

Town of Whitefield
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
2021

Moderator Brekke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Moderator Brekke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Moderator Brekke reviewed the results from the balloting during the day:

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:

Selectperson (Three-Year Term)	John E. Tholl, Jr. – 178 Mark Lufkin – 29
Town Clerk (One-Year Term)	Niccole Vike – 172 Meghan Devin Basnar – 39 Stephanie Pierce -21
Library Trustee (Three-Year Term)	Judith Gessner – 211
Library Trustee (One-Year Term)	Tamara Reilley - 217
Cemetery Trustee (Three-Year Term)	Barbara Pinkham - 213
Trustee of Trust Funds (Two-Year Term)	Joseph Elgosin – 130 Claire Houghton - 21
Trustee of Trust Funds (Three-Year Term)	Thomas A. Ladd – 207
Supervisor of the Checklist (Five-Year Term)	Kathleen S. Dunlap – 216

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 IV, Administration and Permits, Section 1.1 to clarify that a development permit is required before changing the use of any property to a substantially different use, and Amend Appendix I, Definitions, to add a definition for “substantially different use.”

The article passed:
Yes – 147 No - 82

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 XII, Nonconforming Uses ‘Grandfathering,’ Section 5.1 and Appendix I, Definitions to replace definitions of “nonconforming building, lot or structure” and “nonconforming use” with a single definition of “nonconforming,” and to amend sections of Article XII to clarify the scope of regulation of nonconformities, to prohibit the relocation of a nonconforming use, to require physically unsafe nonconforming structures to be brought into conformity when repaired, to prohibit a nonconforming use, lot or structure which has come into conformity from being changed back,

and to limit the restoration of nonconforming structures to the original footprint with no additional nonconformity.

**The article passed:
Yes - 135 No – 91**

Article 04 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Whitefield Development Code as follows: To add a new Section 6.35 to the Article XIII, Absolute Criteria for all development, which would require at least 75 feet of frontage on a street meeting requirements of RSA 674:41 for all development, and to add a corresponding requirement in Article VII, Sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 that length of frontage be shown on submittals for design review, preliminary final plan review, and final plan review.

**The article passed:
Yes – 126 No - 99**

Article 05 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Whitefield Development Code as follows: Amend Appendix I, Definitions, by replacing the existing definitions of “building,” “structure,” and “dwelling” with more comprehensive definitions, and removing the 400 sq. ft. minimum floor area for dwellings.

**The article passed:
Yes – 133 No - 95**

Article 06 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Whitefield Development Code as follows: Add a new Appendix X, Lighting Regulations, which requires all new outdoor lighting to project light downward, with exceptions for seasonal/decorative low-wattage lighting, temporary lighting for construction, roadwork and public infrastructure work, emergency services temporary lights and vehicular lights, and certain federally-required lighting.

**The article passed:
Yes – 146 No – 88**

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

Peter Corey thanked everyone for attending this evening, and thanked the high school to allow us to use this facility. He thanked Kathy Dunlap for her 30 years of service as a Library Trustee and Stanley Holz for serving a three-year term as a Selectperson. A moment of silence was held in memory of Barbara Jones who served as a Supervisor of the Checklist for 18 years.

John Tholl made a motion to allow Barbara Payer who is not a resident or registered voter of Whitefield and is the Executive Director of the Caleb Group to speak on Article 30. The motion was seconded by David Glover. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the motion to allow Barbara Payer to speak on Article 30.**

Article 07 Operating Budget

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,005,868 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (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. Moderator Brekke said the amount for General Government in the operating budget is \$586,763. A motion was made by Peter Corey to amend this amount by \$5,000 to \$591,753. He explained that after the budget hearing was done and the budget was set, we had a situation that arose at the Pine Street cemetery. There were trees that were threatening neighborhood homes, and we have been unable to determine who owns the trees. Therefore, we are requesting \$5,000 in addition to the \$32,000 request for the cemetery budget for a total of \$37,000 to have the land appropriately surveyed so we can determine the ownership of the trees. Shawn seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion on the amendment. Barbara Pinkham, Chairperson of the cemetery trustees, thanked the selectmen for adding this to the budget. She explained that this is a one-time only request. We are not asking to have the cemetery budget annually increased by this amount. They have been spoken to by the residents on Pine Street to look into the trees. They are worried about the trees falling on their property if there is a wind storm. It doesn't mean we need to take the trees down immediately. We are asking for the money to determine who owns the trees. If the trees do belong to the town, it is the town's responsibility to take care of them. David Clifford said he lives in that neighborhood and his question is how much will it cost to take the trees down rather than the survey and just take the trees down. Shawn White said we are looking to \$1500 to \$2500 a tree to remove the trees. We want to be sure that they are the town's trees. David was wondering how many trees we are talking about. Shawn said we are talking dozens of trees. Bob Loiacono is curious if we find after the survey that the town doesn't own the trees, then we are spending \$5,000 for nothing. Peter said the homeowners have expressed concern, and we need to really understand whose property they are on. The records are not clear. We have had some survey work done, but it was inclusive and not complete. We understand where the boundary lines are and the only way to determine this is to hire a surveyor. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the amendment to add \$5,000 to the cemetery budget to make it \$37,000.** The floor was opened for discussion on the article as amended. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the amended article for General Government in the amount of \$591,763.**

Public Safety - \$982,609

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 Public Safety in the amount of \$982,609.**

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 - \$823,063

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 Highways & Streets in the amount of \$823,063.**

Sanitation - \$209,614

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 \$209,614.**

Health Officer/Animal Control - \$5,806

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. David Clifford asked if animal control would cover taking care of skunks. Police Chief Samson replied that this is line item is for stray dogs being held at the vet's office. Wild animals would be covered by N.H. Fish & Game. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Health Officer/Animal Control in the amount of \$5,806.**

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 - \$144,975

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 \$144,975.**

Conservation Commission - \$2,500

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 \$2,500.**

Economic Development - \$2,000

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 Economic Development in the amount of \$2,000.**

Debt Service - \$112,073

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 \$112,073.**

Sewer Department - \$544,760

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. David Clifford asked how this was different from Sewage Collection. Shawn explained this appropriation is for the operations of the treatment plant, and sewage collection is for the collection system in the streets. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Sewer Department in the amount of \$544,760.**

Water Department - \$561,705

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 \$561,705.**

Operating Budget Appropriations in the amount of \$4,010,868 passed.

Article 08 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 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 \$40,000.**

Article 09 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 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 \$50,000.**

Article 10 Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve fund created in 2004. (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 \$30,000.**

Article 11 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 12 Road Projects Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) 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 Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Randall Meier asked if some of this money could be spent on Old East Road so that they are able to travel on it. He said Old East Road is in disgusting condition. Shawn White said there has been discussion to spend some of this money on Old East Road repairs. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$100,000.**

Article 13 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 14 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 Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion.

David Clifford asked if the Town or the State was going to do something for a sidewalk up to Dollar General. He sees people walking up there all the time. He would like to compliment the town for the work done on the in-town sidewalks. He said he would really like to see a sidewalk up to the Dollar General addressed. Peter Corey said that the NH DOT does a ten-year plan and that stretch of state road is on the plan in 2027. Jennifer Martin said she would like to see something done to include the sidewalks on Highland Street to go to the park. Peter Corey said Highland Street will be completed this year as part of the water line replacement project along with Elm Street and part of Union Street. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$20,000.**

Article 15 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 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 \$5,000.**

Article 16 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 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 \$20,000.**

Article 17 Septage Receiving Station 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 Septage Receiving Station Capital Reserve Fund created in 2019. (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 \$5,000.**

Article 18 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 19 Highway Garage Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Highway Garage Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for repairs and/or replacement of the highway garage and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) 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. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$25,000.**

Article 20 Library Maintenance & Repairs Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Library Maintenance and Repairs Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for maintenance and repairs to the Library and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund with said funds coming from the 12/31/2020 unassigned fund balance. Further, to name the Library Trustees 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. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$10,000.**

Article 21 Grant Match Capital Reserve Fund for Economic Development & Town Departments

To see if the town will vote to establish a Grant Match Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for matching funds required for any grant opportunities for economic development and town departments/operations and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in this fund with said funds to come from the 12/31/2020 unassigned fund

balance. 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. Terry Lufkin said this is money that should have gone back to the taxpayers. She asked if this is going to be used for the personal project Mr. Corey had mentioned in December? Mr. Corey responded no, it's only for grants for the Town of Whitefield. The purpose of this fund is to create a pool of money to have readily available to have for grants that may come available throughout the year. Peter said we have not been able to successfully compete for grants because we don't have the match funds. Littleton has been able to obtain a number of grants because they already have the grant match funds available. This will only be available for town grants not any private grants. This will not raise taxes, as it is coming from the 12/31/2020 unassigned fund balance. Terry said that Littleton is a billion dollar town and has a lot more business. Whitefield is small bedroom community, and it would be nice to get some of the money back to help the taxpayers. Peter said we typically return money to offset the tax rate. You need to look at that you take \$100,000 to leverage getting \$900,000 in grants. You don't get the grants if you don't have the match. Terry said it is called nickeling and diming the taxpayer to death. Bob Loiacono said that he has a problem with this request. We have spent a lot of money tonight. All of the capital reserves are going to a piece of equipment. This one is \$100,000 which is open ended and who says what it will be spent for? Bob made a motion to amend the article to include the following wording: "Prior to any disbursement from this fund the Selectmen shall hold a public hearing to inform the taxpayers of their intent to do so and the purpose of the expenditure." The motioned was seconded from the floor. The floor is opened for discussion on the amendment. Shawn said most grants you apply for require you have to have a public hearing. Shawn said it is something you have to do already. Bob Loiacono said the town through the EDC applied for a grant to do a parking lot behind the Cumberland Farms and there were no public hearings on that. The Fire Department has a grant that requires a \$2,000 match. They will get \$2,000 in grant funds if we match that grant amount. We already doubled our match. It is \$2,000 we do not have to raise in taxation. Terry asked if this would be used for the airport grant for their new tractor. Shawn said he did not believe a match was required for the tractor grant for the airport. Barbara Pinkham questioned adding an amendment before we approve the fund. Moderator Brekke explained that when the times comes to vote on the article this amendment, if passed, will be added as a stipulation. A show of voting cards was taken on the amendment. Bob Loiacono requested a hand count which resulted in: Yes—16; No—26. The amendment fails.

The floor was opened for continued discussion on Article 21. Sondra Brekke said she has been involved in different organizations looking for grants, and it is a good idea to have money there. If you don't have the matching funds, then you are not eligible for the grant. Randall Meier said in these times we are in when no one has extra money, this does not make sense. Police Chief Edward Samson said the PD and FD go for a grant for a piece of equipment and most often match funds are required. The money has to come out of our budgets, and this article would allow us to obtain larger grants. Most of the grants, all or a portion of the funds will come back to the Town. Randall Meier said we should be conservative. In December he was facing a \$500 increase in his property tax bill, and on a fixed income we don't have that extra money. You can grant us all you want and look for matching money, but we still have to come with this initial investment. Have you heard of going without? We do. Bob Loiacono said the public will not know about it until after it is done. The two people voted no for the public hearing amendment were the ones who said it already has to be done. Mark Lufkin asked why are we voting for \$100,000 when a lot of these other capital reserve funds request are for much less? Mark Lufkin made an amendment to reduce the amount of the capital reserve fund request from \$100,000 to \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Terry Lufkin. Floor is opened for discussion on the amendment. David Clifford said \$100,000 is a lot of money to spend. We are a small community—we are not Littleton. As Mr. Lufkin

pointed out, the other capital reserve accounts are for much less, but David feels \$5,000 is too far the other way. He thinks we should make it for more like \$30,000 to \$50,000 to still accomplish the need but make it more reasonable. \$100,000 is a far reach, and \$5,000 is too far in the other direction. Dave said how about \$45,000, split the difference? The amendment to reduce the amount of the article from \$100,000 to \$5,000 failed by a show of the voting cards.

Back to the original article. David Clifford made a amendment to article #21 to change the amount from \$100,000 to \$45,000. The motion was seconded by Terry Lufkin. The floor was opened for discussion on the amendment. Sondra Brekke asked a question to clarify how we came up with the amount for the article. Peter said it is hard question to determine how much should be put in. We thought \$100,000 would give us flexibility to apply for some of the larger grants. We recently lost out to Littleton on a sidewalk grant because Littleton had the matching funds and we did not. Randy Meier said he operates a business in Littleton. We have no commercial offerings in Whitefield. We need to conserve. Doesn't anyone understand that? We are spending money we don't have. Littleton has industry—they pay the taxes. There is no business here, you run them out of town. We don't have the money to support this. Peter said we need to have infrastructure to attract businesses. We have an industry who is looking at the industrial park. We would need some grant funds to run the water line up there. We got \$10.3 million in grant funds for the water project we have been working the past couple of years. We could not have done that project without the required match. You need to make an investment in your community, and we can't compete without these matching funds. Terry Lufkin asked if the company who took over Whitefield Power & Light are they going after some of this grant money? She said that the company is bouncing checks to their employees and they are not paying their bills to loggers. They ended up owing taxes to the town they were in recently. She said she forwarded copies of these articles to the Selectmen's Office. The amendment to lower the amount from \$100,000 to \$45,000 failed by a show of the voting cards.

The floor was open for discussion on the original article. Barbara Pinkham asked if the \$100,000 would be for funds from 2020. The money to fund this article is coming out of the 12/31/2020 unassigned fund balance. Shawn said the town has missed out on a lot of grants over the year. Jay Watkins had tried for a fire truck grant, and we lost out on that grant because we didn't have the matching funds. There are things out there that we can't capitalize on. This is for the people to decide on. Terry Lufkin said the money should go back to the taxpayers and put against the amount that we raise for taxes. We always take care of the departments, and whenever someone wants something they get what they want. Bob Loiacano said the fire department has over \$100,000 in their capital reserve fund, why can't they use that for matching funds. If they ultimately have the money, they can use it. Bob said he thought that is why you establish those capital reserve accounts. Jennifer Martin said she liked how Shawn represented the Fire-Rescue. We should not be comparing ourselves to Littleton or another town. We are Whitefield. We shouldn't be looking at the town that no one wants to live in. It is about economic development so we can attract people and business to the town. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$100,000.**

Article 22 Power Cot/Power Load Stretcher System

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$42,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Power Cot/Power Load Stretcher. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Fire Chief Ross explained that this article is for the Power Load and the cot. It will power the cot up and down. This will eliminate the lifting and a reduction of injuries and

make the patient safer. It can hold up to 700 lbs. to lift and get in the back of the ambulance. Barbara Pinkham is asking why are we not taking it out of the capital reserve account. Mossy said that money in the capital reserve account is broken out for a new fire truck. If we take it out now, we won't have the funds available to purchase the fire truck when the time comes. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$42,000.**

Article 23 Purchase Police Cruiser

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Police Cruiser and authorize the withdrawal of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000) is to come from general taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Terry Lufkin asked how many cruisers we have that are running. Chief Samson said we have three and we get a new one every two years so the vehicle is with us every three years. Chief said they are recycled to the other departments. This one that is being recycled will go to the Fire Chief. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$50,000.**

Article 24 Police Special Details Revolving Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of Police Special Details. All revenues received for special details from fees, charges, or other income derived from the special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall cover wages and benefits of the officers. Any balance of revenues shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. And, further to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) to be added to the Police Special Details revolving fund. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Chief Samson said that special details are requested for outside services where they need a police officer. There was an \$18,000 line item in the budget used for special details, and the need differed every year. We charge it out and the private entity pays the town. By doing this, we are able to save that money from the budget, and this fund will generate the money to pay the detail and accumulate extra funds. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$2,000.**

Article 25 Repair & Pave Kimball Hill Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) to repair and pave Kimball Hill Road. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Dave Clifford asked how does a specific road get chosen because Old East Rod is crap has been that way for a decade?. He feels that East Whitefield Road is wasted, and Kimball Hill Road is not wasted. Rob Larson, Director of Public Works, said we have a 10-year plan to do all the roads in Whitefield. Rob said when Shawn was in charge, he did a road survey on the conditions

of the roads and how fast they are deteriorating and how fast we have to respond to them. The issue with Old East Road is we have pavement underneath all that gravel. That road is much more extensive. The earth work to fix this road is extensive. Rob said we are going to have to rehabilitate it with gravel and get those stones up. Major dirt work is required out there this year. It won't be paved this year. It will be rehabilitated. Rob said anyone can stop by and see the plan. Randy said he hopes he will be around by then. Shawn said back when he was working for the town, we had \$150,000 to put into that road and we had many public hearings and the people on the road didn't want it spent to go back to gravel. They wanted to pave it. That road doesn't have a base on it. We are talking hundred of thousands of dollars. We can pave it but in a couple years it will be back in bad shape. Shawn said the taxpayers didn't want it spent on that road. It probably won't go back to pavement. Shawn suggested people to stop by and see what is on the list. Randy Meier said we can keep putting patch on something and you are just wasting money. Randy said the priority should be on Old East Road. He said it is disgusting how much time is spent plowing that road when it is not needed. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$175,000.**

Article 26 Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. Service Programs

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Five Dollars (\$5,775) 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)

Article 26 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. Jeanne Robillard spoke to the article. She said she works for Tri-County CAP and lives on Parker Road. In the past the town appropriated \$10,000 for all the Tri-County CAP programs in separate articles. This year we wanted to ask for funds and do it in a way that is fair and equitable so they came up with the proforma that supports 10 programs that are listed in the warrant article. Barbara Pinkham asked about Tamworth Dental and do people from Whitefield utilize that service. Jeanne said yes that they do. They got folks from as far away as Northumberland. She said that they are one of two dental centers state-wide that accepts Medicaid. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$5,775.**

Article 27 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)

Article 27 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$4,500.**

Article 28 Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand One Hundred and Four Dollars (\$1,104) (.50 cents per capita) for the work of the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

Article 28 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$1,104.**

Article 29 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 and hospice services to the residents of the Town of Whitefield. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

Article 29 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$14,913.**

Article 30 Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) 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)

Article 30 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. David Glover made a motion to amend the amount of the article from \$2,000 to \$6,000. The motion was seconded from the floor. The floor was open for discussion on the amendment. Mr. Glover explained that there was confusion with the warrant that was submitted. The intent was for the warrant article to be for \$6,000. Last year the request was for \$4,000. Barbara Prayer, Executive Director of Caleb Caregivers, referred to her letter on Page 123 of the town report, which explains the need. The pandemic has caused an increase in the active clients from 60 to over 100, and 45 of these are residents of Whitefield, who are our neighbors. With the covid pandemic, the fundraising events were difficult. A show of voting cards was in favor of the amendment to increase the amount of the request from \$2,000 to \$6,000. The floor was opened for discussion on the article as amended. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amended amount of \$6,000.**

Article 31 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)

Article 31 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$3,500.**

Article 32 White Mountain Mental Health

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen Dollars (\$2,919) for White Mountain Mental Health, recognizing that untreated mental illness results in loss of productivity at work, disruption to families and children, risk to the community and loss of life through suicide. Treatment works, but only if it is available and affordable. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

Article 32 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$2,919.**

Article 33 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's. a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Education Program in 2021. Through

this program, Pathways offers over 170 different classes about pregnancy, prenatal development, birth, parenting, life skills, healthy relationships, fatherhood, life renewal, and much more. Most of these video classes can be sent electronically to clients for them to complete at home through the Bright Course Curriculum (www.brightcourse.com). Our subscription to Bright Course costs \$1,099 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)

Article 33 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$250.**

Article 34 Whitefield Complete Streets Resolution

Complete Streets Resolution

WHEREAS, Streets need to be accessible, convenient, and connected corridors for all transportation modes and users that complement and support adjoining land uses, buildings, and community character, and

WHEREAS, Streets that support and invite multiple uses, including safe, active, and ample space for pedestrians, bicycles, and public transportation, contribute to the public life of a community, economic vitality, sustainable development, and efficient movement of people and goods, and

WHEREAS, Encouragement of non-motorized transportation increases mobility, reduces transportation costs, enhances community connections, improves public health, advances environmental stewardship, reduces fuel consumption, and maximizes the use roadway infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are defined as streets that are designed and operated to be safe, convenient and comfortable for all ages and abilities using any mode of transportation (motor vehicle, public transportation, foot, bicycle, etc.); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Whitefield will incorporate Complete Streets design features and practices in planning, design, approval, and implementation process for any construction, reconstruction, retrofit, maintenance, alteration, or repair of streets, bridges, or other portions of the transportation network whenever feasible so that users of all ages and abilities can travel safely and independently; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Whitefield will actively engage the public in discussion of Complete Streets policies, document implementation actions within the master plan, ordinances and regulations, and capital improvement programs, plan for grant funding, and seek out grant funding to encourage the implementation of Complete Streets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately. (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

Article 34 was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. Shawn White said that the Complete Streets is a good program for towns with more money than Whitefield. It looks to create pedestrian traffic and bike traffic lanes and incorporates calming devices. If it goes beyond a resolution, then we have to follow a system. State roads don't have the right of way to accommodate the room for the bike path, and the Town of Whitefield doesn't have the right of ways to do this either. If it goes beyond a resolution, it binds us to anything that is agreed upon in complete streets, every street has to have curbing and concrete sidewalk. Whitefield can't afford to do this. Anything we do currently, we make sure we do it to ADA compliance and follow the federal guidelines that these are done correctly. It is a resolution tonight so it is nothing to force the board to do anything. Everybody was for it because it made it sounded like you will get grants. Just because you pass this, does not necessarily mean you will get a grant. Shawn said when we got a TEA grant to do a sidewalk in the center of town, that stipulations that go along with that ended up costing the town more than if we had just done it ourselves. Jared Cape said this is a resolution. This doesn't guarantee anything but it does provide extra documentation that we are thinking about these things and being cognizance of it. It does not bind us to anything. He would encourage people to vote for this resolution. Randy Meier said when he was involved in Littleton with restructuring many streets, the town doesn't get the money until the project is completed. That grand misleads people. It costs you a lot more money than you anticipated to do the project. Sondra Brekke said she is confused with what the article says. If it is a resolution that

doesn't bind us to anything, why does it say the Town of Whitefield will do certain things. Do we have to do this or not? It was stated that we checked with the state and this is completely non-binding. This is saying we will consider complete street planning principals. It is completely non-binding. Terry Lufkin said she watched the presentation on complete streets at a selectmen's meeting. She said she feels it would ruin the parking the town has right now if they put any of that stuff in. It wouldn't be a good thing for their business. There is not a lot of businesses in town and hasn't been for a long time. The liquor store is gone now as well. **A show of voting cards defeated Article 34.**

Article 35 Non-Owner Occupied Short-Term Rentals

Purpose: The purpose of this warrant article is to establish regulations for the operation of Non-Owner Occupied Short-Term Rentals in the town of Whitefield, NH.

Definition:

a.) Non-Owner Occupied - means the property owner does not occupy the property as their primary residence.

b.) Short-Term Rental - As defined in Whitefield, NH Development Code

Warrant Article:

a.) The maximum number of occupants over the age of three(3) allowed per non-owner occupied short-term rental is (2) times the number of bedrooms plus 2 additional occupants or (2) times the number of bedrooms for non-owner occupied short-term rentals with private septic, abutting and located less than <250 feet from a NH protected shoreland. (RSA 483)

i.) The number of available bedrooms shall be determined by town records.

ii.) All bedrooms must have means of egress.

(By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the article. David Clifford had some questions on the article, but there was no one in attendance to speak to the article. **A show of voting cards defeated Article 35.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

I hereby certify that the above return of the Annual Town Meeting of March 9, 2021 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Judy Ramsdell, Administrative Assistant
Town of Whitefield, New Hampshire