



Annual Warrant ~~ Town of Whitefield
FY 2024-2025

To: Laurel Mullens, Resident of the Town of Whitefield, County of Lincoln, State of Maine.

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 **Fifteenth day of March, 2024, at 2:45 PM**, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2, the polling hours therefore to be from **3:00 PM in the afternoon until 7:00 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 5:00 PM and 7:00 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 **Sixteenth day of March 2024 at 10:00 AM**, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 44 as set out below, to wit:*

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

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

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 or Treasurer to accept the prepayment of taxes** not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §506, amount not to exceed previous year's taxes. Interest on any prepayments will be zero percent.
23/24 budget year interest rate 5%.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF: Taxes due Friday, November 29, 2024 and Tuesday, April 29, 2025 and a 5% interest rate for unpaid taxes.

Article 4: 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

Article 5: 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.

Article 6: 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.

Article 7: 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.

Article 8: 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).

Article 9: 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.

Article 10: 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.

Article 11: 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.

Article 12: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to provide **Compensation to the Select Board** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$19,055

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$19,055 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: \$19,626 (5-0)

Note: BC voted for a 3% increase

Article 13: 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.
23/24 Budget was \$238,112

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$244,172 (4-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$244,172 (5-0)

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

Article 14: 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.
23/24 Budget was \$121,664

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$130,710 (4-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$130,710 (5-0)

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.

Article 15: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Elections** expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$3,525

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$4,125 (4-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$4,125 (5-0)

Article 16: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Planning Board** expenses and **Code Enforcement Officer (CEO)** expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$15,714

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$15,718 (4-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$15,718 (5-0)

Note: Planning Board, \$5,686; Code Enforcement Officer, \$10,032

Article 17: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Facilities Maintenance** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$41,201

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$56,251 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$56,251 (5-0)

Article 18: 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.
23/24 Budget was \$198,633

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$196,545 (4-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$196,545 (5-0)

Note: This includes the Annual Emergency Management Operations \$500 (Year #7) that is part of Article #28 non-lapsing approval.

Article 19: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Animal Control Contract** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$9,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$9,000 (4-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$9,000 (5-0)

Article 20: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Maintenance and Repairs of Town Roads** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$460,118

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$516,570 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: \$591,570 (5-0)

Note: BC recommends an additional \$75,000 for gravel reconstruction.

Article 21: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Winter Maintenance of Town Roads** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$438,600

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$465,700 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$465,700 (5-0)

Article 22: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **General Assistance Program** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$2,500

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$2,000 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$2,000 (5-0)

Article 23: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Soldiers' Graves and Whitefield Cemetery** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$5,700

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$7,700 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$7,700 (5-0)

Article 24: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in support of the following outside services: **Midcoast Humane & Hatch Hill** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$27,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$27,000 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$27,000 (5-0)

Note: Midcoast Humane, \$4,000; Hatch Hill, \$23,000

Article 25: 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.
23/24 Budget was \$4,383

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$4,869 (4-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$4,869 (5-0)

Article 26: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Fire Department Capital Outlay** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$9,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$9,000 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$9,000 (5-0)

Note: This is the 7th Year

Article 27: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a **Solar Panels on Sand Shed** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$33,800 (4-1)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$33,800 (4-1)

Note: This is a 1 Year appropriation

Article 28: 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 and Maintenance and Repairs for Town Roads** these accounts will not lapse and to allow the Select Board to expend from them in future years for their designated purposes.

Article 29: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a **Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)** during the ensuing fiscal year.
23/24 Budget was \$600

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$600 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$600 (5-0)

Article 30: 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.
23/24 Budget was \$56,499

Fire Truck Principal	\$18,403
Fire Truck Interest	\$ 3,544
Fire Station Principal	\$18,272
Fire Station Interest	<u>\$15,478</u>
	\$55,697

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$55,697 (5-0)
 BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$55,697 (5-0)

Article 31: 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 23/24	Organization Requested FY 24-25	Select Board FY 24-25	Budget Comm FY 24-25	Select Board Recomnd	Budget Comm Recomnd
American Red Cross	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 0	\$ 250	5-0	5-0
Midcoast ME Com Act	\$ 0	\$1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	4-1	5-0
Maine General Hospice	\$ 1,137	\$ 1,137	\$ 1,137	\$ 1,137	4-1	5-0
Kenn. Behavioral Health	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	3-2	5-0
New Hope Midcoast	\$ 696	\$ 696	\$ 580	\$ 580	4-1	5-0
Spectrum Generations	\$ 1,089	\$ 1,144	\$ 1,144	\$ 1,144	4-1	5-0
Young at Heart	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 175	\$ 175	3-2	5-0
Children Center	\$ 1,128	\$ 1,128	\$ 1,128	\$ 1,128	3-2	5-0
Healthy Kids	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	4-1	5-0
Waldo County Com Act	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,319	\$ 500	\$ 500	4-1	3-2
Lifeflight	\$ 0	\$ 602	\$ 0	\$ 0	5-0	5-0
Totals	\$7,450	\$12,426	\$7,664	\$7,914		

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$7,664 (see above for Recommendation #'s)
 BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: \$7,914 (see above for Recommendation #'s)

Article 32: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Whitefield Library** during the ensuing fiscal year.
 23/24 Budget was \$15,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$20,000 (2-1-2)
 BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: \$15,000 (3-1-1)

Article 33: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Whitefield Food Bank** during the ensuing fiscal year.
 23/24 Budget was \$3,000 (\$1,500 Taxes + \$1,500 from William Turner Charity Trust)

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$3,000 (5-0)
 BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$3,000 (5-0)

Note: \$1,500 will come from William Turner Charity (see revenue sources Article # 37)

Article 34: 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.

Article 35: 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.

Article 36: 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

Article 37: 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 24/25 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	\$ 1,750
Interest on Taxes	\$ 4,500
Lien Cost	\$ 3,000
Veteran	\$ 2,000
Tree Growth	\$ 9,000
Local Roads Assistance Program	\$ 55,000
Cable Franchise Fees	\$ 4,900
Cemetery Mowing Reimbursement	\$ 2,040
Will Turner Charity Fund (Food Pantry)	\$ 1,500
Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>\$250,000</u>
Total	\$771,890

23/24 Budget was \$813,400

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$771,890

Article 38: 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 39: Shall the Town vote to appropriate **up to \$2,000 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: **Computer equipment for live streaming board meetings.**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Note: This will be for the town to purchase computer equipment for zoom meeting capabilities. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.24 through FYE 6.30.26.

Article 40: Shall the Town vote to appropriate **up to \$4,000 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: **Online Viewer for Town Parcel Data and other State data:**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Note: This will be for the town to purchase the software to store and view the GIS data created for our tax maps. It will also cover the development of an online viewer that people can use to access the assessing data anytime from home. The online viewer will include the town's parcel data, Wetlands, Flood zones, and E911 Roads. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.24 through FYE 6.30.26.

Article 41: Shall the Town vote to appropriate **up to \$30,000 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: **Expansion at Coopers Mills Fire Station.**

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Note: This will be for the purpose of housing Delta Ambulance at the station. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.24 through FYE 6.30.26.

Article 42: Shall the Town vote to appropriate **up to \$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 Association**

Note: This will be for the continued work on the handicap-accessible bathroom. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.24 through FYE 6.30.26.

Article 43: Shall the Town vote to appropriate up to \$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**

Note: This will be for the purchase of a standby generator. These funds may be expended in FYE 6.30.24 through FYE 6.30.26.

Article 44: Shall an ordinance entitled "**Subdivision Ordinance**" for the Town of Whitefield, Maine (as amended March 2024) be enacted?

Note: The updates and changes presented are to bring the Subdivision Ordinance in compliance with the current State statutes. The last time amendments to this ordinance were approved by town meeting was March 1989.

Attested copies of the "Subdivision Ordinance" for the Town of Whitefield as amended March 2024 are available from the municipal clerk.

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

Given under our hands and seal in the said Town of Whitefield this 27th day of February, 2024



Lester E Sheaffer Jr, Chair



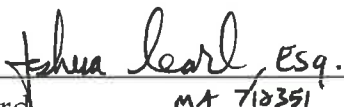
Seth A Bolduc, Vice Chair




Keith D Sanborn



James R Torbert



Joshua T Leard MA 712351

Attested: 

Whitefield Town Clerk, Yolanda Violette