



# Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Yolanda Violette, Town Clerk, opened at 3:45 pm, proceeded by reading the greeting.

## GREETINGS,

*In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the residents of the Town of Whitefield, Maine in Lincoln County, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to assemble at the **Whitefield Central Fire Station**, located at 24 Townhouse Road in said Town of Whitefield on Friday the **Seventeenth day of March, 2023, at 3:45 PM**, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2, the polling hours therefore to be from **4:00 PM in the afternoon until 8:00 PM in the evening**:*

*Pursuant to Title 21-A, Section 759(7), absentee ballots will be processed at the polls at the following times of 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM.*

*And to notify and warn said voters to assemble for the business meeting at the **Whitefield Elementary School** located at 164 Grand Army Road in said Town of Whitefield on Saturday the **Eighteenth day of March 2023 at 10:00 AM**, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 47 as set out below, to wit:*

The Registrar was in session during Town Meeting to register anyone eligible to vote in Town matters.

**Article 1:** To elect a **Moderator** by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

James Isgro was nominated to serve as Moderator, with no other nominations, it was moved and seconded

With No discussion,

Then went to vote by paper ballot by voters that were present. 7-0 voted for James Isgro

**\*Article 1: The Town voted to elect James Isgro as Moderator to preside at said meeting.**

The town clerk, Yolanda Violette, administered the Oath of office to the moderator, Mr. James Isgro. Mr. Isgro then deputized Tina Laskey to oversee the election of Municipal Officials, Article 2 during the polling hours of 4 pm – 8 pm. The Oath was taken by Tina Laskey as Deputy Moderator. Yolanda also administered Oaths to the Election Clerks Laurel Mullens and Janet Ober. Yolanda Violette then declared the Polls OPEN at 4:00 pm for Article #2.

Moderator, James Isgro read Article 2...

**Article 2:** To elect by secret ballot municipal officials namely, two Select Board Members/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor; two Planning Board Members one RSU 12 School Board Member all for three-year terms.

Select Board – 3 year terms:

Leard, Joshua T – 59 & \_Torbert, James R – 74

Planning Board – 3 year term:

Morgan, Mary – 28 & Cifrino, Carole – 3

RSU #12 School Board – 3 year term:

Morrow, Gretchen L – 72

Deputy Moderator, Tina Laskey, closed the polls at 8:00 pm, she then resigned as Deputy Moderator. Results will be read at the beginning at the business part of the Town Meeting on Saturday at 10 am.

**Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Yolanda opened the Town Meeting at 10:03 am, she welcomed all those present for the business part of the annual town meeting. Then handed the floor over to Lester.

Lester Sheaffer, Chair of Select Board took a moment to Thank Charlene Donahue and William “Bill” McKeen for their service to the Town of Whitefield over the years as Select Board members. This is their last official meeting as they both have decided to not run for another term, they have both served for 2 terms (6 years). THANK YOU BOTH!

He then went on to a Galen Hisler, Jr. Remembrance he read....

We would like to take a moment now to remember and reflect on the life of Galen Hisler, Jr. who died February 22, 2023 at the age of 30. Galen was a volunteer fire fighter for both Whitefield and Somerville, he drove a plow truck plowing Whitefield roads and served in the Army. Galen believed in giving to his community and his country.

Let us now bow our heads in remembrance of what Galen gave to all of us in the time he had on this earth.

The floor was then handed over to Keith,

Keith Sanborn, member of the Select Board took a moment to thank David Boynton for his service to the Town of Whitefield as a Road Commissioner for more then 2 decades.

Keith then introduced the new appointed Road Commissioner, Dylan Peaslee.

The floor was then handed over to Charlene,

Charlene Donahue, Vice Chair of Select Board, announced the Spirit of America 2023 and read the write up in the annual report. Lester then presented the award to the chosen winner, Michael McMorrow.

Congratulations Mike!

Floor back to Yolanda to open the business part of the annual town meeting.

*GREETINGS Everyone and Good Morning,*

*Welcome to the Town of Whitefield Annual Town Meeting this Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023 at 10 am. We gathered yesterday, Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023 at the Whitefield Central Fire Station at 3:45 to act on*

*Article 1 To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside the said meeting*

*There was a motion and second, it went to vote by paper ballot by those present at the time. It was unanimous, James Isgro was elected as our moderator.*

*He then Deputized Tina Laskey to moderate over the Polls.*

*The polls then opened at 4 pm till 8 pm to act upon Article 2.*

*Tina closed the polls and resigned as deputy moderator.*

**The results of the Article #2, Election by secret ballot of the Municipal Officials are as follows....**

**Select Board – 3 year terms:**

**Leard, Joshua T – 59**

**Torbert, James R – 74**

**Planning Board – 3 year term:**

**Morgan, Mary – 28 & Cifrino, Carole – 3**

**RSU #12 School Board – 3 year term:**

**Morrow, Gretchen L – 72**

Yolanda explained that the Planning Board seats were write ins and she had not yet confirmed with either of the two candidates with the most votes as to whether they were willing to accept the positions. Yolanda thanked everyone for coming out to vote at the polls and absentee! 82 Voters total.

*We are here today to act upon Article 3 thru Article 47 as set out below in the annual warrant.*

*I will now hand it over to James Isgro, the moderator to preside over said meeting. Thank you!*

Before the first order of business, Mr. Isgro asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator then asked for a vote by the voters to allow Town Clerk Yolanda Violette and Fire Chief Jesse Barton, as non-residents, permission to speak if needed throughout the meeting.

There was motion to allow and was seconded. Went to vote, motion passed with more then 2/3 voters.

James presented that we would be following the 2021 7<sup>th</sup> edition Moderators Manual. Voters made a motion and a second and voted to accept. Then proceeded on to Article #3.

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to allow the **unexpended balance for FY 22-23 Maintenance and Repairs of Town Roads** to be carried over into the FY 23-24.

**Note:** This will allow road work approved in the current FY 22-23 to be completed in the upcoming FY 23-24.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 3:** The Town voted to allow the **unexpended balance for FY 22-23 Maintenance and Repairs of Town Roads** to be carried over into the FY 23-24.

**Note:** This will allow road work approved in the current FY 22-23 to be completed in the upcoming FY 23-24.

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**Article 4:** 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 or Treasurer to accept the prepayment of taxes** not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A §506, amount not to exceed previous year’s taxes. Interest on any prepayments will be zero percent.

22/23 budget year interest rate 4%.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF: Taxes due **Tuesday, November 28, 2023** and **Friday, April 26, 2024** and a **5%** interest rate for unpaid taxes.

The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 4:** The **Town voted to the fixed dates of Tuesday November 28, 2023 and Friday April 26, 2024 when taxes shall be due and payable**, and The **Town voted on the fixed annual interest rate of 5%** to be charged on unpaid taxes after said dates, and to allow the **Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept the prepayment of taxes** not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A §506, amount not to exceed previous year's taxes. Interest on any prepayments will be zero percent.

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**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from surplus funds to **pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 5:** The Town voted to appropriate from surplus funds to **pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.**

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**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Town Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a "tax club" payment** plan for property taxes, whereby:

- the taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the Town based on his or her estimated and actual tax obligation for the current year property taxes;
  - the Town agrees not to charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement;
  - the Town authorizes the Town Tax Collector to accept tax club payments for current taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes;
  - the agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due dates and interest dates and rates as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club;
  - only taxpayers who do not have any outstanding tax obligations for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club program;
  - taxpayers wishing to participate in a tax club for a particular property tax year shall enter into an agreement with the town by a publicly advertised deadline determined by the Town Tax Collector.
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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With a couple questions, How does it work? Can we set up auto pay? Yolanda responded and explained how the program works, paying in 12 monthly payments with no interest, first three months are based on previous years tax amount then once commitment happens in September we recalculate with the new amount divided by nine months. To come see her if they were interested in auto pay.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 6:** The Town voted to authorize the **Town Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a “tax club” payment** plan for property taxes as stated above.

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**Article 7:** To see if the town will authorize the **Treasurer, after Select Board Approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure of a tax lien** at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §944 on real estate that may be contrary to the Town’s best interest.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With a question, What does this mean for the town? Lester responded that this allows the town to stop the foreclosure process on a place that would not be in the towns best interest to take possession of on the foreclosure date.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 7:** The town voted to authorize the **Treasurer, after Select Board Approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure of a tax lien** at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §944 on real estate that may be contrary to the Town’s best interest.

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**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts** to negotiate optimal value for the procurement of certain necessary services to the Town.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 8:** The Town voted to authorize the **Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts** to negotiate optimal value for the procurement of certain necessary services to the Town.

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**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Select Board 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 deeds for the same; with the exception that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by law, Title 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for a qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 9:** The Town voted to authorize the **Select Board 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 deeds for the same; with the exception that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by law, Title 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for a qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

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**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Select Board to accept gifts of money or personal property to the Town** and to appropriate and expend such gifts for such public purposes as the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 10:** The Town voted to authorize the **Select Board to accept gifts of money or personal property to the Town** and to appropriate and expend such gifts for such public purposes as the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town.

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**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Select Board to apply for and accept state and federal grants and grants from nonprofit organizations** on behalf of the Town for municipal purposes including, when necessary, the authority to sign the grant contract and accept the conditions that accompany grant funds, and to appropriate and expend grant funds for the authorized purposes.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 11:** The Town voted to authorize the **Select Board to apply for and accept state and federal grants and grants from nonprofit organizations** on behalf of the Town for municipal purposes including, when necessary, the authority to sign the grant contract and accept the conditions that accompany grant funds, and to appropriate and expend grant funds for the authorized purposes.

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**Article 12:** To see if the Town will authorize the **Select Board to dispose of Town owned property valued up to \$1,000**. Property valued over \$1,000 will be sold through auction or sealed-bid process.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 12:** The Town voted to authorize the **Select Board to dispose of Town owned property valued up to \$1,000**. Property valued over \$1,000 will be sold through auction or sealed-bid process.

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**Article 13:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to provide **Compensation to the Select Board** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$18,500

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$19,055 (3-0-2)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$19,055 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 13:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$19,055** to provide **Compensation to the Select Board** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 14:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the purpose of providing **Compensation and Employee benefits for Town Employees** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$218,714

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$238,112 (4-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$238,112 (6-0)

**Note:** This includes Admin Salaries, Insurances, Social Security for all departments (including part time employees), Income Protection, Retirement, Accrued Wage Expense, Travel, and Training.

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 14:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$238,112** for the purpose of providing **Compensation and Employee benefits for Town Employees** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 15:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for general expenses associated with the **Operation of Town Government** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$114,032

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$121,664 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$121,664 (6-0)

**Note:** Includes MMA dues, registry, advertising, office supplies, postage, telephone, utilities, heat, property insurance, workers compensation insurance, legal services, audit fees, assessing fees, computer software (TRIO), maintenance, tax bills, town reports, website, other contracted services, office equipment, land taxes, preservation of records, etc.

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 15:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$121,664** for general expenses associated with the **Operation of Town Government** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 16:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Elections** expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$3,900

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$3,525 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$3,525 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With 1 question, Why the decrease, nothing ever decreases? Yolanda responded with she felt the predicted amount was too high so it was decreased.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 16:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$3,525** for **Elections** expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 17:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Planning Board** expenses and **Code Enforcement Officer** expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$14,556

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$15,714 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$15,714 (6-0)



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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,  
With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 17:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$15,714** for **Planning Board** expenses and **Code Enforcement Officer** expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 18:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Facilities Maintenance** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$35,851

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$41,201 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$41,201 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With little discussion, Why the increase? Charlene responded, everything is increasing and we are also installing a water filtration system at the Central Fire Station due to the PFAS in the water and this will remove it.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 18:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$41,201** for **Facilities Maintenance** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 19:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Operation of the Whitefield Fire Department** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$114,887

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$198,633 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$198,633 (6-0)

**Note:** This includes new accounts for Delta Ambulance Services and the EMS part-time employee along with the Annual Emergency Management Operations \$500 (Year #6) that is part of Article #31 non-lapsing approval.

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With little discussion, Why the \$80k increase? Jesse B Fire Chief responded, we have added Delta Ambulance service this year as they are requesting funding from municipalities for the first time. Also we are adding in the EMT part time into our budget this year, it is currently funded with ARPA funds till 6.30.2023.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 19:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$198,633** for the **Operation of the Whitefield Fire Department** during the ensuing fiscal year.

**Article 20:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Animal Control Contract** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$8,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$9,000 (3-1)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$9,000 (4-2)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 20:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$9,000** for the **Animal Control Contract** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 21:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Maintenance and Repairs of Town Roads** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$467,034

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$460,118 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$460,118 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With a couple of questions, Why did it go down? Keith responded with the increasing costs of paving, we previously would pave 3 miles of roads, this year we decreased it to 2 ½ miles to help keep costs down. A question about Route 218 needing work? That is a State Road, The Town of Whitefield does not maintain that road, but it is on the ME DOT's list in the near future.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 21:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$460,118** for **Maintenance and Repairs of Town Roads** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 22:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Winter Maintenance of Town Roads** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$433,600

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$438,600 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$438,600 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With a couple questions, Will this increase make the roads better and will they plow before the storm ends? Keith responded, not sure what you mean about making the roads better. The contractor begins plowing when an 1 1/2 " of snow has accumulated.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 22:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$438,600** for **Winter Maintenance of Town Roads** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 23:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **General Assistance Program** during the ensuing fiscal year.

22/23 Budget was \$1,500

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$2,500 (4-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$2,500 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With some discussion, Wanting to increase to help more of those in need in Whitefield. Yolanda responded, the State has guidelines for us to follow, the applicants must qualify in order to receive assistance. If they do not qualify under the regular GA, we do have a heating assistance fund which is funded by donations from Whitefield residents, that we can pull from.

Motion was made to amend to \$4,000 and seconded.

Went to vote on the amendment by show of hands, majority opposed, Motion to **increase Failed**.

Then went back to the original motion, \$2,500,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 23:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$2,500** for the **General Assistance Program** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 24:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Soldiers' Graves and Whitefield Cemetery** during the ensuing fiscal year.

22/23 Budget was \$4,700

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$5,700 (4-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$5,700 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 24:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$5,700** for **Soldiers' Graves and Whitefield Cemetery** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 25:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in support of the following outside services: **Lincoln County Humane Society, \$4,000; Hatch Hill, \$23,000** during the ensuing fiscal year.

22/23 Budget was \$26,800

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$27,000 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$27,000 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With a question, Why is this different than the previous ACO Article? Lester responded, this is just the contract with the Humane Society for the ACO to bring the animals to. Article 20 is just for the Animal Control Officer budget.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 25:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$27,000** in support of the following outside services: **Lincoln County Humane Society, \$4,000; Hatch Hill, \$23,000** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 26:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Salaries and Utilities for the Recycling Center** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$4,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$4,383 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$4,383 (6-0)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With a question, Why did they take away the 3<sup>rd</sup> container? Lester responded, they combined the mixed paper and newspapers.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 26:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$4,383** for **Salaries, Utilities and Maintenance for the Recycling Center** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 27:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Fire Department Capital Outlay** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$9,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$9,000 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$9,000 (6-0)

**Note:** This is the 6<sup>th</sup> Year

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With no discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 27:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$9,000** for the **Fire Department Capital Outlay** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 28:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a **Tax Assessment Re-Evaluation** during the ensuing fiscal year.

22/23 Budget was \$50,700

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$33,800 (4-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$33,800 (6-0)

**Note:** This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of a 2 Year appropriation

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With no discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 28:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$33,800** for a **Tax Assessment Re-Evaluation** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 29:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Replacement of Joy's Pond Culvert on South Hunts Meadow Road** during the ensuing fiscal year.

22/23 Budget was \$30,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$150,000 (3-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$150,000 (5-1)

**Note:** This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of a 2 Year appropriation

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The article was moved at a lessor amount, \$87,000 and seconded,

With a question, Why, please explain? Keith responded that we had applied for a grant through DEP in the fall. During the budget season we put a figure of 150k with hopes to receive the grant then we could reduce the amount at town meeting. We just received notice at the beginning of March that we received a \$146,000 grant so we will only need \$87,000 to cover the rest of the bid price of \$233,020.

Went to vote on the motion of \$87,000 by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 29:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$87,000** for the **Replacement of Joy's Pond Culvert on South Hunts Meadow Road** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 30:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Sand/Salt Shed Roof Repairs** during the ensuing fiscal year.

22/23 Budget was \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$30,000 (4-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$30,000 (6-0)

**Note:** This is a 1 Year appropriation

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 30:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$30,000** for the **Sand/Salt Shed Roof Repairs** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 31:** To see if the Town will vote to lapse all balances into undesignated Fund Balance except those which must be carried forward by statute and the balances of the following accounts: **Emergency Management Operations, Fire Department Capital, Maintenance and Repairs for Town Roads, Tax Assessment Re-Evaluation, and Replacement of Joy's Pond Culvert on S Hunts Meadow Road** these accounts will not lapse and to allow the Select Board to expend from them in future years for their designated purposes.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With a question, Please clarify what this means? Lester responded, these accounts do not go into surplus, the balances will go into their own fund that will be spent on those particular expenses in the future.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 31:** The Town voted to lapse all balances into undesignated Fund Balance except those which must be carried forward by statute and the balances of the following accounts: **Emergency Management Operations, Fire Department Capital, Maintenance and Repairs for Town Roads, Tax Assessment Re-Evaluation, and Replacement of Joy's Pond Culvert on S Hunts Meadow Road** these accounts will not lapse and to allow the Select Board to expend from them in future years for their designated purposes.

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**Article 32:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a **Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$600

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$600 (4-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$600 (6-0)

---

The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With a question, What is it? Lester responded, if we needed to borrow money due to our funds getting low, we could apply for a loan till we received revenue from taxes then we would pay it off. This covers the application fees.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 32:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$600** for a **Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)** during the ensuing fiscal year.

---

**Article 33:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to support the **Debt Service incurred for the Fire Department and Fire Truck** during the ensuing fiscal year.

22/23 Budget was \$57,169

Fire Truck Principal	\$17,983
Fire Truck Interest	\$ 4,018
Fire Station Principal	\$18,272
Fire Station Interest	<u>\$16,226</u>
	\$56,499

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$56,499 (4-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$56,499 (6-0)

-----  
The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 33:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$56,499** to support the **Debt Service incurred for the Fire Department and Fire Truck** during the ensuing fiscal year.

-----  
**Article 34:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Donations to the following Organizations** during the ensuing year:

	Previous Budget FY 22/23	Organization <b>Requested FY</b> <b>23-24</b>	Select Board FY 23-24	Budget Comm FY 23-24	Select Board Recomnd	Budget Comm Recomnd
<b>American Red Cross</b>	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	3-1	6-0
<b>Maine General Hospice</b>	\$ 1,137	\$ 1,137	\$ 1,137	\$ 1,137	3-1	6-0
<b>Kenn. Behavioral Health</b>	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	3-1	6-0
<b>New Hope Midcoast</b>	\$ 580	\$ 696	\$ 696	\$ 696	3-1	6-0
<b>Spectrum Generations</b>	\$ 990	\$ 1,089	\$ 1,089	\$ 1,089	3-1	6-0
<b>Young at Heart</b>	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	3-1	6-0
<b>Children Center</b>	\$ 1,128	\$ 1,128	\$ 1,128	\$ 1,128	3-1	6-0
<b>Healthy Kids</b>	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	3-1	6-0
<b>Waldo County Com Act</b>	\$ 173	\$ 3,085	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	3-1-1	6-0
<b>Lifeflight</b>	\$ 0	\$ 602	\$ 0	\$ 0	4-0	5-1
<b>Whitefield Library</b>	<b>See</b>	<b>Below</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b># 35</b>		
Totals	\$6,408	<b>\$10,137</b>	<b>\$7,450</b>	<b>\$7,450</b>		

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$7,450 (see above for Recommendation #'s)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$7,450 (see above for Recommendation #'s)

-----  
The moderator explained we can vote this as a whole or to do a line by line vote for each organization.

There was a motion to vote it as whole and seconded,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, to vote as a whole on the SB recommendation \$7,450

With some discussion, Why is Life Flight constantly denied by the SB & BC? Charles Vaughan, BC member explained very well. Where do these #'s come from? Yolanda responded, the organizations each submit a request form each year. They come up with the figures based on the services provided here in Town.

There was a motion for an amendment to increase to add \$500 for Life Flight, the motion was seconded. Went to vote by show of hands to increase the total amount to \$7,950 (adding \$500 for LF), majority opposed, Motion to **increase Failed**.

Then back to the original motion of \$7,450

The article was moved, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written on the original motion of \$7,450.

**\*Article 34:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$7,450** for **Donations to the above Organizations** during the ensuing year, amounts written in the list as recommended by the Select Board.

---

**Article 35:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Whitefield Library** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$2,000 (previously in above article)

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$15,000 (3-1-1)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$15,000 (4-1-1)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With lots of discussion, Why the increase? Sue McKeen, as President and Shawn Gallagher, Admin Assist of the WL&CC spoke and answered all questions to which people had. This will be an annual amount.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 35:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$15,000** for the **Whitefield Library** during the ensuing fiscal year.

---

**Article 36:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Whitefield Food Bank** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
22/23 Budget was \$3,000 (\$1,500 Taxes + \$1,500 from William Turner Charity Trust)

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$3,000 (4-0)  
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$3,000 (6-0)

**Note:** \$1,500 will come from William Turner Charity (see revenue sources Article # 40)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With a question, Can we put the \$500 that was previously discussed for LF in Article #34 to this request? Keith responded, the pantry received lots of funding through Covid and is still using those funds, so it is not needed at this time.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 36:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$3,000** for the **Whitefield Food Bank** during the ensuing year. (\$1,500 Taxes + \$1,500 from William Turner Charity Trust)

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**Article 37:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds received by the Town from the **State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Snowmobile Club** for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose. These funds are to be used for the maintenance of snowmobile trails within the Town.

---

The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 37:** The Town voted to appropriate all funds received by the Town from the **State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Snowmobile Club** for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose. These funds are to be used for the maintenance of snowmobile trails within the Town.

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**Article 38:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Select Board to move funds in the municipal budget from categories with balances to those with deficits** during the ensuing fiscal year.

---

The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 38:** The Town voted to authorize the **Select Board to move funds in the municipal budget from categories with balances to those with deficits** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**Article 39:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the **Property Tax Levy Limit** established for the Town of Whitefield by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

**Note: To be decided by written ballot**

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Yolanda explained the article did not need a motion or a vote.

The worksheet that is completed each year to calculate the levy limit was completed and we are under the levy limit so a vote to increase the limit is not necessary. We will pass over this article this year.

**\*Article 39: NO VOTE TAKEN – PASSED OVER**

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**Article 40:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the **Select Board to expend funds from the following General Fund revenue sources to be applied toward the 23/24 budget** thereby decreasing the amount to be raised from property taxes.

Auto Excise	\$425,000
Boat Excise	\$ 2,200
Agent Fees	\$ 11,000
Licenses/Certificates	\$ 1,700
Interest on Taxes	\$ 5,500
Lien Cost	\$ 6,000
Veteran	\$ 1,500
Tree Growth	\$ 6,500
Local Roads Assistance Program	\$ 45,000
Cable Franchise Fees	\$ 4,800
Cemetery Mowing Reimbursement	\$ 2,700
Will Turner Charity Fund (Food Pantry)	\$ 1,500
Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>\$300,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$813,400</b>

22/23 Budget was \$635,750

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$813,400

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 40:** The Town voted to appropriate **\$813,400** and authorize the **Select Board to expend funds from the above General Fund revenue sources as listed to be applied toward the 23/24 budget** thereby decreasing the amount to be raised from property taxes.

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**Article 41:** To authorize the **Select Board to accept and expend any other revenue from State, Federal, local or private sources** for the support of the Town during the ensuing fiscal year.

-----  
The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 41:** The Town voted to authorize the **Select Board to accept and expend any other revenue from State, Federal, local or private sources** for the support of the Town during the ensuing fiscal year.

**Article 42:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate **up to \$23,594 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Whitefield Fire Department**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

**Note:** This will be for the purchase of a defibrillator and charger. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

-----  
The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With some discussion, Jesse Barton, Fire Chief explained this particular defibrillator is only to be used by an advanced EMT, the only one being Ben Caron, the two newer ones Steve and Julia Cowles, are only at a Basic EMT and would not be able to provide more assistance for them on a call.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority opposed, Motion **Failed** as written.

**\*Article 42:** The Town voted **NOT** to appropriate **from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Whitefield Fire Department**  
This was for the purchase of a defibrillator and charger.

-----  
**Article 43:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate **up to \$12,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Whitefield Fire Department**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

**Note:** This will be for the material and labor to build a Training Building. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

-----  
The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With some discussion, Jesse Barton, Fire Chief, explained this will be a training building used by Whitefield F&R as well as other mutual aid towns to come train at as well. Will be located in the field behind the parking lot between the Fire Dept and the Town Office.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 43:** The Town voted to appropriate **up to \$12,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Whitefield Fire Department** This will be for the material and labor to build a Training Building. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

**Article 44:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate **up to \$3,500 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Whitefield Historical Society**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

**Note:** This will be for the purchase and installation of track lighting. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

-----  
The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With no discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 44:** The Town voted to appropriate **up to \$3,500 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Whitefield Historical Society** This will be for the purchase and installation of track lighting. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

-----  
**Article 45:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate **\$10,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Whitefield Library**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

**Note:** This will be for the purpose of updating the parking lot and ADA-accessible walkway. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

-----  
The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With no discussion, just a suggestion to keep it local for material as they may help keep cost down by donating, reaching out to Crooker Construction.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 45:** The Town voted to appropriate **\$10,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Whitefield Library** This will be for the purpose of updating the parking lot and ADA-accessible walkway. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

-----  
**Article 46:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate **\$10,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **King Mills Union Hall**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

**Note:** This will be for a handicap-accessible bathroom. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,

With no discussion,

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 46:** The Town voted to appropriate **\$10,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or “ARPA” funds)** received by the Town from the federal government for the following: **Kings Mills Union Hall**

This will be for a handicap-accessible bathroom. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.23 or FYE 6.30.24.

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**Article 47:** Shall an ordinance entitled “**Building and Development Ordinance** of the Town of Whitefield, Maine (as amended March 2023)” be enacted?

**Note:** Amendments to Article # 4, # 7, # 8, # 11 # 16 & # 17 Definitions

Attested copies of the “Building and Development Ordinance of the Town of Whitefield, as amended March 2023” are available from the municipal clerk.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With some discussion, Why short term rentals? Glenn Angell, PB member responded to all the voters questions.

The question has been called with a motion and seconded. Went to vote to call the question, majority in favor, motion passed.

Went to vote by show of hands on the original motion, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 47:** The Town of Whitefield voted to **Approve** the **Building and Development Ordinance of the Town of Whitefield**, as amended March 2023.  
**The Approved Building and Development Ordinance (as amended) is posted on the town website [https://townofwhitefield.com/policies\\_ordinances/](https://townofwhitefield.com/policies_ordinances/)**

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Moderator called for a motion that this meeting be adjourned sine die, was seconded.

Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes. Meeting adjourned 12:10 pm

After meeting was adjourned, Yolanda spoke with Mary Morgan and she accepted the Planning Board seat and was sworn in. Carole Cifrino declined the Planning Board seat.

95 Registered Voters attended.

Attested: SS - Town Clerk Signature on file at Town Office in Clerks Records

Whitefield Town Clerk, Yolanda Violette