

Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2025

Present: Seth Bolduc (Chair), Brent Hallowell (Vice-Chair), Erin Anderson, James Torbert, Brian O'Mahoney, and Yolanda Violette

1. Mr. Bolduc called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of May 6. Motion approved 5-0
3. Accounts Payable/Payroll Warrants were approved and signed
4. 2023 Tax Foreclosures - updates: Fairservice and Lily have received notices. Storm and Paul Peaslee's notice was sent and he, Storm, called with a payment towards taxes due, finishing 2023 taxes. He plans to come in person to organize further payments for more recent arrears. McDonald and Russell properties: verbal agreements received but no written agreements made.
5. Taxes prior to 2023
Brann property. Mr Brann is paying as he can and has approximately a \$900 balance.
Michaud property. Mr.Shane Michaud property payment plan is current through May
6. 2022 Tax Foreclosure sale – 90 days notice to heirs of Nancy Ripley was sent and the 90 day period ends next week. No action has taken place on the part of the heirs and the process is proceeding. The board will seek a realtor to sell the property at the next meeting.
7. Foreclosure Process. The board reviewed the Tax Acquired Property Policy. Board members asked questions to clarify elements of the application of the policy. The town's interest is to have clarity on the procedures and also to standardize and manage payment plans for back taxes. These have often been ad-hoc arrangements based on an individual's situation. While the town does need, and seeks to be, flexible, significant administrative costs are incurred for organizing individual arrangements.
8. Treasurer Reports
Expenditure: The board reviewed the town's expenditures and, as we approach the end of the fiscal year, this report is a positive one and the town's expenses are within budget.
Revenue summary: Revenue is generally marginally higher than budgeted amounts as we reach the last months of the fiscal year.
9. Investing Surplus - Should the town invest any funds currently in the checking account in a short term CD in order to save residents on future taxes? There are points in the year when the town is holding tax revenue prior to expenses in a checking account and it would be useful to invest

some of this temporarily in a short term CD or money market account held at our local bank. The board discussed the differences between CDs and money market accounts. The latter may offer more flexibility and a comparable interest rate. A greater yield would grow the town's surplus. In order to obtain more information, the board asked Yolanda, the treasurer, to call the town's bank.

10. Tax Collector Report. Postcard reminders were sent to encourage tax payments made before the end of the fiscal year.

245 of the 1800 real estate accounts still need to pay and a total of \$271,312.62 is still owed for the current tax year. A reminder to residents that the town operates a tax club to facilitate monthly payment of taxes.

As for 2024 taxes, currently 35 accounts and there is \$35,627.41 outstanding

11. CM Fire Station / Fire Truck - update Troy Prescott is willing to provide an estimate and do repairs to the station. The estimate has not been received. Mr. Bolduc will follow up with Mr. Prescott. Parts for the repair of the fire truck have been ordered.
12. Correspondence – Town clerk has received two proposed dates from Lincoln County Commissioners for the contracted assessor to review an existing appeal from Amy and Adam Harkins.
13. Report from the board representatives to the town's solid waste committee who visited the Lincoln County Recycling Facility in Wiscasset. The staff at the center were full of praise for the Whitefield program and relayed that it is consistently the cleanest and least subject to contamination of any town in the county. This is a positive since contaminated loads cost the taxpayers money through lost revenue. Residents of Whitefield may dispose of waste oil and scrap metal at the facility and it also sells, by the yard, compost made on site.
14. Mary Dunn, a resident, brought a written concern that local residents may be unexpectedly detained by Federal Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Custom Enforcement. Mary's interest is primarily in broadening the conversation and awareness and asking whether there might be opportunities for residents to support each other in these situations. The board did not see a clear role for town government at this time.
15. Mr. Hallowell discussed the road committee's suggestion that we pave the whole of Vigue Road and not just the section from the Devine Road to Windsor while we are doing this summer's paving work.. The town's interest is in using currently budgeted funds for paving the entirety of the road and to have the work completed in a timely manner.

16. Charlene Donahue reports that the cemetery stone repair is currently happening and meeting success. Charlene has been looking into poison ivy control options. The veterans' memorial is in need of some poison ivy control measures. Nathan Northrup will be doing the cemetery road work, discussed at the previous board meeting after Memorial Day.

17. Motion to adjourn 5-0



Seth A. Bolduc



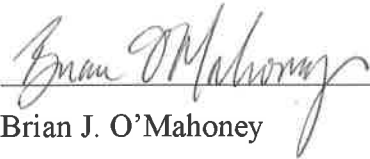
Date



Brent W. Hallowell



James R. Torbert



Brian J. O'Mahoney



Erin E. Anderson