

**Whitefield, Maine**  
**Annual Town Meeting**  
**March 21, 2009**

The Whitefield Town Meeting was held at the Whitefield School on March 21, 2009, to vote on Articles for the July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, fiscal year.

The meeting was called to order by Gwyn Dixon at 8:00 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 8:00 a.m. Polls were open until 12:00 p.m.

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

Office	Candidate	Vote
Selectman (3-year term)	McKeen, Susan B.	134*
Selectman (3-year term)	Hardman, Jr., David V.	79
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	Boynton, David A.	180*
School Committee (Expires 06/30/09)	Marple, Marianne (Write-In)	8 Declined
Planning Board (2-year term)	Smith, Stephen C.	157*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Bills, Robert J. (Write-In)	30*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Whitman, Elizabeth (Write-In)	10*

Candidates marked with an asterisk were elected: 217 ballots were cast with 129 write-in votes for various offices.

The moderator called the open portion of Town Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. There were 119 voters present at 2:10 p.m. A 10-minute recess was called at 2:20 p.m. in order to allow the many voters still in line to check in with the ballot clerk. At 2:30 p.m., there were approximately 190 voters present.

**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 and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$138,582.00 and to appropriate from the Animal Control revenue account \$4,000.00. Total of \$142,582.00**

**A motion was made and seconded to amend the main motion to raise from taxes \$133,693.00, the same amount as last year, and to appropriate from the Animal Control revenue account \$4,000.00.**

**The amendment failed to carry by a vote of 52 in favor and 120 opposed.**

**The main motion to accept the Selectmen's recommendation carried by a majority vote of 119 in favor and 25 opposed.**

**Article 4.** 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 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 5.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for insurance for the ensuing year.  
Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$16,117.00.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$16,117.00.**

**Article 6.** 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 \$2,529.00.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$2,529.00.**

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the site development and construction of a new town office on property acquired in 2005 in accordance with plans developed by the Town Office Building Committee at a cost not to exceed \$750,000.00 and authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow not more than \$750,000.00 for that purpose and appropriate the first payment of \$48,314.00 to be paid in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.  
Selectmen recommend to appropriate from surplus \$24,157.00 and to raise from taxes \$24,157.00.

**A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to appropriate from surplus \$24,157.00 and to raise from taxes \$24,157.00.**

The Town Office Building Committee presented its assessment of the need for a new Town Office and the architecture and drawings for the site layout for optimizing use of the former Greene property and the design of the facility.

**A motion was made and seconded to cease debate and vote by written ballot on Article 7.**

**The motion failed to carry.**

**The main motion to accept the Selectmen's recommendation failed to carry by a vote of 63 in favor and 108 opposed.**

**Article 8.** 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 \$61,700.00, to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,376.00 and to raise from taxes \$28,924.00. 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 \$61,700.00, to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,376.00 and to raise from taxes \$28,924.00. Total of \$150,000.00.**

**Article 9.** 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 \$238,300.00, with \$3,500.00 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 \$238,300.00, with \$3,500.00 for salt shed maintenance.**

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the balance (\$62,328.82) in the Road account from June 30, 2008 to pay for Heath Road and Hilton Road work performed in July of 2008 and approved at the Annual Town Meeting of April 24, 2007.  
Selectmen recommend this article.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the balance (\$62,328.82) in the Road account.**

- Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate from surplus \$4,000.00 in the current budget year to cover the pre-audit work for the year ended June 30, 2008.  
Selectmen recommend this article.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate from surplus \$4,000.00 in the current budget year to cover the pre-audit work for the year ended June 30, 2008.**

- Article 12.** 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 \$55,511.00.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$55,511.00.**

- Article 13.** 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 14.** 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 \$18,102.00.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$18,102.00.**

- Article 15.** 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, 2009, to the 2010 fiscal year.  
Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$500.00.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$500.00 and to carry forward the balance at June 30, 2009, to the 2010 fiscal year.**

**Article 16.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for fire protection and rescue services for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend \$99,194.00, with \$77,250.00 raised from taxes and \$500.00 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, \$14,500.00 to Whitefield Rescue, and the remainder for purchase and replacement of Fire Fighting Equipment, Physicals, Hepatitis B Vaccine, Fire Education, Emergency Management Agency, Forest Fires, and Fire Truck payment for the ensuing year.

**A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$77,250.00 and to appropriate \$500.00 from Whitefield Rescue savings account.**

Fire Truck payment of \$21,444.00 was included in total Selectmen recommendation but not originally included in Selectmen recommendation on amount to be raised in taxes.
---

**A motion was made, seconded, and carried by a majority vote to amend the main motion to raise from taxes \$98,694.00 and to appropriate \$500.00 from Whitefield Rescue savings account.**

**The amended main motion carried by a majority vote.**

**Article 17.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for EMS and Firefighter stipends for the ensuing year. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$15,000.00.

**A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectmen's recommendation to raise from taxes \$15,000.00.**

**A motion was made and seconded to amend the main motion to raise from taxes \$0.00 and to appropriate from surplus \$15,000.00.**

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

**The proposed amendment failed to carry by a vote of 23 in favor and 56 opposed.**

**The main motion carried by a majority vote.**

**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.**

**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 \$5,000.00.  
Selectmen recommend to carry forward the balance at June 30, 2009, \$1,223.77, and to raise from taxes \$3,776.23.

**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 carried by a majority vote.**

**Article 21.** 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 22.** 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 FY2010 and to expend monies donated for specific purposes.  
Selectmen recommend this article.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation.**

**Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$250,000.00 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 \$250,000.00 from surplus to reduce the amount of money needed to be raised in taxes.**

**Article 24.** 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 and to allow the Tax Collector to collect prepayment of taxes prior to commitment pursuant to Title 35 MRSA Section 36 (Prepayment of Taxes).  
Selectmen recommend November 30, 2009, and April 30, 2010, and an interest rate of 9.00 percent.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize the Selectmen to set November 30, 2009, and April 30, 2010, as dates when the taxes shall be due and payable and an interest rate of 9.00 percent to be charged on unpaid taxes after said dates.**

**Article 25.** 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. Selectmen recommend this article.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation.**

**Article 26.** 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 authorize the Selectmen to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes.**

**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. Selectmen recommend to raise from taxes \$37,095.00, with \$34,095.00 for solid waste, and \$3,000.00 for the recycling program and building.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation.**

**Article 28.** 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.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation.**

**Article 29.** 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.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation.**

**Article 30.** 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.

**A motion was made and seconded to raise \$0.00 for street lights.**

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

**The motion carried by a majority vote of 22 in favor and 18 opposed.**

**Article 31.** 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.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to accept the Selectmen's recommendation.**

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to take up Article 44 out of order.**

**Article 44.** 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.

**A motion was made and seconded to raise from taxes \$400.00.**

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to amend the main motion to raise from taxes \$4,015.00, and to have the account administered at the Town level.**

**The amended main motion to raise from taxes \$4,015.00 carried by a majority vote.**

**A motion was made, seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority to combine Articles 32 through 45, with the exception of Article 44, for simultaneous consideration.**



- Article 32.** *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 33.** *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 \$1,336.00.*
- Article 34.** *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 35.** *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 36.** *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 37.** *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 38.** *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 39.** *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 40.** *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 41.** *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 42.** *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 43.** *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 45.** *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 32 through 45, with the exception of Article 44, and to earmark funds on Article 32.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 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 21, 2009.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gwyn Benson Dixon  
Town Clerk