

Town of Whitefield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
26 March 2024

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

1. The meeting was called to order by Yolanda Violette.

2. Select Board Positions:

- (a) A motion was made and seconded to elect Seth Bolduc as Chair. Motion Carried 4-0-1.
- (b) A motion was made and seconded to elect Keith Sanborn as Vice-Chair. Motion Carried 4-0-1

3. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 12 minutes. Motion carried 4-0-1.

4. Accounts payable and payroll warrants were approved and signed.

5. RSU 12 Budget Presentation:

- (a) The Select Board received a briefing from Howard Tuttle the superintendent and associates regarding the RSU 12 24-25 budget.
- (b) The RSU 12 District Budget Meeting will be May 22, 2024 at Chelsea Elementary School
- (c) The RSU 12 Budget Validation Referendum will be June 11th 2024.
- (d) Total budget increase was 3.1% while State Subsidy is down 1.5%
- (e) 2024-2025 Proposed Budget is \$27,234,496.98, the State Subsidy is \$11,370,039.53
- (f) Cost Sharing Calculation has Whitefield's Share at \$2,801,590.78
- (g) Local Cost Per Student is \$9,385.56

6. Representative Suzanne Balbo from the Whitefield Library came before the Select Board to answer any questions that the Board might have. The board was informed that this year's donated amount will be for 3 salaried positions. She agreed to provide monthly updates to the board.

7. Road update:

- (a) ME DOT Agreement for road work and detour around Jewett Bridge was presented to the Select Board to review. Additional discussion is needed.
- (b) Road Salt: the Town just placed another order. We are below our minimum obligation.
- (c) 24 - 25 Estimates: Keith and Yolanda suggest working with DOT for another year. Board will decide tonnage at next meeting after Keith speaks with Contractor, Ryan Spicer.
- (d) 23 & 24 Usage: Currently at 299.23 Tons

8. Brad Bowden came before the Select Board regarding his property on 369 Mills Road. Mr. Bowden claims that a faulty septic design at 363 Mills Road is causing hazmat waste to go into his property. Joshua Leard will stop by 369 Mills Road later this week to gather photos and verify this assertion. Afterwards, the Select Board will follow up with the town Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector to discuss options.

9. Annual Animal Control Officer (ACO) contract with Lincoln County Sheriff's: A motion was made and seconded to accept the county ACO contract. Motion Carried 5-0.

10. The Lincoln County Budget was provided to the Select Board. Whitefield's portion is \$384,341

which is an increase of \$45,743. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amount. Motion Carried 5-0. The Select Board signed following the vote.

11. Fire Station:

- (a) Locks: A motion was made and seconded to approve a re-keying of the entire building at a cost of \$2,500. Motion Carried 5-0. Funds from the facility budget will be used.
- (b) A new gasket is needed for the overhead door(s) at a price of \$162. Additional installation costs of \$585 apply. Repair funds from the facility budget will be used.
- (c) A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$4,075 for a new trailer that will be used for the Fire Department RTV. Yolanda will confirm if there is a sale price of \$3,900 Fire Chief Jesse asked for permission to acquire this item immediately. The Fire Department Reserve Fund will be used for this item. Motion Carried 4-0-1

12. Town Meeting Recap: Approximately 84 people attending this year. The Select Board discussed the pros and cons of this year's event.

13. Planning Board Position(s): A member of the Planning Board is considering her resignation. Seth will draft an opinion letter to be sent in response. There is a second vacant seat that the Select Board must fill.

14. Assignment of Select Board Duties:

- (a) Brent Hallowell will be responsible for the Meeting minutes.
- (b) A motion was made and seconded to authorize Jim Torbert to sign the off week BMV and IF&W Warrants. Motion Carried 5-0. The board signed an updated Treasurer's Disbursement Warrant Policy.
- (c) Seth Bolduc will be responsible to review the bank reconciliation.
- (d) Keith Sanborn will be the liaison for the roads committee with Brent eventually assuming the role.
- (e) Jim Torbert will be the liaison for the cemetery committee.
- (f) Joshua Leard will be the liaison for the facilities committee.
- (g) Joshua Leard will be the liaison for junkyard matters.
- (h) Joshua Leard will be the liaison for numbering new properties.
- (i) Jim Torbert will be the liaison the town cemetery.
- (j) Brent Hallowell will be the liaison for the Solid Waste Committee.

15. Permit Fees, update with new Subdivision Ordinance: This item was tabled until next meeting.

16. QC Deed 2022 and 2023 Taxes: Victor and Anne Edgecomb paid 2022, 2023, and 2024 taxes. A motion was made and seconded to sign a quit claim deed returning the property to the Edgecomb family. Motion Carried 5-0.

17. Correspondences:

- (a) Keith gave an update that he is still working on the Delta matter, albeit there is a 12 month pause on the current plan. He is gathering information to assess contracting with other providers for southern portions of town. More information will be provided at a later date.
- (b) There was a thank you letter from the Whitefield Library for the donation awarded at the town meeting.
- (c) Glenn Angell, Planning Board chair, sent out two notices of violation.
- (d) Glenn asked that if a special town meeting is held (for the remainder of the ARPA

funds) that he be given time to submit an amendment to the medical marijuana ordinance.

- (e) There was a discussion to amend the town policy to allow remote work on a case by case basis. A final draft will be prepared for the next meeting.

18. Other:

- (a) Keith is concerned with the cell phone service in the southern side of town. A quote of \$245,000 was received to install a repeater which would boost the signal. Research into securing grant money will be looked into.
- (b) The Select Board would like to have CEO Arthur Strout in to discuss feedback.
- (c) The Select Board is interested in finding a citizen who would be willing to take minutes during future Select Board meetings. Any interested party should contact Yolanda.

19. Meeting adjourned.


Seth Bolduc, Chair

9 APR 2024
Date


Keith Sanborn, Vice Chair


Joshua T Leard MA 712351


James R Torbert


Brent W Hallowell