

Whitefield, Maine Annual Town Meeting

March 18, 2000

The Whitefield Town Meeting was held at the Whitefield School on March 18, 2000, to vote on Articles for the July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001, 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. The polls were open until 5:00 p.m. There were approximately 32 people present at 10:00 a.m.; approximately 79 present at 10:30 a.m.

Article 2.

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year: 467 votes were cast with 72 write-in votes for various candidates.

Office	Candidate	Vote
Selectman (1-year term)	Alden C. Boynton	310 *
Selectman (1-year term)	David Hardman	131
Selectman (2-year term)	Steven McCormick	430*
Selectman (3-year term)	Bruce M. Mathews	401*
School Committee	Lori J. Jones	367*
Road Commissioner	David A. Boynton	218
Road Commissioner	David W. Jackson	231*
Planning Board	Susan McKeen	392*
Planning Board	Robert J. Bills	16*

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to take up Articles 11 and 12 out of order. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to allow Mr. Crooker to address the meeting.

Mr. Crooker explained the proposal for rebuilding the Thayer Road.

Article 11. To see if the Town, pursuant to 23 MRSA 3205, will vote to accept the dedication made by Maine Gravel Service of title in fee simple in a strip of land bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point 100 feet south of the southeast corner of Map 1, Lot 36, thence running west 4500 feet +/- crossing the Thayer Road to the Palmer Road. This strip of land being three rods wide and as shown on Thayer-Palmer Relocation Map, Option I, drawn by T.D.C., dated 02/23/2000.

The above is in exchange for a portion of the Thayer and Palmer Roads as shown on drawing, and to accept and establish a town way on said strip of land.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Article 11 as written. By a majority vote, accepted Article 11 as written.

There were approximately 108 people present and voting by the time the first vote was taken.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to approve the Municipal Officers Order of Discontinuance of the Thayer Road from the north side of the Palmer Road intersection to the south side of the Bog Road intersection dated February 14, 2000, and filed with the Town Clerk.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Municipal Officers Order of Discontinuance of the Thayer Road. By a majority vote, accepted Article 12 as written.

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 \$71,687.00.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority to amend the main motion to read "to raise from taxes \$51,687.00 and appropriate from excise taxes \$20,000.00 for Town Officers salaries for the ensuing year." By a majority vote, the amended motion carried.

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 \$6,864.00 .

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$6,864.00.

Article 5. 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 \$2,008.00 .

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$2,008.00.

Article 6. To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool for liability and bond insurance.

Motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority to join the Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool for liability and bond insurance.

Article 7. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Public Officials Liability Insurance Group.

Motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority to join the Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool for liability and bond insurance.

Article 8. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to join the Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation Fund.

Motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority to join the Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation Fund.

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.

Motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority to fix 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 \$38,768.00, and to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,232.00. Total of \$98,000.00 .

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to appropriate from excise taxes \$38,768.00 and to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,232.00. Total of \$98,000.00.

A straw poll was taken to determine how many voters present were in favor of designating the Cooper Road as a major collector road instead of a minor collector road. The straw poll resulted in 106 votes in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 13. 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 raise from taxes \$14,303.00 and to appropriate from excise taxes \$101,232.00. Total \$115,535.00 .

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$ 14,303.00 and to appropriate from excise taxes \$101,232.00. Total of \$115,535.00.

Article 14. 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 \$500.00.

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

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,710.00 to join the Gardiner Library. Selectmen recommend \$0.

A motion was made and seconded to raise \$0.00 to join the Gardiner Library.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to allow Anne Davis to speak to the Article.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the main motion to raise \$7,710.00 to join the Gardiner Library. After considerable discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to cease debate and act on the amendment. By a majority vote, the amendment failed by a vote of 57 in favor and 58 opposed.

A recount was requested and the amendment carried by a vote of 82 in favor and 67 opposed. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to cease debate and vote on the main motion.

By a vote of 53 in favor and 84 opposed, the main motion failed to carry.

A straw poll was taken to determine how many voters present were in favor of putting money into the incidentals account for a library scholarship fund. The straw poll resulted in 57 votes in favor and 18 opposed.

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for incidental expenses for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$32,720.00.

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$35,220.00 for incidental expenses with the recommendation that the \$2,500 increase above the Selectmen's recommendation be used to set up a library scholarship fund. By a majority vote, the motion carried to raise from taxes \$35,220.00.

The Selectmen asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to establish eligibility guidelines for the library scholarships. The following people volunteered for the committee: Leslie McCormick, Hilary Holm, Susan Spicer, Lionel Cayer, and Marge Lucas.

Article 17. 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 \$20,005.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$20,005.00.

Article 18. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the purchase of a new computer in the current year. Selectmen recommend to appropriate from surplus \$2,400.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to appropriate from surplus \$2,400.00.

Article 19. 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 \$1,200.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$1,200.00.

Article 20. 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 \$36,000.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$36,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to combine Articles 21 through 29.

Article 21. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for replacing personal protective gear for current Fire Department members for the ensuing year. Requested \$5,000.00. Selectmen recommend to appropriate year-end balance from reserve fund \$5,000.00.

Article 22. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for air pack replacement for Firefighters. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$6,000.00.

Article 23. 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 \$300.00.

- Article 24.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Whitefield First Responders. Requested \$2,200.00. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$2,200.00.
- Article 25.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department truck loan. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$6,477.00.
- Article 26.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for fire education material for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$250.00.
- Article 27.** 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.
- Article 28.** 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.
- Article 29.** 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 and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation on each of the combined Articles 21 through 29. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation on Articles 21 through 29.

- Article 30.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to help support the Windsor Ambulance Service for the ensuing year. Requested \$10,000.00. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$10,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to allow Pam Littlefield to speak to the Article.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority to amend the main motion to add: "with monies raised and appropriated to be paid on a monthly basis for services rendered." By a majority vote, adopted the amended main motion.

Article 31. 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 \$3,500.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, adopted Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$3,500.00.

At 2:08, a motion was made, seconded and carried to recess Town Meeting for 30 minutes, during which time a moderated presentation given by Barbara Welch Delvecchio on the Consolidated School District proposal on behalf of the School Committee took place. The Town Meeting reconvened at 2:38.

Article 32. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Elementary Programs. School Committee recommends \$684,945.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$684,945.00 for Elementary Programs.

Article 33. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Secondary Programs. School Committee recommends \$906,240.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$906,240.00 for Secondary Programs.

Article 34. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Special Education Programs. School Committee recommends \$600,035.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$600,035.00 for Special Education Programs.

Article 35. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Food Service Programs. School Committee recommends \$96,183.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$96,183.00 for Food Service Programs.

Article 36. 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 \$595,058.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$595,058.00 for Undistributed Expenditures.

Article 37. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate from the foundation allocation for school purposes (Recommend \$2,382,409.00) and to see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise as the local share of the foundation allocation. School Committee recommends \$882,147.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$882,147.00 as the local share of the foundation allocation.

Article 38. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate from the debt service allocation (Recommend \$41,003.00) and to see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise as the local share of the debt service allocation. School Committee recommends \$15,077.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to raise \$15,077.00 as the local share of the debt service allocation.

Article 39. 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 \$263,140.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to raise \$263,140.00 in additional local funds.

Article 40. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000 and ending June 30, 2001 from the foundation allocation, debt service allocation, unexpended balances, local appropriations, state subsidy, and other receipts in support of schools. School Committee recommends \$2,882,461.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$2,882,461.00.

Article 41. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate for Adult Education (Recommend \$13,060.00) and to see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise as the local share (Recommend \$7,774.00) with authorization to expend said appropriated sums and any additional incidental, or miscellaneous receipts and grants. School Committee recommends \$7,774.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$7,774.00.

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

Article 42. To authorize the School Committee to transfer up to four percent (4%) of any line item account to another. School Committee recommends this article.

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

Article 43. To see if the Town of Whitefield will vote to appropriate and expend, up to \$50,000, of any unanticipated State or Federal aid to education monies, to lower the local share of monies raised for the Whitefield School Budget at the 2000 March Town Meeting. School Committee recommends this article.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation. A motion was made and seconded to amend the main motion to delete: "up to \$50,000 of" from the School Committee recommendation. By a majority vote, the amendment failed to carry. By a majority vote, the main motion carried to adopt the School Committee recommendation.

Article 44. 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.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the School Committee recommendation.

Article 45. To see if the Town of Whitefield will vote to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas nuclear weapons pose a continuing threat to civilization, the human species, and life itself;

Whereas municipalities have been targets of nuclear weapons throughout the nuclear age;

Whereas nuclear arsenals have cost an average household \$800 per year for the last 50 years and these resources are needed for supporting the well-being of our citizens;

Whereas the spread of nuclear weapons, possibly even to terrorists, is nearly inevitable unless they are abolished everywhere;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Town of Whitefield hereby calls upon the governments of all nuclear weapons states to secure a Nuclear Weapons Abolition Treaty which sets a timetable for the elimination of nuclear weapons;

And be it further resolved that the Town Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to the President, Members of the Maine Delegation and our local State Senators.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposed resolution. By a majority vote, motion carried to adopt the resolution as read and as written.

Article 46. 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 and seconded to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to authorize such transfers.

Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$135,000.00 from surplus to reduce the amount needed to be raised in taxes.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate \$135,000.00 from surplus.

Article 48. 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, 2000, and April 30, 2001, and an interest rate of 10.75%.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority to amend the main motion to read "annual interest rate of 10.75%." By a majority vote, motion carried to accept the amended main motion.

Article 49. 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 non-payment of taxes thereon, for such terms as they deem advisable and execute quit-claim for same.

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

Article 50. 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 \$20,275.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise \$20,275.00.

Article 51. 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 \$2,500.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. By a majority vote, motion carried to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise \$2,500.00.

Article 52. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the maintenance of a recycling building. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$500.00.

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

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to combine Articles 53 through 69, with the exception of Article 61.

Article 53. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for tax maps for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$1,500.00.

Article 54. 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 \$4,100.00.

Article 55. 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 56. 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 57. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Red Cross. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$200.00.

Article 58. 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 59. 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 \$500.00.

Article 60. 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 62.** 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 \$2,627.00.
- Article 63.** 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 64.** 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 65.** 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 66.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Hospice of Kennebec County for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$763.00.
- Article 67.** 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 68.** 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 69.** 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.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation on Articles 53 through 69, with the exception of Article 61. By a majority vote, motion carried to accept the Selectmen's recommendation on Articles 53 through 69, with the exception of Article 61.

- Article 61.** 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 \$1,284.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation. A motion was made, seconded and carried by majority to amend the Selectmen's recommendation to increase the amount raised and appropriated to \$1,957.95. By a majority vote, the amended motion carried to raise and appropriate \$1,957.95.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 pm.

Results of Referendum Question:

To see if the Town of Whitefield will vote to freeze the amount of money raised from Property Taxes for the 2000 - 2001 budget year to no more than the current 1999 - 2000 budget.

Yes 190 No 275

The preceding is a true and accurate account of the actions by the Town of Whitefield at the Annual Town Meeting March 18, 2000.

Attest: Gwyn Benson Dixon
Gwyn Benson Dixon
Town Clerk