

Whitefield, Maine
Annual Town Meeting
April 24, 2007

The Whitefield Town Meeting was held at the Whitefield Townhouse April 24, 2007, to vote on Articles for the July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, 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.

Sandra Brown was elected moderator.

Mrs. Dixon administered the oath of office before the assembled voters. Ms. Brown then declared the polls open. Polls were open until 5:00 p.m. Following are the results of the secret ballot election:

Article 2. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year: 274 votes were cast with 17 write-in votes for various candidates.

Office	Candidate	Vote
Selectman (3-year term)	Mathews, Bruce M.	39
Selectman (3-year term)	Miller, Kurt E.	108*
Selectman (3-year term)	Newell, Jeffrey J.	46
Selectman (3-year term)	Rideout, Jr., Jerry T.	66
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	Boynton, David A.	234*
School Committee (3-year term)	Cifrino, Carole A.	205*
School Committee (3-year term)	Sheaffer, Jr., Lester E.	187*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Bills, Robert J.	206*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Roper, David T.	206*
Planning Board (2-year term)	Smith, Stephen C.	187*

Article 3. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$132,436.00 for Town Officers salaries for the ensuing year.

Yes 222 No 48

Article 4. Shall the Town vote to 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.

Yes 241 No 29

Article 5. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$13,637.00 for insurance for the ensuing year.

Yes 241 No 28

Article 6. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,399.00 for joining the Maine Municipal Association for the ensuing year.

Yes 234 No 34

Article 7. Shall the Town vote to fix the wages of people, trucks, and other equipment of the highways for the ensuing year at State wage rates.

Yes 244 No 26

Article 8. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000.00 for a capital reserve fund and needed expenses for the adjoining land and buildings adjacent to the Town Office known as the Greene property.

Yes 202 No 69

Article 9. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000.00 for cutting brush, grading, surfacing, paving, and repairing Town roads for the ensuing year.
Selectmen (3-0) and Budget Committee (5-0) recommend to appropriate from excise taxes \$68,624.00, to appropriate from the State Block Grant \$59,376.00 and to raise from taxes \$22,000.00. Total of \$150,000.00

Yes 242 No 16

Article 10. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$230,000.00 from excise taxes for salt shed maintenance, snowplowing and sanding roads for the ensuing year.

Yes 242 No 19

Article 11. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$46,921.00 for General Government for the ensuing year.

Yes 217 No 50

Article 12. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for legal fees for the ensuing year.

Yes 238 No 30

Article 13. To see if the voters of the Town of Whitefield will authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey the Coopers Mills Dam on such terms and conditions as the Selectmen determine to be in the best interest of the Town provided that the Town keeps a right to access the water in the river with a dry hydrant for fire-fighting purposes.

Yes 101 No 165

Article 14. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$17,730.00 for Town Office operations for the ensuing year.

Yes 238 No 27

Article 15. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000.00 for Townhouse repair and maintenance and to carry forward the balance at June 30, 2007, to the 2008 fiscal year.

Yes 249 No 19

Article 16. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$95,487.00, with \$45,000.00 to be divided equally among the three volunteer fire departments in Kings Mills, North Whitefield and Coopers Mills, \$12,000.00 to Whitefield First Responders, and the remainder for purchase and replacement of Fire Fighting Equipment, Physicals, Hepatitis B vaccine, Fire Education, Civil Defense, Forest Fires, Fire Truck payment for the ensuing year.

Yes 242 No 28

Article 17. Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate \$4,500.00 to hire an independent Fire Protection Specialist to conduct a comprehensive study of the fire protection delivery system in the Town of Whitefield. Selectmen (3-0) and Budget Committee (5-0) recommend this article

Yes 172 No 96

Article 18. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 for the General Assistance Program for the ensuing year.

Yes 234 No 32

Article 19. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000.00 for the Bicentennial in the year 2009.

Yes 218 No 52

Article 20. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer up to 10% of any line item account to another.

Yes 204 No 64

Article 21. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$300,000.00 from surplus to reduce the amount of money needed to be raised in taxes.

Yes 255 No 14

Article 22. Shall the Town vote to fix the dates of November 30, 2007 and April 30, 2008 when the taxes shall be due and payable, and to fix a rate of 12 percent interest to be charged on unpaid taxes after said date.

Yes 244 No 24

Article 23. Shall the Town 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.

Yes 236 No 31

Article 24. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$38,095.00 for solid waste and the recycling program for the ensuing year.

Yes 245 No 24

Article 25. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$7,000.00 for tax maps/tax cards for the ensuing year.

Yes 211 No 55

Article 26. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for Town records restoration for the ensuing year.

Yes 230 No 39

Article 27. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$3,815.00 for street lights for the ensuing year.

Yes 184 No 84

Article 28. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for the Planning Board for the ensuing year.

Yes 224 No 43

Article 29. Shall the Town 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.

Yes 231 No 24

Article 30. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,150.00 for the Humane Society for the ensuing year.

Yes 225 No 31

Article 31. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$4,000.00 from the Cemetery Trust Funds for the decoration of soldiers' graves and the Whitefield Cemetery Corporation for the ensuing year.

Yes 227 No 29

Article 32. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,393.00 for the below listed organizations for the ensuing year.

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

Yes 209 No 46

Article 33. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend up to 75% of the amounts set forth in articles listed above in the event any said articles are disapproved by the voters pending final approval of an alternate amount by the voters at a subsequent Town Meeting.

Yes 173 No 78

Article 34. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to expend \$971,026.00 for Elementary Programs.

Yes 218 No 35

Article 35. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to expend \$1,182,181.00 for Secondary Programs.

Yes 209 No 44

Article 36. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to expend \$764,787.00 for Special Education Programs.

Yes 191 No 62

Article 37. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to expend \$119,639.00 for the Food Service Program.

Yes 209 No 40

Article 38. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to expend \$828,588.00 for Undistributed Expenditures including the following: Gifted & Talented – Elementary, Other Public Instruction, Health Services, Improvement of Instruction, Instruction/Curriculum Development, Instructional Staff Training, Academic Student Assessment, Library, Technology, School Committee, Office of the Superintendent, Office of the Principal, Fiscal Services, Operations of Building, Care/Upkeep of Grounds, Capital Enhancement/Improvement, Student Transportation, Debt Service, and Co-Curricular/Extra Curricular.

Yes 199 No 46

Article 39. Shall the Town of Whitefield appropriate \$3,449,618.25 for the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and shall the municipality raise and assess \$1,022,440.00 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, provided that any amounts raised and appropriated under Article 40 may be considered to have been raised and appropriated under this article to the extent necessary to conform the amounts raised and appropriated under this article to the State's Essential Programs and Services Model for the Town of Whitefield for FY 2008.

Explanation: The Town of Whitefield'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.

Yes 206 No 43

Article 40. Additional Local Funds Shall the Town of Whitefield raise and appropriate the sum of \$416,602.75, in additional local funds under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, M.R.S.A. section 15690, which may exceed the State's Essential Programs and Services Funding model by as much as \$416,602.75. (An amount which could not be calculated by the Whitefield School Department because the necessary information regarding the State's school subsidy calculation for the Town of Whitefield was not available at the time this warrant was issued.)

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total 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. Since the State Department of Education has not yet calculated the Town's total operating allocation under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, the figures contained in this question are based on estimates only.

Specific listing of Local Additional Expenditures:

Regular Elementary	\$ 22,267.00
Regular Secondary	\$174,063.69
School Lunch	\$ 32,936.00
Special Education	\$167,890.56
Vocational Assessment	\$ 6,628.50
Student Transportation	\$ 12,817.00

Yes 191 No 53

Article 41. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to expend \$3,866,221.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 from the Town'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.

Yes 216 No 48

Article 42. Shall the Town of Whitefield appropriate \$18,271.75 for Adult Education and shall the Town raise \$11,038.02 as the local share with authorization to expend said appropriated sums and any additional incidental, or miscellaneous receipts and grants.

Yes 159 No 108

Article 43. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to transfer up to four percent (4%) of any line item account to another.

Yes 204 No 61

Article 44. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to accept and expend any additional miscellaneous funds, receipts, and grants in support of the school.

Yes 226 No 39

Article 45. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to accept and expend any additional subsidy received from the State provided those funds are applied to reduce Additional Local funds raised under Article 40 above.

Yes 237 No 28

Article 46. Shall the Town of Whitefield authorize the School Committee to expend up to 75% of the amounts set forth in Articles 34 through 39 and Articles 41 and 42 in the event any said articles are disapproved by the voters pending final approval of an alternate amount by the voters at a subsequent town meeting.

Yes 203 No 64

Note: This budget does not include the estimated amount of \$220,819.99 in employer share of teacher retirement cost that is paid directly by the State.

Article 47. Shall the Town of Whitefield, beginning in the year 2007, vote to reinstate the open Town Meeting format, such meeting to be held the third Saturday in March.

Yes 208 No 61

The preceding is a true and accurate account of the actions by the Town of Whitefield at the Annual Town Meeting April 24, 2007.

Attest: _____
Gwyn Benson Dixon
Town Clerk