

Town of Whitefield
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
2022

Moderator Brekke called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Moderator Brekke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator introduced the head table as well as his Assistant Moderator, Scott Burns.

Shawn White, Selectmen thanked Peter Corey, Selectman, and Bruce Brekke, Moderator, for their years of service.

Moderator Brekke thanked everyone for attending and reviewed the rules of procedure.

Moderator Brekke said we are still counting the ballots and will announce the election results once they are finished counting.

Article 01. The polls were opened at 8:00 o'clock in the forenoon by Moderator Brekke and closed at 6:00 o'clock in the afternoon. The results being as follows:

Moderator (Two-Year Term)	Bruce Brekke – 22 Phillip Waystack - 19
Selectperson (Three-Year Term)	Abigail M. Querrard - 147 Sara Dunn – 145 James Dorr - 140
Town Clerk (Three-Year Term)	Tina Wright – 418
Library Trustee (One-Year Term)	Sondra Brekke - 384
Library Trustees (Two,Three-Year Terms)	Catherine C. Atwood – 249 Kathleen Kopp - 307
Cemetery Trustee (Three-Year Term)	Charles (Chuck) Lockhart – 210 Maynard Wayne L'Heureux - 170
Trustee of Trust Funds (Two-Year Term)	Catherine Burns - 395
Supervisor of the Checklist (Six-Year Term)	Ann-Marie Devin – 395
Supervisor of the Checklist (Two-Year Term)	Sondra Brekke - 382

Article 02 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Whitefield Development Code as follows: Amend Article XIV (Commercial), Section 7.1 by adding "portable storage containers" to the list of commercial activities, and Amend Appendix I, Definitions, by adding a definition of "portable storage containers" and requiring a permit for those placed on property for more than 60 days, and amending the definition of "structure" to include portable storage containers.

The article failed:

Yes – 179 No - 249

Article 03 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Whitefield Development Code as follows: Amend Article XIV (Commercial), Section 7.2 by inserting a new subsection (e) to regulate sleeping areas, occupant load, noise, and information required to be posted at short-term rentals, and relabeling existing subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g).

The article failed:

Yes - 93 No – 101

Article 04 Operating Budget

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,204,672 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

General Government - \$600,634

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of General Government in the amount of \$600,634.**

Public Safety - \$1,035,373

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. A motion was made by Shawn White to amend the Public Safety budget amount by \$11,000 to \$1,046,373. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion on the amendment. Shawn said we are adding \$5,000 to the police department gasoline budget line and \$6,000 to the fire department vehicle fuel budget line due to the increase in fuel prices. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the amendment to add \$11,000 to the Public Safety Budget to make it \$1,046,373.** The floor was opened for discussion on the article as amended. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Public Safety in the amount of \$1,046,373.**

Airport Operations - \$9,000

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Airport Operations in the amount of \$9,000.**

Highways & Streets - \$830,313

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Shawn White made a motion to amend the Highways & Streets budget amount by \$8,000 to \$838,313. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion on the amendment. Shawn said we are adding \$8,000 to the highway department vehicle fuel budget line due to the increase in fuel prices. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the amendment to add \$8,000 to the Highways & Streets Budget to make it \$838,313.** The floor was opened for discussion on the article as amended. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Highways & Streets in the amount of \$838,313.**

Sanitation - \$222,999

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Sanitation in the amount of \$222,999.**

Health Officer/Animal Control - \$6,345

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Health Officer/Animal Control in the amount of \$6,345**

Welfare Direct Assistance - \$21,000

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Welfare Direct Assistance in the amount of \$21,000.**

Culture & Recreation - \$152,925

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Culture & Recreation in the amount of \$152,925.**

Conservation Commission & Economic Development - \$7,500

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Conversation Commission in the amount of \$7,500**

Debt Service - \$103,770

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Debt Service in the amount of \$103,770.**

Sewer Department - \$688,054

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Sewer Department in the amount of \$688,054.**

Water Department - \$526,759

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Water Department in the amount of \$526,759.**

Operating Budget Appropriations in the amount of \$4,223,672 passed.

Article 05 Fire Department Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars {\$40,000} to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund created in 2007. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$40,000.**

Article 06 Bridge & Town Buildings Repair/Maintenance/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Bridge & Town Buildings Repair/Maintenance/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund created in 2010. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Shawn White to move the question. It was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$50,000.**

Article 07 Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund created in 2015. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$15,000.**

Article 08 Road Projects Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$133,000) to be added to the Road Projects Capital Reserve Fund created in 2013. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$133,000.**

Article 09 Sidewalk Repair/Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Sidewalk Repair/Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund created in 2011.(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Shawn White to move the question. It was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$20,000.**

Article 10 Highway Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund created in 2001. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$45,000.**

Article 11 Recycling Center Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Recycling Center Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 2012. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$5,000.**

Article 12 Emergency Services Building Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Emergency Services Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2019. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Shawn White to move the question. It was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$20,000.**

Article 13 Sewer Collection System Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Sewer Collection System Capital Reserve Fund created in 2010. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$10,000.**

Article 14 Highway Garage Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Highway Garage Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund created in 2021. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$25,000.**

Article 15 Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created in 2004. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Shawn White to move the question. It was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$25,000.**

Article 16 Town Building Solar Array Installation & Fire Station Roof Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$229,551) to insulate and replace the roof of the Fire Station, and to install roof top solar arrays at the Library, Town Hall, and Fire Station, which will reduce Town electricity costs for the next 30 to 40 years while using clean energy. \$126,253 of this amount is anticipated to come from a USDA grant, and the remainder from taxation. This article is contingent upon the grant and will only take effect if the grant funds are received. This is a special, non-lapsing article. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Peter Corey explained that this a project we have been working for a number of years to be able to bring it to fruition. We had some projects in the works, and those things came to a halt due to regulatory issues, but the state has relaxed those issues for the regulatory environment so we were able to move ahead with our project. We worked with a representative from Clean Energy NH, and she and our Public Works Director came up with the project for a solar array installation on three town buildings, the town hall, the fire station, and the library. An engineering study was done to be sure the buildings would support the panels. The fire station roof needs to be replaced and will be put in with extra installation to improve the energy efficiency. The total net savings over 25 years will be \$165,000. It stabilizes electricity costs, it is good for the environment, and it moves us away from fossil fuels. This project will only get constructed if the grant funds are approved. The Board strongly urges the voters to support this project. Terry Lufkin asked if this article is going through the NCIC. Peter said that this is through Clean Energy NH. We have a representative who did all the grant writing, and who is present tonight. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$229,551.**

Article 17 Establish a Solar Energy Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Solar Energy Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of constructing and maintaining solar arrays to offset municipal electricity costs and to raise appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars \$1,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Jeff Wiseman asked if this article should be contingent upon receiving the grant for the solar array. Peter Corey said that if we approve this article and we don't get the funding, we can take it out of the capital reserve fund and put it back in the general fund. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$1,000.**

Article 18 Purchase Ambulance

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$258,350) for the purpose of purchasing an ambulance and authorize the withdrawal of One Hundred Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$111,000) from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of (\$147,350) is to come from general taxation. This is a special, non-lapsing article. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$258,350.**

Article 19 Appoint Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2004.
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Shawn White to move the question. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article.**

Article 20 Distribution of Funds Received from the Sale of Cemetery Lots

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Lot Sale Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a, allowing all future proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots in Whitefield cemeteries and any interest gained thereon, for the maintenance of cemeteries; and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Shawn White to move the question. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion. A motion was made by Peter Corey to amend the article to name the Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend rather than the Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion on the amendment. Peter explained that this is housekeeping issue to have the Cemetery Trustees be the agents to expend rather than the Board of Selectmen. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the amendment.** The floor was opened for discussion on the article as amended. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article as amended.**

Article 21 Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. Service Programs

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Five Hundred and

Twenty-Five Dollars (\$5,525) for the operation of Tri County Community Action Program, Inc. service programs in Whitefield: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention, RSVP, ServiceLink, Senior Meals, Tamworth Dental Center. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. Peter Corey said as a point of clarification on the petition warrant articles seeking town funding, we are required to recommend or not recommend these articles. The Board does not feel qualified to recommend these individual organizations as we do not understand exactly what they do in the community and what the funds are used for. They have submitted reports for the town report explaining what the funds are used for in the community. We are also not condemning these organizations. We leave it to the voters to decide. We are just fulfilling our statutory requirement. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$5,525.**

Article 22 Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) for Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS). ACHS is a non-profit community health center that provides primary preventive health care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay. This will help ACHS continue to provide high quality care to 585 current WHITEFIELD patients, as well as reach more of those in need. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$4,500.**

Article 23 North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirteen Dollars (\$14,913) in support of North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency to be used to assist in the delivery of home health, hospice, palliative and long-term care services to the residents of the Town of Whitefield. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$14,913.**

Article 24 Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) to help support Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, that serves the needs of Seniors in the community. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$6,000.**

Article 25 Androscoggin Valley Home Care

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) for the purpose of supporting clients of Androscoggin Valley Home Care who live in Whitefield. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of**

voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$3,500.

Article 26 Pathways Pregnancy Care Center

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250) to support Pathways Pregnancy Care Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Education Program in 2022. Through this program, Pathways offers over 200 different classes about pregnancy, prenatal development, birth, parenting, life skills, healthy relationships, fatherhood, life renewal, and much more. Most classes are or can be sent via text or emailed to clients for them to complete at home. Our subscription to Bright Course costs \$1,469 per year. Education is just one of the many services that we offer at Pathways. All services, including classes, are absolutely free of charge to our clients and strictly confidential. (Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$250.**

Article 27 Second Chance Animal Rescue

To see if the Town of Whitefield, NH will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for the Second Chance Animal Rescue. Second Chance Animal Rescue is a nonprofit that provides care and shelter for abused and abandoned cats and kittens. Second Chance Animal Rescue also sponsors monthly low cost Spay/Neuter clinics for both dogs and cats. (Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. Sondra Brekke asked if anyone from the organization was here to justify the \$2,000 request. Sondra said she thought \$2,000 seemed excessive for cats. There was no one in attendance to answer the questions. **The article failed by a show of voting cards.**

Article 28 St. Paul's Episcopal Church Weekend Food Backpack

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$930) in support of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, weekend food "Backpack Program" which provides weekend meals and snacks to eligible children attending the Whitefield, NH Elementary School. This request represents 10% of the anticipated cost of the program for the 2021/2022 school year. The Whitefield School was added to the program in September, 2016. The weekend meals include snacks as well as a voucher for a 1/2 gallon of milk. Saint Paul's is currently serving an average of 168 students weekly in the towns of Stratford, Groveton, Stark, Lancaster and Whitefield. We ended 2021 serving an average of 184 children per week. Our goal for 2022 is 225 children per week. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority vote required).

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$930.**

Article 29 Project Homebound Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) in support of Project Homebound Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Project Homebound provides a full Thanksgiving meal to those who need a little extra help in the communities of Whitefield, Twin Mountain, Lancaster, Jefferson, Dalton, Groveton, Stark, Guildhall, VT., Lunenburg, VT., and Gilman, VT. In 2021, in the Town of Whitefield, Project Homebound provided food to 17 households equaling 37 individuals. (Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority vote required).

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$300.**

Article 30 Mt. Washington Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600) for the Mt. Washington Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol to assist in providing support for the squadron and assist the cadet programs. (Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority vote required).

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$600.**

Moderator Brekke announced the results of the balloting during the day.

Article 31 Require All Town Board Meetings to be Live Streamed

Require that all meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Zoning Board of Adjustments of the Town of Whitefield, New Hampshire, shall be electronically transmitted, "live streamed to the internet", so they may be viewed by the public without having to attend the meetings in person and so they may be viewed at anytime after the meeting. Links to access the meetings shall be placed on the Town's website prior to the start of each meeting. Any meeting deemed to be "non-public" shall be exempt from this requirement. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor. Bob Loiacono said since he first brought this up, he has been given a bunch of reasons not to do it. He was told to get the minutes on line or at the town office. There are two issues with this. The minutes of the meetings are brief and don't get into a lot of detail. He doesn't feel going to the office and getting the minutes is practical, and when you go online the minutes some times are not posted until well after the meetings. The last time the ZBA minutes were posted was a year ago. He was also told it costs too much. The school district has been live streaming their meetings for a start-up cost of \$1200. He said you may have to buy a laptop, talking under \$2,000. The school board uploads their meetings to YouTube at no cost. There are over 182 school board meetings on YouTube. He had suggested for the \$2000, you can use the ARPA funds. Another issue was "who would set it up"? Millions of people, ages 8 to 80, upload videos every day. He said it is just possible that you wouldn't have to take the minutes anymore, just the recording may be sufficient. Another reason he was given was that no one would watch. The school board has a lot of viewers, 80 to 90 have viewed the videos, and you can view them whenever. On February 7, 2002 the town held a budget hearing at the town hall, which was the same night the school board had their deliberative session. Bob said he would have liked to have been able to see what went on at the budget hearing. It is 2022, there is no good reason why we wouldn't want to do this. Bob said he did not add in money to this warrant article so they would have a year to come up with something.

Terry Lufkin said that she watched all the zoom meetings for Whitefield this past year. There were maybe four or five people at the most who participated in these meetings. You are asking to put this huge load on the people who work at the office who are trying to keep open with double and triple their burden. Terry said that she did not miss any meetings, and you can go back and look at the minutes. If people wanted to participate, they would have participated then, when they were cooped up in their house and they had to wear a mask whenever they went out. She said we are trying to save money, and you can \$2,000 is not a lot, but it is to a lot of people.


Peter Corey said the Selectboard is not in favor of this article. Our town attorney said that it is not binding, and the Board is not bound to go through with it. When we had our zoom meetings last year, participation was extremely low, maybe a handful of people. We reached out to neighboring communities to see what their experience was. We were inquiring what the cost was that was associated with it and how many people actually watched the meeting. We have a busy staff and this would be an unnecessary administrative burden. You are talking about a minimum of two selectmen meetings, two planning board meetings, ZBA meetings, Conservation Commission meetings, which would be costly. The Board of Selectmen does not support this article. The staff does a good job getting the minutes posted. The meetings are open, and we have a regular group of people who attend, and everyone is welcome to attend. The Board feels the meeting minutes are recorded properly, and this would create an unnecessary work load for our staff.

Shawn White said he concurs with Mr. Corey. Shawn said when he ran for the board a couple of years ago, he wanted transparency and said he wanted to record meetings. He said after having all the zoom meetings, he was disappointed with the amount of people who participated. Shawn said, yes the school district does this, but they have a full-time staff member who does IT work for the district. When we checked with the Town of Lancaster, they pay \$200 a meeting and the majority of their meetings are not watched. If we do go forward with this, we are going to have to buy the equipment and hire someone. Another issue would be if we have to go out on a site visit that has to be recorded as well. Those are the reasons Shawn does not recommend it.

The article failed by a show of voting cards.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

I hereby certify that the above return of the Annual Town Meeting of March 8, 2022 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Judy Ramsdell, Administrative Assistant
Town of Whitefield, New Hampshire