



## Town Meeting March 21, 2015

### Minutes

The March 21, 2015 annual Town Meeting opened at 8:00 a.m. by Town Clerk Aaron Miller at Whitefield Elementary School, then and there to act upon Article 1 by secret ballot. Jeffrey Frankel was elected 4-0 to serve as moderator. Frankel appointed Sandra Brown to serve as deputy moderator. 65 residents were attendance during the open town meeting portion.

#### Article 1

To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

*Jeffrey Frankel unanimously elected, 4-0*

#### Article 2

To elect by secret ballot municipal officers namely, one Selectman/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 three Planning Board members for a two-year term.

#### **Office**

#### **Candidate**

*Selectman*

*Lester Sheaffer Jr. 95 (winner)*

*Road Commissioner*

*David Boynton 94 (winner)*

*School Board*

*(Write-in)*

*Malinda Caron 5 (accepted)*

*Tina Best 2*

*Planning Board*

*Carl Ribeiro 88 (winner)*

*Marianne Marple 93 (winner)*

*Glenn Angell 88 (winner)*

#### Article 3

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 taxes 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.

14/15 budget year interest rate 4%

Selectmen recommend (3-2) November 30, 2015 and April 30, 2016, and an interest rate of 4%.

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

Article 4

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 deeds for same.

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

Article 5

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.*

Article 6

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 appropriate surplus funds to pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.*

Article 7

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.*

	14-15 Budget	15-16 Request	Selectmen recommendation (vote)	Budget Comm. recommendation (vote)
Red Cross	\$0	\$250	\$250 (4-1)	\$250 (7-0)
Midcoast Maine Community Action	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000 (4-1)	\$1,000 (7-0)
Coastal Transportation	\$100	\$1,150	\$100 (4-1)	\$100 (7-0)
ME General Hospice (HealthReach)	\$550	\$1,137	\$1137 (4-1)	\$550 (4-0-1)
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000 (4-1)	\$1,000 (7-0)
New Hope for Women	\$580	\$580	\$580 (4-1)	\$580 (7-0)
Spectrum Generations	\$450	\$500	\$500 (4-1)	\$500 (7-0)
Young at Heart	\$0	\$150	\$150 (4-1)	\$150 (7-0)
Healthy Kids	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000 (4-1)	\$1000 (7-0)
Children's Center	\$1,136	\$0	\$0 (5-0)	\$0 (5-0)
Lincoln County Dental	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,000 (4-1)	\$1,000 (7-0)
MPBN	\$0	\$100	\$0 (5-0)	\$0 (7-0)
Life Flight	\$0	\$575	\$0 (5-0)	\$0 (7-0)
TOTAL	\$4,816	\$8,942	\$6,717	\$6,130

*Red Cross approved by majority vote at \$250*

*Midcoast Maine Community Action approved by majority vote at \$1,000*

*Coastal Trans approved by majority vote at \$100*

*Selectmen's recommendation to raise and appropriate \$1,137 for ME General Hospice was moved and seconded. Resident Michael Shaw motion to amend the \$1,137 amount to the budget committee's recommendation of \$550. The amendment failed, 24-31. The original amount, \$1,137 was approved.*

*Kennebec Behavioral Health approved by majority vote at \$1,000*

*New Hope for Women approved by majority vote at \$580*

*Spectrum Generations approved by majority vote at \$500*

*Young at Heart approved by majority vote at \$150*

*Healthy Kids approved by majority vote at \$1000*

*Children's Center approved by majority vote at \$0*

*Lincoln County Dental approved by majority vote at \$1,000*

*MPBN approved by majority vote at \$0*

*Life Flight moved and seconded to raise \$575. Resident Michael Shaw's motion to amend the article to \$0 was moved and seconded and approved by majority vote at \$0.*

#### Article 8

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

14/15 budget \$5,000; 15/16 request \$4,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to raise \$2,000 and to appropriate \$2,000 from the Worthy Poor Fund.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise \$2,000 and to appropriate \$2,000 from the Worthy Poor Fund.*

#### Article 9

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

14/15 budget \$3,000; 15/16 request \$3,000

Selectmen recommend (4-1) \$2,000.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise \$2,000 for the Whitefield Cemetery Corporation.*

#### Article 10

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.

*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 11

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

14/15 budget \$149,566

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$152,431.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$152,431 for town officials' salaries and benefits for the ensuing year.*

#### Article 12

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

14/15 budget \$13,475.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$13,400.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$13,400 for insurance for the ensuing year.*

#### Article 13

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.

14/15 budget \$265,450.

Selectmen recommend (4-1) \$334,700.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*Resident Louis Sell explained that the town's roads committee met for a year and performed a comprehensive study of the roads. The board conclusion is Whitefield's road network is not in good shape. Over half of the paved roads need major reconstruction, he said. He explained that the roads committee has put forth a recommendation to have a 10-year-plan for road maintenance and road construction. Dennis Merrill gave an overall discussion of the costs.*

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$334,700 for cutting brush, grading, surfacing, paving and repairing town roads for the ensuing year.*

#### Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the balance of the Town Roads account on June 30, 2015 to the fiscal year 2016.

#### Article 15

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

14/15 budget \$235,200.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$251,200.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$251,200 for snowplowing and sanding roads and salt shed maintenance for the ensuing year.*

#### Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to accept Moosehead Lane as a Town road and to what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for snowplowing and sanding for the ensuing year.

14/15 budget \$0.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) to accept the road and raise \$1,500.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same, provided the road is accepted.

*Resident Phil Russell explained that the town is not able to maintain the roads Whitefield has now. He added that last year this was voted down and recommended that residents vote the same again. Resident Erik Eckholm explained that the matter comes down to a fairness issue. "We told them we didn't have a policy in place (last year), but (the selectmen) have done that this year. These are people who pay their taxes in live on a stretch of road where they pay separately for plowing and sanding and maintenance."*

*David Wright said that last year the town didn't vote for approval because of no policy in place. Wright added that he will support the measure this year. Resident Karen Stultz echoed Russell's concerns, saying that the town can't afford to fix the roads it already has. Selectman Sue McKeen explained the roads policy.*

*Greg Farris told residents that the road was built to state specifications almost 20 years ago. He said that there are no kids in the school system that live on the road. "If we continue to say we won't accept a road that is built to specs then we won't get any new development in town."*

*Murray Howard, a resident of Moosehead Lane, said that the town should take on the road if it meets the criteria. A motion to move the question by Michael Shaw was seconded and the article to accept Moosehead Lane as a Town road was approved by a majority vote.*

#### Article 17

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

14/15 budget \$47,270.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$50,600.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$50,600 for general government.*

#### Article 18

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

14/15 budget \$21,250.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$21,335.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$21,335 for Town Office operations..*

#### Article 19

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

14/15 budget \$500.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$900.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$900 for Townhouse heating and fuel maintenance.*

#### Article 20

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for municipal fire and rescue services operating budget for the ensuing year.

14/15 budget \$92,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$91,000.

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$91,000 for municipal fire and rescue services.*

#### Article 21

To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to dispose one 1980 FMC 1500 gallon tanker fire truck with a 250 gpm PTO pump under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to authorize Selectmen to dispose of the fire truck.*

Article 22

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

14/15 budget \$5,000.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$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 general assistance.*

Article 23

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for miscellaneous expenses for the ensuing year as indicated below:

*To be voted on as a group after individual discussion and or amendment as needed.*

	14-15 Budget	Selectmen recommendation (vote)	Budget Comm. recommendation (vote)
Cemeteries	\$3,200	\$3,500 (5-0)	\$3,500 (7-0)
Soldiers Graves	\$500	\$500 (5-0)	\$500 (7-0)
Solid Waste (Hatch Hill)	\$34,300	\$34,500 (5-0)	\$34,500 (7-0)
Recycling Program	\$2,500	\$2,500 (5-0)	\$2,500 (7-0)
Recycling Building	\$1,000	\$1,000 (5-0)	\$1,000 (7-0)
Legal Services	\$0	\$5,000 (5-0)	\$5,000 (7-0)
Maine Municipal Association Dues	\$2,750	\$2,870 (5-0)	\$2,870 (7-0)
Animal Shelter Service	\$2,300	\$2,300 (5-0)	\$2,300 (7-0)
Planning Board	\$2,000	\$2,000 (5-0)	\$2,000 (7-0)
Tax Map Updates	\$500	\$1,000 (5-0)	\$1,000 (7-0)
TOTAL	\$49,050	\$55,170	\$55,170

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$55,170 for the above miscellaneous expenses.*

Article 24

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

14/15 budget \$1,000; 15/16 request \$0

Selectmen recommend (5-0) \$0.

Budget Committee 7-0) recommends same.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$0 for Whitefield Day.*

Article 25

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for construction of a town parking area.

14/15 budget \$0

Selectmen recommend (4-1) to raise \$9,500 and to appropriate the remaining balance of the Green Property account (approximately \$1,025).

Budget Committee (7-0) recommends same.

*A motion to amend to article to \$0 by Sandra Brown was seconded. After discussion, the amendment failed by majority vote. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to raise and appropriate \$9,500 and to appropriate the remaining balance of the Green Property account to construct a town parking area.*

#### Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 7(C)(4) of the Development Ordinance of the Town of Whitefield to read as follows.

“The application fee shall be commensurate with the size and complexity of the proposed development. Annually, the Whitefield Select Board will establish and make known the development fees for:

- a. per 5-acre, or part thereof, land
- b. per single family lot in a subdivision
- c. per dwelling unit in multifamily dwellings
- d. per 1,000 square feet floor space in commercial, industrial or institutional buildings.”

*A motion was made, seconded and carried to amend the Development Ordinance as described above.*

#### Article 27

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 by a majority vote to authorize selectmen to move funds in the municipal budget from categories with balances to those with deficits.*

#### Article 28

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 by a majority vote 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 29

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the balances of the Townhouse and Coopers Mills Dam accounts on June 30, 2015 to the fiscal year 2016.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to carry forward the balances of the Townhouse and Coopers Mills Dam accounts on June 30, 2015 to the fiscal year 2016.*

#### Article 30

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 (LRAP)	\$46,444
Unassigned surplus	\$110,000

*A motion was made, seconded and carried by a majority vote to appropriate funds written above to be applied toward the 2015 property tax commitment in order to reduce taxes.*

Article 31

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 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.*

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.

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

The preceding is a true and accurate account of the actions taken by the Town of Whitefield at the Annual Town Meeting, March 21, 2015

Aaron C. Miller  
Town Clerk