upon. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority vote to allow Francis N. Boynton, Superintendent, and Ronald Cote, Principal, to address the Town Meeting. The School Committee presented an overview of the school budget.

Article 22. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **REGULAR INSTRUCTION**. School Committee Recommends **\$2,119,284.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$2,119,284.00.

Article 23. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION**. School Committee Recommends **\$711,439.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$711,439.00.

Article 24. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION**. School Committee Recommends **\$40,586.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$40,586.00.

Article 25. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **OTHER INSTRUCTION**. School Committee Recommends **\$50,200.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$50,200.00.

Article 26. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **STUDENT & STAFF SUPPORT**. School Committee Recommends **\$146,977.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$146,977.00.

Article 27. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION**. School Committee Recommends **\$133,048.54.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$133,048.54.

Article 28. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**. School Committee Recommends **\$155,388.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$155,388.00.

Article 29. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **TRANSPORTATION & BUSES**. School Committee Recommends **\$203,262.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$203,262.00.

Article 30. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**. School Committee Recommends **\$292,660.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$292,660.00.

Article 31. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for **DEBT & OTHER COMMITMENTS**. School Committee Recommends **\$0.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$0.00.

Article 32. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will be allowed to EXPEND for ALL OTHER. School Committee Recommends **\$123,792.00.**

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$123,792.00.

Article 33. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (**Recommend Estimate \$3,162,591.25**) and to see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A Section 15688.

School Committee Recommends Estimate \$1,042,440.00.

Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise the recommended estimates.

Article 34. Shall the Town of Whitefield raise and appropriate \$ _____ in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$ _____ as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee **recommends estimated \$422,082.29** for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by estimated: **\$192,769.96.**

Estimated:

Secondary Students	\$160,000.00
Elementary	12,769.96

Central Administration 10,000.00
Building Administration 10,000.00

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the School Committee's recommended estimate of \$422,082.29 in additional local funds. The motion carried by a written ballot vote of 44 in favor and 4 opposed.

Article 35. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Committee Recommends \$3,976,636.54.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the School Committee's recommendation to expend \$3,976,636.54.

Article 36. To see if the Town of Whitefield will appropriate \$18,271.75 for adult education and raise \$11,038.02 as the local share; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program. School Committee Recommends (4-1-0), Budget Committee Recommends (5-0-0).

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Budget Committee's recommendation to appropriate \$18,271.75 for adult education and to raise \$11,038.02 as the local share.

Article 37. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to accept and expend any additional miscellaneous funds, receipts, and grants in support of schools? School Committee Recommends.

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

Article 38. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to accept and expend any additional subsidy received from the State provided those funds are applied to reduce Additional Local funds raised for the 2008-2009 School Budget. School Committee Recommends.

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

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer up to 10% of any line item account to another.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer up to 10% of any line item account to another.

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept or reject grants, donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town of Whitefield for FY2009 and to expend monies donated for specific purposes.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the article as written.

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$200,000.00 from surplus to reduce the amount of money needed to be raised in taxes.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate \$200,000.00 from surplus to reduce the amount of money needed to be raised in taxes.

Article 42. 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, 2008 and April 30, 2009 and an interest rate of 11.00 percent.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to set November 30, 2008, and April 30, 2009, as dates when the taxes shall be due and payable and an interest rate of 11.00 percent to be charged on unpaid taxes after said dates.

Article 43. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, 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 for same.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority vote to combine Articles 44 through 62 for simultaneous consideration.

- Article 44.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for solid waste and the recycling program and building for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$38,095.00, with \$34,095.00 for solid waste, and \$4,000.00 for the recycling program and building.*
- Article 45.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for tax map updates and assessing for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$14,500.00, with \$2,500.00 for tax map updates and \$12,000.00 for assessing.*
- Article 46.** *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 47.** *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 \$3,815.00.*
- Article 48.** *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 \$2,500.00.*
- Article 49.** *To see if the Town 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. Selectmen recommend this article.*
- Article 50.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Humane Shelter for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,150.00.*
- Article 51.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the decoration of soldiers' graves and the Whitefield Cemetery Corporation for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to appropriate \$4,000.00 from the Cemetery Trust Funds, with \$1,000.00 for the decoration of soldiers' graves and \$3,000.00 for the Whitefield Cemetery Corporation.*
- Article 52.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the American Red Cross for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$200.00.*
- Article 53.** *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 54.** *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 55.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Healthy Kids for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$200.00.*
- Article 56.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for HealthReach for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,137.00.*
- Article 57.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Kennebec Behavioral Health for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,958.00.*
- Article 58.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Kno-Wal-Lin for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,810.00.*
- Article 59.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for New Hope for Women for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$580.00.*
- Article 60.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Spectrum Generations for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$958.00.*
- Article 61.** *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 62.** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Young at Heart Senior Citizens for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$150.00.*

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendations on Articles 44 through 62 and to earmark funds on Article 49.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

The preceding is a true and accurate account of the actions taken by the Town of Whitefield at the Annual Town Meeting March 15, 2008.

Attest: _____
Gwyn Benson Dixon
Town Clerk