

Whitefield, Maine
Annual Town Meeting
March 19, 2005

The Whitefield Town Meeting was held at the Whitefield School on March 19, 2005, to vote on Articles for the July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, 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 10 people present at 10:00 a.m.; approximately 51 at 10:30 a.m.

Article 2. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year: 285 votes were cast with 143 write-in votes for various candidates.

Office	Candidate	Vote
Selectman (3-year term)	McCormick, Steven C.	256*
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	Boynton, David A.	154*
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	Brann, James M.	72
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	Monroe, Frank M.	54
School Committee (3-year term)	Holm, Hilary H.	242*
School Committee (3-year term)	Soohey, Robert S.	45*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Bills, Robert J.	212*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Smith, Stephen, C.	183*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Merrill, Dennis L.	37*

Article 3. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Officers salaries for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$109,034.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 53 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$109,034.00.

Article 4. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for insurance for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$11,905.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 44 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$11,905.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority vote of 42 in favor and 0 opposed to combine Articles 5 through 7 for consideration simultaneously.

Article 5. To see if the Town will 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.

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 of 54 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 8. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for joining the Maine Municipal Association for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$2,399.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 52 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$2,399.00.

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 of 56 in favor and 0 opposed 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 if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to purchase land and building, known as the Greene property, Map 13, Lot 53, for the sum of \$122,500.00. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$46,500.00 and appropriate from surplus \$76,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 65 in favor and 8 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$46,500.00 and appropriate from surplus \$76,000.00.

Article 11. 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, and to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,376.00. Total of \$128,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 50 in favor and 0 opposed 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. Total of \$128,000.00.

Article 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for snowplowing and sanding roads for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to appropriate from excise taxes \$198,552.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 43 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to appropriate from excise taxes \$198,552.00.

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 of 38 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

Article 14. 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 \$40,929.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 37 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$40,929.00.

Article 15. 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 of 43 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

Article 16. 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 \$16,550.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 40 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$16,550.00.

Article 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Townhouse repair and maintenance and to carry forward the balance at June 30, 2005, to the 2006 fiscal year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$5,500.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 42 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$5,500.00 and to carry forward the balance at June 30, 2005, to the 2006 fiscal year.

Article 18. 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 for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$39,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 39 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$39,000.00.

Chief Brann presented heroism awards to two Whitefield firefighters, Jim Brann and Ed Ewen, for a daring rescue on February 27, 2005.

Article 19. 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 of 39 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

Article 20. 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 of 35 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$8,500.00.

Article 21. 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 of 35 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

Article 22. 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 of 35 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$9,735.00.

Article 23. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fire truck payment. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$24,504.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 35 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$24,504.00.

Article 24. 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 of 32 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

Article 25. 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 of 31 in favor and 0 opposed 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 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 of 33 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$500.00.

Article 27. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for fire education materials for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$250.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 31 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$250.00.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Whitefield Lions Club to proceed with the planning and development of a multi community recreation area on the land bequeathed to the Town of Whitefield by Harold B. Olsen.

Lion Tom Jamison, Chairman of the Recreation Committee of the Whitefield Lions Club presented an overview of the plan.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 44 in favor and 0 opposed to allow the Whitefield Lions Club to proceed with the planning and development of a multi community recreation area on the land bequeathed to the Town by Harold Olsen.

Article 29. 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 of 33 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

Article 30. 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 of 36 in favor and 0 opposed to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$750.00.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the balance in the Comprehensive Plan account at June 30, 2005, to the 2006 fiscal year.

Charlene Donahue, Chairperson of the Whitefield Comprehensive Planning Committee presented an overview of the plan and the Committee's plan for public education in preparation for a November 2005 vote.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 44 in favor and 0 opposed to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the balance in the Comprehensive Plan account at June 30, 2005, to the 2006 fiscal year.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority vote to authorize State Representative Lisa Miller to address the Town Meeting.

Representative Lisa Miller provided an overview of the education funding and homestead exemption legislation and other issues being addressed by the state legislature.

There were approximately 40 in attendance at 12:30 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, to address the Town Meeting. The School Committee presented an overview of the school budget.

Article 32. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend in the 2004-2005 School Budget from carry forward funds from the 2003-2004 school budget to purchase a school bus for the sum of \$55,000.00, with any insurance proceeds being added to the carry forward funds June 30, 2005. School Committee recommends \$55,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 37 in favor and 0 opposed to authorize the School Committee to expend in the 2004-2005 School Budget from carry forward funds from the 2003-2004 school budget to purchase a school bus for the sum of \$55,000.00, with any insurance proceeds being added to the carry forward funds June 30, 2005.

Article 33. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Elementary Programs. School Committee recommends \$994,044.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 33 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$994,044.00 for Elementary Programs.

Article 34. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Secondary Programs. School Committee recommends \$1,123,122.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 34 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$1,123,122.00 for Secondary Programs.

Article 35. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Special Education Programs. School Committee recommends \$710,809.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 32 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$710,809.00 for Special Education Programs.

Article 36. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for Food Service Programs. School Committee recommends \$104,675.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 28 in favor and 1 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$104,675.00 for Food Service Programs.

Article 37. 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	Administration
260	Operations and Maintenance
270	Transportation
410	Other Public Instruction
510	Debt Service

School Committee recommends \$826,379.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 33 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$826,379.00 for Undistributed Expenditures.

Article 38. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate for the school administrative unit'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 (Recommends \$2,784,197.23) and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality'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 \$934,619.00.

Explanation: The school administrative unit'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 of 30 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$934,619.00.

Article 39. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise and to appropriate the sum of \$403,585.77, in additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690. School Committee recommends \$403,585.77.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the unit's cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual debt service payment on non-state-funded school construction projects or the non-state-funded portion of a school construction project that will help achieve the municipality's budget for educational programs.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the School Committee recommendation to raise \$403,585.77 in additional local funds for school purposes. The motion carried by a written ballot vote of 44 in favor and 13 opposed.

Article 40. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning (July 1, 2005) and ending (June 30, 2006) from the school administrative unit'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 \$3,759,029.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 26 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation to expend \$3,759,029.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2006.

Article 41. To see what sum the Town of Whitefield will appropriate for Adult Education (Recommended \$16,523.75) and to see what sum the Town of Whitefield will raise as the local share (Recommended \$11,232.90) with

authorization to expend said appropriated sums and any additional incidental, or miscellaneous receipts and grants. School Committee recommends \$11,232.90.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 26 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation to appropriate \$11,232.90 for Adult Education.

Article 42. 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 of 21 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation.

Article 43. 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, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 25 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation.

Article 44. To see if the Town of Whitefield will vote to accept and expend additional funds received from the State for the purpose of using 100% to be applied towards Local Additional. School Committee recommends this article.

Note: This budget does not include the estimated amount of \$287,894.07 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 of 24 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the School Committee recommendation.

Article 45. 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 of 18 in favor and 0 opposed to authorize the Selectmen to transfer up to 10% of any line item account to another.

Article 46. 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 of 13 in favor and 0 opposed to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate \$200,000.00 from surplus to reduce the amount of money needed to be raised in taxes.

Article 47. 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, 2005, and April 30, 2006, and an interest rate of 7.75 percent.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 17 in favor and 0 opposed to authorize the Selectmen to set November 30, 2005, and April 30, 2006, as dates when the taxes shall be due and payable and an interest rate of 7.75 percent to be charged on unpaid taxes after said dates.

Article 48. 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 of 21 in favor and 0 opposed to authorize the Selectmen to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon.

Article 49. 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 \$28,981.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 22 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$28,981.00.

Article 50. 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.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 25 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$3,000.00.

Article 51. 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.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 19 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$500.00.

Article 52. 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 \$5,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 23 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$5,000.00.

Article 53. 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 \$3,860.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 20 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$3,860.00.

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 \$3,500.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 14 in favor and 13 opposed to raise from taxes \$0.00.

A motion for reconsideration was made by a person who voted on the prevailing side, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 22 in favor and 5 opposed.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 19 in favor and 11 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$3,500.00.

The Selectmen were requested to conduct a survey to determine the location and cost of street lights.

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 \$2,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 15 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$2,000.00.

Article 56. 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.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 22 in favor and 1 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to earmark all funds received from the Snowmobile Registration refund program to be used to maintain trails and bridges within the Town of Whitefield.

Article 57. 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.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$3,137.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 24 in favor and 0 opposed to amend the main motion to read: *to raise and appropriate \$3,137.00 for humane society services for the ensuing year.*

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 27 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$3,137.00.

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 \$1,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 27 in favor and 0 opposed to adopt the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$1,000.00.

Article 59. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the below listed organizations for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$8,393.00.

American Red Cross	\$ 200.00
Coastal Economic Development	1,000.00
Coastal Trans	200.00
Healthy Kids	200.00
Hospice of Kennebec Valley	1,137.00
Kennebec Valley Mental Health	1,958.00
Kno-Wal-Lin	1,810.00
New Hope for Women	580.00
Senior Spectrum	958.00
Whitefield Food Bank	200.00
Young at Heart Senior Citizens	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$8,393.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$0.00 for the below listed organizations.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority vote to allow Elsa Seigars of Kno-Wal-Lin to address the Town Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 34 in favor and 1 opposed to amend the main motion to read: *to raise and appropriate \$8,393.00 for the below listed organizations for the ensuing year.*

A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote of 38 in favor and 1 opposed to raise and appropriate \$8,393.00 for the below listed organizations for the ensuing year.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The preceding is a true and accurate account of the actions by the Town of Whitefield at the Annual Town Meeting March 19, 2005.

Attest: _____
Gwyn Benson Dixon
Town Clerk