

Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024

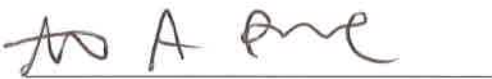
Present: Seth Bolduc (Chair), Keith Sanborn (Vice-Chair), Brent Hallowell, James Torbert, and Yolanda Violette.

1. The meeting was called to order by Seth Bolduc.
2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of December 3. Motion carried 3-0-1.
3. Yolanda presented the board more abatements from the assessor. These abatements total \$242,700.00 in assessed value and \$2,443.99 in tax revenue. Total taxes abated this year are \$14,280.27 with 31 abatements. A motion was made and seconded to approve the abatements. Motion carried 4-0.
4. The assessor will be sending letters to David and Gail Hillstrom, and Adam and Amy Harkins in response to letters sent to the assessor asking for reconsideration of the property values, explaining the abatement process.
5. The office, as well as Seth and Brent received calls over the weekend from Lisa Tuttle complaining about Jewett Lane and how it had not been plowed. Jewett Lane is a gravel road that has a different snow removal plan than paved roads. The board agreed to re-send a letter to homeowners on gravel roads explaining the snow removal and salting plan, and the intent of the plan to keep the roads free of damage and passable year round.
6. Yolanda asked the board asked to consider adding Beau from the Fire Dept Communications to be an authorized buyer from state surplus for supplies for the Fire Dept Auxiliary, Communications and the Fire Dept. A motion was made and seconded to make Beau an authorized buyer. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Yolanda reports she had called around looking at CD rates, the best offer was from Kennebec Savings Bank at 4.25% for 6 months. The Board discussed putting the CMP settlement money as well as \$200,000.00 into a 6-month CD. A motion was made and seconded to put \$1,340,000.00 into a 6-month CD. Motion carried 4-0.
8. Yolanda posed the question to the board if a meeting will be held on December 31, New Year's Eve? Boards consensus is NO meeting will be held. Jim will go in to review and sign warrants on behalf of the board. January 7, 2025 will be the next meeting, when budget committee will begin reviewing the FY 25-26 budget.
9. The Board continued to work on the FY 2025-2026 Budget.

- A. The Selectboard budget, the board discussed a 3.5% cost of living increase on wages, and added the new line for a minute taker at \$1,500.00. A motion was made and seconded to propose the Selectboard budget at \$21,813.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- B. Admin Personnel budget, the board discussed adding a 3% merit increase, and 3.5% cost of living increase for personnel, and FMLA line anticipating needing to pay .5% of salaries to this new program. The board will revisit this section next meeting with corrected amounts reflecting the merit increases.
- C. Admin general budget, the board discussed adding a new line to separate subscriptions. The board will revisit this section next meeting, due to not knowing the cost of adding 2 fire dept computers to the computer support line, and waiting on a price to update tax maps.
- D. Elections budget, the board discussed increases to wage to match minimum wage. A motion was made and seconded to propose elections budget at \$4,250.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- E. Planning board & CEO budget, the board discussed proposing a 3.5% cost of living increase on wages. A motion was made and seconded to propose Planning board & CEO budget of 16,216.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- F. Facilities and maintenance budget, the board discussed a 3% merit increase, and a 3.5% cost of living increase on wages, as well as repair person wages from \$3,100 to \$1,500. Also adding \$11,000.00 to paint the interior of the fire station, and \$10,000.00 to add a building/shed to the recycling center. A motion was made and seconded to propose facilities and maintenance budget of \$59,950.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- G. Fire Dept budget, the board discussed a 3.5% cost of living increase on stipends, as well as in increase in the Delta ambulance contract from \$25 to \$35 per capita. A motion was made and seconded to propose the fire dept budget at \$225,785.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- H. ACO budget, a motion was made and seconded to propose the ACO budget at \$10,500.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- I. Town roads budget, the board discussed changing the equipment maintenance line from \$15,000.00 to \$10,000.00, and creating a new capital reserve account, called road equipment maintenance with \$5,000.00. The board asked Yolanda to look further into the wages line to explain the increase. The board will revisit this section next meeting after a better explanation of the wages line.
- J. Winter roads budget, a motion was made and seconded to propose the winter roads budget at \$464,300.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- K. General assistance budget, a motion was made and seconded to propose the general assistance budget at \$2,000.00. Motion carried 4-0.

- L. Cemeteries budget, a motion was made and seconded to propose the cemeteries budget at \$8,300.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- M. Outside service budget, a motion was made and seconded to propose the outside service budget at \$26,900.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- N. Recycling station budget, the board discussed a 3% merit and 3.5% cost of living increases to the wages. A motion was made and seconded to propose the recycling station budget at \$5,419.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- O. Capital outlay, a motion was made and seconded to propose to the fire dept capital improvement at \$9,000.00. motion carried 4-0.
- P. Capital outlay, a motion was made and seconded to propose to the grader/road equipment maintenance capital improvement at \$5,000.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- Q. TANS budget, a motion was made and seconded to propose to the TANS budget \$600.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- R. Debt service budget, a motion was made and seconded to propose to the dept service budget \$54,926.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- S. The board discussed increasing the wage for the cleaning and repair position, 3% merit increase, and 3.5% cost of living increase. A motion was made and seconded to propose a 6.5% wage increase for Kip Glidden. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Meeting adjourned.



Seth A. Bolduc, Chair

17 Dec 2024

Date



Keith D. Sanborn, Vice Chair



Brent W. Hallowell



James R. Torbert