



## Town Meeting March 15, 2014

The March 15, 2014 annual town meeting opened at 8 a.m. by Aaron Miller at Whitefield Elementary School at 8 a.m., then and there to act upon Article 1 by written ballot. Jeffrey Frankel was elected 5-0 to serve as moderator. Frankel appointed Sandra Brown to serve as deputy moderator and entertained a motion to convene and meet at the Calvary Bible Baptist Church to continue the meeting. The meeting was moved due to a fire on March 10 at the school's gymnasium.

### Article 1.

To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Windsor resident Jeffrey Frankel was elected by written ballot, 5-0.

### Article 2.

To elect by secret ballot municipal officers namely, two Selectmen/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor for a three-year-term; one Road Commissioner for a one-year term; one School Board member for a three-year term; and two Planning Board members for a two-year term.

Candidates with an asterisk were elected:

Office	Candidate	Vote
Selectmen (3-year term)	Samuel Bartlett Jr.	137
	Sue McKeen	170
	Dennis Merrill	198
	Jeffrey Newell	90
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	David Boynton	302
Planning Board (2-year term)	James R. Torbert	281
Planning Board (Write in)	Mike Panosian	8
	Carl Ribereio	5

### Article 3.

To vote by secret ballot whether the town will purchase a 2015 E-one pumper tanker with a freightliner chassis, a 2000 gallon water tank and a 30 gallon foam tank, equipped with a 1,250 gallon per minute water pump at a cost of \$269,000.

Article passed by referendum, 208-152.

*Selectman Tony Marple gave some background regarding town matters. He explained that Whitefield now has a new auditor who reported the town has good control measurers over money. He added that the town hasn't raised enough money to repair roads for a number of years and among other things, a trail committee has been organized to verse recreational trails in town.*

*School Board Chair Hilary Holm reported that school budget meetings will be held on March 19 and 25. A budget will be brought to the board at their April Meeting. She said that preliminary numbers*

*show that the impact for Wiscasset's withdrawal will result in a budget of approximately \$19.7 million vs. \$19.9 million with Wiscasset in RSU 12.*

*Selectmen Dennis Merrill presented a pie chart, showing funds from excise tax revenue, state road grant and unassigned surplus in Article 37 represents a \$70,000 increase compared to last year.*

Article 4.

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 after said dates, and to allow the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept the prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 MRSA §506.

Selectmen recommended (3-2) November 30, 2014 and April 30, 2015, and an interest rate of 4%.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to set the interest rate of 4%.**

Article 5.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment 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 dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for nonpayment of taxes.**

Article 6.

To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 MRSA § 944 upon finding by the Selectmen that ownership of the property subject to lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages upon finding that ownership of the property subject to lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest.**

Article 7.

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

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.**

Article 8.

To see if the Town will vote to impose a 180 day moratorium on any new or expanded mineral extraction activities, including sand and/or gravel extraction, within the Town, effective January 31, 2014, in order for the Planning Board to develop an ordinance governing such activities within the Town and take same to the Town for a vote.

*Planning Board Chairman James Torbert explained that page 56 of the town report recaps the reason for requesting a moratorium. He said Harry C. Crooker & Sons presented the Planning Board a proposed expansion of the Crooker pit near the Alna town line on Route 218. He added that the town has no standars in the development ordinance to review an application of this sort. In addition, the tonw's development ordinance has been found by a court to be unconstitutionally vague.*

*Resident April Panosian asked if anyone knew how many wells would be affected. Torbert said that one condition by the DEP is that test borings must be done before dredging begins. He noted, however, that typically if there is any chance o pollution in projects like this you need to look downstream. He said that the area is located on a significant aquifer thtat leads to the Sheepscot Rover and by removing the"water filter" and creating a "great pond" will raise the water temaperature.*

*Panosian asked who will do the testing. Torbert resonded, Crooker has used Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc. in Cumberland for decades and that the date presented to the state's Department of Environmental Protection used the data presented by the same engineering firm.*

*Resident Lore Ford asked why the moratororium would be considered retroactive. Torbert explained that once the matter was publicized regarding an article on the warrant the planning board would have to act under the town's current development ordinance. Torbert said the moratorium allows planners to set standards with means to evaluate the application.*

*Resident George Hall asked if the planning board knew of any problems at "Marion Pit" outside of Brunswick – a location that has been excavated below the water table. Torbert said that he doesn't know, but would like to see if there has been any impact on the environment. He added that planners are not trying to stop the application, but rather be allowed the tools to evaluate. Selectman Marple agreed, adding that the vote is not pro or con Crooker. He said the town's ordinances don't stand up to the law.*

**A motion by Doug Wright to move the question was seconded and carried by a majority vote. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to impose a 180 day moratorium on any new or expanded mineral extraction activities, including sand and/or gravel extraction, within the town, effective Jan. 31, 2014, in order for the Planning Board to develop an ordinance governing such activities within the town and take same to Town for a vote.**

Article 9.

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following organizations for the ensuing year.

*Note: Each organization to be voted on separately.*

Organization	FY 14 Budget	Amount Requested	Budget Committee Recommends (vote)
Midcoast Maine Community Action	\$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000 (5-2)
Coastal Transportation	\$0	\$1,150	\$100 (4-3)
Health Reach	\$0	\$550	\$550 (7-0)
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000 (7-0)
New Hope for Women	\$290	\$580	\$580 (6-1)
Spectrum Generations	\$450	\$450	\$450 (7-0)
Young at Heart	\$0	\$200	\$0 (7-0)
Healthy Kids	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0 (7-0)
Children's Center	\$1,000	\$1,136	\$1,136 (6-1)
TOTAL	\$4,890	\$7,066	\$4,816

Selectmen recommend (4-1) to raise from taxes \$4,816.

Budget Committee recommends same.

**A motion to approve the budget committee's recommendation of \$4,816 to be raised and appropriated for the above support organizations passed.**

Article 10.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Whitefield Food Bank for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$3,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$4,000.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion by Marlene Sullivan was raised, seconded and carried to increase the amount to be raised and appropriated for the Whitefield Food Bank to \$5,000 for the ensuing year.**

Article 11.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Whitefield Cemetery Corporation for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$5,000.

Selectmen recommend (3-2) to raise from taxes \$3,000.

*Phil Russell motioned to move the article, which was seconded. Russell explained that the cemetery benefits anyone in town who wants to use it. He added that years ago it was probably a town cemetery. He said that asking the town is not a situation the cemetery corporation would like to be in, and that they are limited to spending just the interest on \$46,000 – just over \$2,000 of interest. Russell said the corporation is working toward being able to cover the cost of maintenance without asking the town. Drew Sell made a motion to move the question, which was seconded and carried by a majority vote.*

**A motion to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for the Whitefield Cemetery Corporation carried by a majority vote.**

Article 12.

To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to dispose of town-owned personal property with a value of \$1,000 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) this article.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of town-owned personal property with a value of \$1,000 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.**

Article 13.

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

13/14 budget \$132,262.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$149,566.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve Article 13. Under discussion, Mike Shaw asked for an explanation regarding the increase over last year. Selectman Les Sheaffer responded, saying this reflects a two percent pay increase and the assessing line had been moved under salaries. The article passed by a majority vote.**

Article 14.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for a non-lapsing fund for earned benefit time accrued by Town employees. Expenditures from this fund must be only for payment of benefits earned by Town employees upon separation from service or in other circumstances as directed by the Selectmen.

13/14 budget \$0.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to appropriate from surplus \$5,200.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve Article 14. Under discussion Lore Ford asked for an explanation on EBT. Selectman Marple told residents that the above figure is not a new expense – it's based on accrued vacation and sick time. April Panosian asked how time is accrued. Marple added that the Board of Selectmen is currently working on a personnel policy. The article passed by a majority vote.**

Article 15.

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

13/14 budget \$12,250.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$13,475.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$13,475 for insurance for the ensuing year.**

Article 16.

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.

13/14 budget \$165,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes and appropriate \$265,450.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$265,450 for cutting brush, grading, surfacing, paving and repairing Town roads for the ensuing year.**

Article 17.

To see if the Town will vote to accept Moosehead Lane as a Town road and to raise and appropriate \$2,200 for snowplowing and sanding for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$0.

Selectmen do not recommend this article.

Budget Committee makes no recommendation.

**A motion was made and seconded. Under discussion, Mooshead Lane resident Clarissa Howard explained that the subdivision was created by Tom Freeman and Greg Farris. The road is about 800 feet long and residents on that street have maintained ditching and the sides. She said that the road was built to the state's Department of Transportation specifications and there are six properties in the subdivision. Farris said that he has lived in Whitefield for 30 years. He added that developers usually don't ask for acceptance of a road before homes are built. Farris, who owns a road on the Vigue Rd., added that he also owns Maine Helicopters and that it's important for the residents to support this measure.**

**A motion was made and seconded to move the question and stop debate. The vote, 52-79, failed (52 divided by 79 = .65) because there were not 2/3 of the total in favor.**

**Farris continued, saying the subdivision was all built to required specifications. The first home was built 22 years ago, and at that time, Farris said that he was not aware of any roads in Whitefield that were built to spec. He added that by saying no to this article, the town is sending a message to developers that this is town you don't want to.**

**Anne Roberts said that these residents are paying a lot of taxes and out of fairness, the town should accept the road. April Panosian said that she is not opposed to accepting the town road and asked if the budget would need to be reconfigured. Selectman Merrill said no, it should be an additional \$2,200 to do the plowing and sanding of Moosehead Lane.**

**A motion to move the question was made, seconded and passed. By a vote of 54-31, Article 17 failed.**

Article 18.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for snowplowing and sanding roads for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$232,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes and appropriate \$232,000.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$232,000 for snowplowing and sanding roads for the ensuing year.**

Article 19.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$48,527.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$47,270.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$47,270 for General Government for the ensuing year.**

Article 20.

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

13/14 budget \$2,747.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$2,750.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$2,750 for joining the Maine Municipal Association for the ensuing year.**

Article 21.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Office operations for the ensuing year.



13/14 budget \$20,255.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$21,250.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$21,250 for Town Office operations for the ensuing year.**

Article 22.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Townhouse repair and maintenance for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$1,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$500.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$500 for Townhouse repair and maintenance for the ensuing year.**

Article 23.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for municipal fire and rescue services operating budget, in addition to \$44,849 for debt service, for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$83,000, plus \$51,357 for debt service.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$83,000, in addition to \$44,849 for debt service (including proposed new fire truck loan at \$11,538).

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**Resident Lore Ford asked what the town is voting on. Selectman Sheaffer explained \$83,000, the rest is to show what the entire fire department would encompass. Hilary Holm said that based on Article 23 last year, the town approved the debt service in this article. Selectman McCormick replied that in theory, the town already approved the debt service.**

**Lore Ford noted that in 2003, the town paid \$57,000 to run the department – which has jumped to \$133,265 in 2012. He said that the actual demands have remained “stack,” with callouts for structure fires, chimney fires, automotive fires have all diminished. He said the costs are going “sky high” and the demands on the department are staying the same. Ford made a motion to amend the amount requested from \$83,000 to \$73,000. The motion was seconded by Sandy Brown.**

**Jennifer Bunting said that the town should be “profoundly grateful” for the fire department, considering that the costs for training, equipment and the “treacherous” job firefighters perform for the town is not unreasonable.**

**John Robbins added that the law of supply and demand does not apply to the fire company. The amendment failed by a majority vote. Article 23 passed by a majority vote as written.**

Article 24.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fire Department Air Pack and Hose replacement for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$9,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$9,000.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$9,000 for Fire Department Air Pack and Hose replacement for the ensuing year.**

Article 25.

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

13/14 budget \$5,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$5,000.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the General Assistance Program for the ensuing year.**

Article 26.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the decoration of soldiers' graves and Town cemeteries for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$3,500.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$3,700, with \$500 for the decoration of soldiers' graves and \$3,200 for Town cemeteries.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate to raise from taxes \$3,700, with \$500 for the decoration of soldiers' graves and \$3,200 for Town cemeteries.**

Article 27.

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.

13/14 budget \$39,800.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$37,800, with \$34,300 for solid waste and \$3,500 for the recycling program and building.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise from taxes \$37,800, with \$34,300 for solid waste and \$3,500 for the recycling program and building.**

Article 28.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for animal shelter service for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$1,701.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$2,300.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$2,300 for animal shelter service for the ensuing year.**

Article 29.

To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to expend from surplus up to \$15,000 for unanticipated legal and professional expenses for land use and planning matters for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) this article.

Budget committee (6-0) recommends same.

Article 30.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Planning Board for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$2,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$2,000.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for the Planning Board for the ensuing year.**

**(CLERKS NOTE: At 5:15 p.m. there were 56 people in attendance).**

Article 31.

To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for maintenance of the Salt and Sand Shed for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$3,200.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$3,200.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$3,200 for maintenance of the Salt and Sand Shed for the ensuing year.**

Article 32.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for tax map updates for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$12,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$500.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$500 for tax map updates for the ensuing year.**

Article 33.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Whitefield Day for the ensuing year.

13/14 budget \$0

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise from taxes \$1,000.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for Whitefield Day for the ensuing year.**

Article 34.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to move funds in the municipal budget from categories with balances to those with deficits.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried to authorize the Selectmen to move funds in the municipal budget from categories with balances to those with deficits.**

Article 35.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept grants, donations and/or gifts of personal property, services or money for the benefit of the Town and to use non-lapsing accounts to administer funds for their intended purposes.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried to authorize the Selectmen to accept grants, donations and/or gifts of personal property, services or money for the benefit of the Town and to use non-lapsing accounts to administer funds for their intended purposes.**

Article 36.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the balances of the Road, Townhouse, Legal Fees and Coopers Mills Dam accounts on June 30, 2014 to the fiscal year 2015.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the balances of the Road, Townhouse, Legal Fees and Coopers Mills Dam accounts on June 30, 2014 to the fiscal year 2015.**

Article 37.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate funds from the following sources to be applied toward the 2015 property tax commitment in order to reduce taxes.

Excise Tax Revenue	\$300,000
State Road Grant (URIP)	\$50,640

Unassigned surplus

\$100,000

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote as written.**

Article 38.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to secure liability, bond insurance, and public officials liability insurance, and workers compensation by joining Maine Municipal Association's programs for these services or from other sources as they deem most advantageous.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote as written.**

Article 39.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow such sums of money as may be necessary to pay current expenses in anticipation of taxes, such sums not to exceed the current tax commitment.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote as written.**

Article 40.

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 (5-0) this article.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote as written.**

Article 41.

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$329,699 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 that property tax levy limit.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried, 53-6, as written.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 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, 2014.**

**Aaron C. Miller**

**Town Clerk**

