



# Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Whitefield ~~ FY 2024-2025

Friday March 15, 2024

Yolanda Violette, Town Clerk, opened at 2:45 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 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:*

The Registrar was in session during Election and 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. 5-0 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 3 pm – 7 pm. The Oath was taken by Tina Laskey as Deputy Moderator. James Isgro then declared the Polls OPEN at 3:00 pm for Article #2.

Moderator, James Isgro read Article 2...

**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.

**Polls Open 3 pm, Voters in line proceeded to vote.**

Deputy Moderator, Tina Laskey, closed the polls at 7:00 pm.

Ballots were then counted. Upon completion of the counting. Results will be read at the beginning of the business part of the Town Meeting on Saturday at 10 am.

**The Results of Article 2 are as follows...**

**Select Board – 3 year term:**

Write-ins: **Hallowell, Brent – 36** & Complete list of write-ins in Town Clerk files.

**Planning Board – 3 year terms:**

**Grady, Jennifer H – 82** & Write-ins: Daniel Burns – 13 & Complete list of write-ins in Town Clerk files.

RSU #12 School Board – 3 year term: Write-ins: **Talacko, Deborah – 25** & Complete list of write-ins in Town Clerk files.

**Saturday March 16, 2024**

Yolanda opened the Town Meeting at 10:10 am (after some minor technical microphone issues) she welcomed all those present for the business part of the annual town meeting.

*GREETINGS EVERYONE and GOOD MORNING!* 😊

Thank you for coming out this morning to the Whitefield Annual Town Meeting, this Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

We gathered yesterday Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024 at the Whitefield Fire Station at 2:45 pm to act on Article 1, To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside over the said meeting.

There a was a motion and a second for the nomination of James Isgro, it went to vote by paper ballot by those present at the time. It was unanimous, James Isgro was elected as Moderator. The Vote was 5-0

He then Appointed Tina Laskey as Deputy Moderator to oversee Article 2, the election of municipal officials by secret ballot. The Polls opened at 3 pm til 7 pm.

Thank you to all of voters that came to the polls yesterday! I enjoy seeing each and every one of you. The same goes for everyone here today. THANK YOU for coming out today.

The Number of Voters yesterday were 94

**The Results of Article 2 are as follows...**

Select Board – 3 year term:

Write-ins: **Hallowell, Brent – 36** with Complete list of write-ins in Town Clerk files.

Planning Board – 3 year terms:

**Grady, Jennifer H – 82** & Write-ins: Daniel Burns – 13 with Complete list of write-ins in Town Clerk files.

RSU #12 School Board – 3 year term:

Write-ins: **Talacko, Deborah – 25** with Complete list of write-ins in Town Clerk files.

Congratulations to those elected and excepted the positions and Thank you for your desire to serve the Town of Whitefield. I look forward to working with you over the next 3 years.

Alright, with the first part of Annual Warrant behind us we now begin the second part, BUT...

before we begin the business meeting we would like to take a moment for a couple presentations, the Solid Waste Committee, June Lordi. She talked about the new composting project the committee is collaborating with Lincoln County Recycling to encourage more composting. Also about the compost bins the committee is selling. See a SW Committee Member for more information.

Now on to the presentation of the **2024 Spirit of America Award to Julie and Steven Cowles**. The presentation by Lester Sheaffer, he read the write-up in the town report, then presented to Steven Cowles with the Award Certificate.

Thank you, Julie and Steven for your Volunteerism, to the Town and to your fellow community members!!!

One more recognition today before we begin... We would like to **Say Thank you to Lester for your 20 years** of service to the Town of Whitefield. The beginning of your service began back in 2004 on the School Committee for 6 years, then you continued onto the RSU 12 School Board for 3 more years. You then choose to run for a Select Board position in 2010, at the time it changed from 3 members to 5 members, and you have been here every since. That is a total of 20 Years of service. According to the records that makes you one of those peoples to serve the Town of Whitefield the longest. Congratulations! Also I personally want to Thank you, along with the other select board members at the time, for hiring me and giving me the opportunity to serve as the Administrative Assistant here in the Town of Whitefield. It has been a pleasure to work with you and I wish

you the best on your journey towards retirement. Enjoy your every other Tuesday evening doing whatever you like!!

THANK YOU, LESTER!!!

Now that we have acknowledged those let us begin the business meeting, Article 3 thru Article 44.....

I will now hand over the floor to our Moderator, James Isgro to preside over the said meeting...

Thank you

James Isgro....

Mr. Isgro asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then asked to silence all cell phones unless you were a responder.

The Moderator then asked for a vote by the voters to allow Town Clerk Yolanda Violette, as non-resident, permission to speak if needed throughout the meeting.

There was motion to allow and was seconded. Went to vote by show of hands, motion passed with more than 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 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.

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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 3:** The Town voted to the fixed dates of Friday, November 29, 2024 and Tuesday, April 29, 2025 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 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

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

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**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.
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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With a no discussion

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

**\*Article 5: 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 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.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With a no discussion,

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

**\*Article 6: 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 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.

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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 7:** 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 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).

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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 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 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.

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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 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 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.

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 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 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.

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 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 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

The article was moved as written, from the Budget Committee recommendation 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 raise and appropriate \$19,626 to provide **Compensation to the Select Board** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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.

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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 \$244,172 for the purpose of providing **Compensation and Employee benefits for Town Employees** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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.

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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 \$130,170 for general expenses associated with the **Operation of Town Government** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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)

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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 \$4,125 for Election expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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

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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 16:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$15,718 for **Planning Board** expenses and **Code Enforcement Officer** 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 **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)

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The article was moved as written, from the Select Board recommendation and seconded,  
With a question, Why the increase? Seth responded, painting the interior of the Town Office.

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

**\*Article 17:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$56,251 for **Facilities Maintenance** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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.

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

With a question, Why the decrease? Lester responded, we have removed the EMT part time position from the budget this year as Ben has moved and resigned from the position. We now have an on call Volunteers.

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

**\*Article 18: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$196,545 for the Operation of the Whitefield Fire Department 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 **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)

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With No discussion,

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

**\*Article 19: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$9,000 for the Animal Control Contract during the ensuing fiscal year.**

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**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.

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The article was moved as written, from the Budget Committee recommendation and seconded,

With little discussion, Why the difference? Keith and others Rd Com. Members explained roads need to be rebuilt to withstand the weather conditions we are currently having. The BC approved to add an additional \$75,000 to get more done.

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

**\*Article 20: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$591,570 for Maintenance and Repairs of Town Roads during the ensuing fiscal year.**

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**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)

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,  
With a question, Do we pay an amount regardless of how many storms? Lester stated yes, it is a contract per season.  
Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 21:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$465,700 for Winter Maintenance 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 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)

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,  
With a question, Is it based on previous year? Lester answered Yes it is.  
Went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as written.

**\*Article 22:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$2,000 for the General Assistance Program** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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)

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded  
It was then motioned from the floor to amend as \$8,200 and seconded,  
With the explanation from Barry Tibbetts, two other cemetery need signs and this extra \$500 will purchase signs. With no other discussion,  
The amended amount of \$8,200 went to vote by show of hands, majority in favor, Motion passes as amended.

**\*Article 23:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$8,200 for Soldiers' Graves and Whitefield Cemetery** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations 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 **\$27,000** in support of the following outside services: **Midcoast Humane & Hatch Hill** during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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)

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With No discussion,

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

**\*Article 25:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$4,869** for Salaries, Utilities and Maintenance for the Recycling Center during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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 7<sup>th</sup> Year

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With little discussion,

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

**\*Article 26:** 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 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

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With some discussion, Concerns for issues on the current roof? Why more solar? Seth explained this will generate enough solar to consume the remainder of the electric for the Town. Erik E. explained this is an ideal location for optimal generation of electricity.

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

**\*Article 27: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$33,800 for Solar Panels on the Sand Shed during the ensuing fiscal year.**

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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.

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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 28: 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 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.**

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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)

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With a question, Is this to cover the fees to get a note? Lester replied yes.

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

**\*Article 29:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$600 for a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) during the ensuing fiscal year.

**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)

The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With a question, How long are the terms? Lester stated the information is available at the Town Office we did not have those terms with us here. Yolanda will email them to Mark Ostroff.

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

**\*Article 30:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$55,697 to support the Debt Service incurred for the Fire Department and Fire Truck during the ensuing fiscal year.

**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<br>Budget FY<br>23/24 | Organization<br>Requested FY<br>24-25 | Select<br>Board<br>FY 24-25 | Budget<br>Comm<br>FY 24-25 | Select<br>Board<br>Recomnd | Budget<br>Comm<br>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)

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. It was moved on the Budget Committee recommendation \$7,914 and seconded,

With some discussion, on a few of the organizations.

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

**\*Article 31: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$7,914 for Donations to the following Organizations during the ensuing year:**

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| American Red Cross      | \$ 250   |
| Midcoast ME Com Act     | \$ 1,000 |
| Maine General Hospice   | \$ 1,137 |
| Kenn. Behavioral Health | \$ 1,000 |
| New Hope Midcoast       | \$ 580   |
| Spectrum Generations    | \$ 1,144 |
| Young at Heart          | \$ 175   |
| Children Center         | \$ 1,128 |
| Healthy Kids            | \$ 1,000 |
| Waldo County Com Act    | \$ 500   |
| Lifeflight              | \$ 0     |
| Totals                  | \$7,914  |

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**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)

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

With much discussion and lots of support for the Library, This will fund 3 employees, a new one being for technology, such as the website.

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

**\*Article 32: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the Whitefield Library during the ensuing fiscal year.**

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**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)

---

The article was moved as written, from the recommendations 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 \$3,000 for the **Whitefield Food Bank** during the ensuing fiscal year.  
\$1,500 will come from William Turner Charity Fund

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**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.

---

The article was moved as written and seconded,

With a question of what is the agreement? Lester explained the funds come from the State from snowmobile registrations and then goes to WJW Snowmobile club.

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

**\*Article 34:** 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 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.

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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 35:** 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 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**

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

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.

The second was recined and the motion was withdrawn. We will pass over this article this year.

**\*Article 36: NO VOTE TAKEN – PASSED OVER**

**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> |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>\$771,890</b> |

23/24 Budget was \$813,400

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$771,890

The article was moved as written, from the recommendations 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 \$771,890 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.

**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.

The article was moved as written and seconded,

With a question, What are these and how much? Lester explained it allows us to expend as it comes in. Yolanda gave the example as the Solid Waste Committee applied for a grant, it was received and they will expend as needed.

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 accept and expend any other revenue from State, Federal, local or private sources for the support of the Town during the ensuing fiscal year.

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**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.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With little discussion, a few questions

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

**\*Article 39:** The Town voted 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**

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**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.

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations 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 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**

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**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.

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With lots of discussion

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

**\*Article 41:** The Town voted to appropriate \$0 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.**

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**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.

---

The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With no discussion

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

**\*Article 42:** The Town voted 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** continued work on the handicap-accessible bathroom.

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**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.

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The article was moved as written, from the recommendations and seconded,

With no discussion

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

**\*Article 43:** The Town voted 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** standby generator.

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**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.

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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 44:** The Town voted to **APPROVE** the "**Subdivision Ordinance**" for the Town of Whitefield, Maine, as amended March 2024.

The Approved Subdivision Ordinance (as amended) is available at the town office and is posted on the town website [https://townofwhitefield.com/policies\\_ordinances/](https://townofwhitefield.com/policies_ordinances/)

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The 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 12:40 pm

83 Registered Voters attended.

Attested: Yolanda Violette  
Whitefield Town Clerk, Yolanda Violette