

Town of Whitefield
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
2024

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

Moderator Waystack led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Waystack introduced the head table.

Shawn White, Selectmen thanked John Tholl, Selectman, for his years of service.

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

Moderator Waystack announced the election results:

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)	Phil Waystack – 239
Selectperson (Three-Year Term)	Scott Matthew Black - 226
Library Trustee (Three-Year Term)	Judith Clifton Gessner – 230
Cemetery Trustee (Three-Year Term)	Barbara M. Pinkham – 236
Trustee of Trust Funds (Three-Year Term)	Suzy Colt –197
Supervisor of the Checklist (Six-Year Term)	Sondra Brekke - 232

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 Section 7.2 (Criteria for Commercial Development) to require the Fire Chief to confirm that the development complies with all relevant provisions of the NFPA1 code?

The article passed:
Yes –193 No - 65

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 Section 10.2 (Criteria for Residential Development) to provide that, for detached one- and two-family dwelling units, the Fire Chief must provide recommendations for the Planning Board to consider regarding Fire Department access and that driveways longer than 150 feet are at least 12 feet wide, as required by RSA 153:5, VI?

The article passed:

Yes - 170 No - 88

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: Amend Section 11.2 (Criteria for Single Family Homes) to require adequate access for emergency vehicles and personnel, that the Fire Chief provide recommendations for the Planning Board to consider regarding Fire Department access and that driveways longer than 150 feet are at least 12 feet wide, as required by RSA 153:5, VI?

The article passed:

Yes - 163 No - 91

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: To amend the definitions in Appendix I of "commercial use," "dwelling," and "dwelling unit" to clarify and make them consistent with the existing Section 7 regarding the classification of short-term rentals as a commercial activity?

The article passed:

Yes - 173 No - 83

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: To amend Appendix V (Floodplain Development Criteria) to add a reference to RSA 674:17 and RSA 674:56 as the enabling authority, to require detached accessory dwelling structures to meet the same standards as other residential structures in special flood hazard areas, to provide that the issuance of variances from floodplain development standards will not conflict with other applicable laws or ordinances, and to make non-substantive grammar and spelling corrections to this section?

The article passed:

Yes - 168 No - 83

Article 07 Operating Budget

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,631,498 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

General Government - \$723,705

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 General Government in the amount of \$723,705.**

Public Safety - \$1,250,690

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard 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 \$1,250,690.**

Airport Operations - \$9,000

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Abbey Querrard. 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 - \$890,528

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 Highways & Streets in the amount of \$890,528.**

Sanitation-Solid Waste Collection (Transfer Station) - \$220,970

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard 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 \$220,970.**

Health Officer/Animal Control - \$6,345

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Abbey Querrard. 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 - \$33,000

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 Welfare Direct Assistance in the amount of \$33,000.**

Culture & Recreation - \$208,125

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard 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 \$208,125**

Conservation Commission & Economic Development - \$8,500

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion. John Tholl made a motion to amend (reduce) the Conservation Commission & Economic Development amount by \$6,000 to \$2,500. The motion was seconded by Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion on the amendment. Abbey Querrard explained that we are reducing the Economic Development budget by \$6,000, as the Board of Directors of Whitefield Economic Development Corporation decided at their meeting on February 21, 2024 that the best course of action is the dissolution of WEDC. Steve Marro said he has a master's degree in Economic Development, and sees any effort to reduce economic development is a major mistake especially for Whitefield. He feels we need the WEDC left intact, and he would be willing to take it over. There is a lot of work that needs to be

done commercially and industrially, and needs work and input from the citizens of what needs to be done. If you remove it, you are removing an investment in the future. Everyone is in favor of creating tax base and seeing new jobs created, and you need a true active committee who is willing to work. He would like to see the \$6,000 stay intact, and he is willing to work on economic development and get started as soon as this weekend. Peter Russo said there are probably members of WEDC here tonight. Theresa Russo was a member of WEDC since she moved here, and she said WEDC couldn't get members or participants and not for lack of trying. WEDC recommended Whitefield to pair up with Coos County Economic Development with an allocation for Whitefield. Coos County Economic Development has full-time staff who are able to do more than volunteers. Shawn White said that WEDC told the board that they have money left over that will come to the town and will cover any funds we may need if we decide to move forward with Coos County Economic Development. The Board did not feel it was necessary to include the \$6,000 in the budget this year. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the amendment to reduce the Conservation Commission & Economic Development budget by \$6,000 to \$2,500.** The floor was opened for discussion on the article as amended in the amount of \$2,500. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Conservation Commission & Economic Development in the amount of \$2,500.**

Debt Service - \$68,097

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 Debt Service in the amount of \$68,097.**

Sewer Department - \$646,463

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard 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 \$646,463.**

Water Department - \$566,075

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of Water Department in the amount of \$566,075.**

Operating Budget Appropriations in the amount of \$4,625,498 passed.

Article 08 Fire Department Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) 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 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 \$80,000.**

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 Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000) 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 Abbey Querrard 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 \$11,000.**

Article 10 Road Projects Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) 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 Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$60,000.**

Article 11 Police Cruiser 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 Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created in 2004. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required.)

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard 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 \$30,000.**

Article 12 Highway Equipment 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 Highway Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund created in 2001. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard 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 13 Recycling Center Equipment 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 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 Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$30,000.**

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 Abbey Querrard 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 15 Solar Energy Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars \$1,000 to be added to the Solar Energy Capital Reserve Fund created in 2022. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Theodore Jounakos said he had concerns that the Town spent close to \$100,000 on the solar installation and why do we need more? How long before we recover our funds invested in the solar project? Rob Larson, Public Works Director said the pay back is 15 years and life span is 30 years, and a majority of the costs were through a grant. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$1,000.**

Article 16 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 previously established in 2004. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$30,000.**

Article 17 Wastewater & Water Maintenance & Repairs Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Wastewater & Water Maintenance and Repairs Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for maintenance and repairs to Wastewater and Water 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 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 18 Cemetery Maintenance & Repairs Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Cemetery Maintenance & Repairs Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for cemetery maintenance and repairs and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen and Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend from said fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$500.**

Article 19 Waste Water Holding & Metering Station

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of engineering planning and design of a Wastewater Holding and Metering Station located at the Whitefield Waste Water Treatment Facility for the expressed purpose of receiving Waste from outside vendors thus creating an income potential for the Sewer Department and to authorize the issuance of not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan. Repayment of the loans will include up to 100% forgiveness of loan principal in an amount up to \$100,000. This article is contingent upon the Town receiving loan forgiveness from CWSRF in the amount of \$100,000. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (3/5 ballot vote required).

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Ed Betz said he understands this is just for engineering and design, not construction. What happens to the construction we have been waiting on? Rob Larson, Public Works Director, explained when the septage truck comes in and dumps the septage, it shocks the system. To look to solve it, we are going to have a holding facility and dump into this tank and this septage will be gradually put into the system. This article is just to do the engineering and planning and hopefully next year we will have an article to raise funds for the construction of the holding tank. Bruce Brekke asked how does this work? Rob said that we have already been approved for this loan. We have to go thru this town meeting voting process as a formality to receive the funds. These are the legal steps we have to follow. What is the downside to do this? Rob said that we are trying to bring down the sewer rates. Having outside vendors bring in septic is a way to do that. Whitefield residents will be the priority when the septage receiving facility is open then it will be open to other towns outside of Whitefield. Moderator Waystack said in order for this article to pass we need a 3/5 majority ballot vote. The polls were opened for voting on Article 19. Moderator Watstack said we will announce the results once the ballots have been counted.

Article 20 Sidewalk Maintenance Equipment

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Eight Thousand Dollars \$78,000 for the purpose of purchasing sidewalk maintenance equipment with Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy- Three Dollars (\$14,573) coming from the 12/31/2023 unassigned fund balance (NH DOT Bridge Aid received in 2023) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard to move the question. It was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion. Shawn said this equipment will be used for sidewalk plowing and summer projects as well. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$78,000.**

Phil explained the reasoning for articles 21-24. The first article, Article 21, will be to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to perform a town-wide revaluation as required by RSA 75:8-a, with the money coming from the Revaluation capital reserve fund.

The second article, Article 22 will be to discontinue the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund and the remaining funds of approximately \$100,000 will be placed in the general fund.

The third article, Article 23, will be to establish a Revaluation & Tax/Utility Systems Capital Reserve Fund and use the \$100,000 from the discontinued Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. The fourth article, Article 24, will be to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars for the purpose of acquiring new tax billing and assessing software with funds to come from the prior article to establish that capital reserve fund. In summary there is approximately \$136,000 in a revaluation Capital Reserve

Account, which \$35,000 will be used to pay for the revaluation and \$40,000 to replace a 25-year old tax/utility billing and assessing software. There will be approximately \$61,000 left in the newly created capital reserve account for future revaluations. The bottom line, no new funds will need to be raised for these expenditures.

Article 21 Revaluation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for the purpose of performing a town-wide property revaluation as required by RSA 75:8-a, such sum to come from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund created in 2015. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard to move the question. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Bruce Brekke asked what happens if this article does not pass? Shawn White explained that we would have to find the funds somewhere in the budget to pay for this Revaluation which is required by RSA. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$35,000.**

Article 22 Discontinue Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Revaluation Capital Reserve created in 2015, such fund containing approximately \$100,000 after withdrawal of the appropriation approved under Article 21, with said funds to be placed in the general fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Tholl to move the question. The motion was seconded by Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion. Katie Burns, Trustee of Trust Funds, asked if they would just let her change the name, and the Board responded that DRA and the Town Attorney wrote these articles for us and discontinuing and establishing the new fund was required. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article.**

Article 23 Establish Revaluation & Tax/Utility Systems Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Revaluation & Tax/Utility Systems Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes of performing revaluations of property for taxation purposes and for software and other equipment or systems for tax assessment and/or billing, and further to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) into the fund, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance (this represents the money remaining in the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund discontinued under Article 22). This article is contingent upon the passage of Article 22 and will not take effect unless Article 22 passes. (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 Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$100,000.**

Article 24 Tax Billing/Assessing Software

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the purpose of acquiring new tax billing and assessing software, such sum to come from the Revaluation & Tax Systems Capital Reserve Fund created by Article 23. This article is contingent upon the passages of Articles 22 and 23 and will not take effect unless both Articles 22 and 23 pass. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. The motion 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 25 Town Parking Lot

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to convey the municipal parking lot located behind Cumberland Farms (Tax Map 103 Lot 51) to another party on such terms as the Selectmen determine appropriate, so long as the transaction results in a substitute location for municipal parking? (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Shawn White to table Article 25. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor to table Article 25.**

Article 26 Sewer System Serving Northwoods Drive, Sunrise Drive, and Indian Ridge Lane

To see if the Town will vote to accept ownership, including responsibility for maintenance and operation, of the complete existing Sewer System serving Northwoods Drive, Sunrise Drive, and Indian Ridge Lane, including all mains beneath those roads and the existing pump station serving that area, but not including any service lines tied into the mains, effective as of the date of passage of this article? (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard to move the question. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Tom Weaver asked what advantage does the town get for taking over this property? Shawn said it is currently owned by the HOA of that area. When the development was built, it was the responsibility of the HOA to take over responsibility for the sewer system. The Town owns the water system. With the maintenance and what the town is responsible for, it was recommended by the Department of Public Works that it be taken over by the town. The HOA had to go out and hire a third-party company to do a full inspection on the system, and we received a clean bill of health that the system was in excellent condition. The advantage is that it makes it easier for the town to move forward with their job if any repairs or work need to be done to the road and/or water there. Rob Larson said things get complicated when you have two different owners of utility property. The town owns the road and the association needs to do a sewer repair and they damage town property. If there is a problem with that system, the town will be as liable as the owner. We have the same responsibility as the owner. We would control our own liability. They are already paying fees to have the town sewer. James Dorr said he has a question how do we prevent things from being built that we have allowed and then we have to pay for it? How do we stop that? Pete Russo said his general observation is these people live here and pay taxes--they pay a lot of property taxes. It is very well-maintained development, and he feels the town is actually going to come out ahead on this. Bruce Brekke asked if this was an article by petition? Shawn said that the Board agreed to put it on the warrant to let the voters decide if they wanted to take over this system. The Board wanted a study done on the system before the Board agreed to put it on the warrant. It is the same thing when they build developments and the town takes the road over. Tax base comes in, and this is the same scenario. Bob Loiacono said he can see no benefit to the ratepayers who will end up paying if there is an issue with the system in the future. Bob said he looked on the tax map and there are 21 properties there and 16 are owned by out of state entities. Is it really good for the rate payers and taxpayers? The Board brought this forward for the voters to make a decision. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article.**

Article 27 Establish a Conservation Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Conservation Fund under the provisions of RSA 36-A:5, into which any appropriation for conservation purposes under RSA Chapter 36-A remaining at the end of any

budget year may be deposited. The Conservation Fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of the fund and shall pay out the same only on order of a majority of the Conservation Commission without need for further town approval. (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Abbey Querrard to move the question. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. The floor was opened for discussion. Shawn White said in 1999 the Town of Whitefield established a Conservation Commission. There was no wording in the article to create a Conservation Fund. The Town Attorney felt it would be a good idea to have an article to establish the Conservation Fund so there is no question whether the fund exists or not. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article.**

Article 28 Modify Elderly Exemption

Shall the town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Whitefield, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$20,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$30,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$50,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$25,400 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$33,400; and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. The motion was seconded by Abbey Querrard. The floor was opened for discussion. Sara Doucette asked what the current amounts are: Exemption amounts are 65 to 75 years: \$10,000; 75 to 80 years: \$20,000; and 80 years of age or older: \$50,000. The income limits: single: \$18,400 and married: \$26,400. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article.**

Article 29 Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. Service Programs

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Dollars (\$6,225) for the operation of Tri County Community Action Program, Inc. service programs in Whitefield: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, ServiceLink, Senior Meals, Tamworth Dental Center. (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. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$6,225.**

Article 30 St. Paul's Episcopal Church Weekend Food Backpack

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Four Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$1,441) 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 2023/2024 school year. The Whitefield School was added to the program in September, 2016 and is currently serving 52 children each week. This includes the food and snacks as well as a voucher for 1/2 gallon of milk. Saint Paul's is currently serving an average of 234 students weekly in the towns of Stratford, Groveton, Stark, Lancaster, and Whitefield. (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. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$1,441.**

Article 31 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 organization to support our Education Program in 2024. 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. Classes can be sent via text or email to clients for them to complete at home or they can take them in-house at the Center. Our subscription to this Bright Course curriculum costs \$1,400 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. (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 this article. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$250.**

Article 32 Second Chance Animal Rescue

To see if the Town of Whitefield, NH will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) 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. (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 this article. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$1,000.**

Article 33 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 comprehensive primary preventive healthcare to all, regardless of their financial situation. This will enable ACHS to continue to provide top-notch, affordable healthcare to 398 current WHITEFIELD patients, as well as expanding our reach to assist more residents in need. ACHS provides healthcare services to 26 towns in northern Grafton and southern Coos counties and has sites in Littleton, Franconia, Whitefield, Warren, and Woodsville. ACHS serves 9,321 patients and extends a sliding-fee-scale option for payment to eligible individuals. (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 34 Androscoggin Valley Home Care

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500) for the purpose of supporting clients of Androscoggin Valley Home Care who live in Whitefield. (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 \$5,500.**

Article 35 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. (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 \$2,919.**

Article 36 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. (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 37 Town-Owned Land at 7 Jefferson Road

To see if the residents of Whitefield will vote to approve the use of Town-owned property at 7 Jefferson Road, previously the site of the Whitefield Town Hall, for the renovation/expansion of the Whitefield Public Library. Construction may include expanded space and parking. Money for this project will come from CDFA CCIP grant and other sources. No money for this construction project will be raised through taxation. (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

Shawn White made a motion to table this article on the recommendation of the town attorney and library personnel. Abbey Querrard seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion. Terry Lufkin asked why are we tabling this article? She has questions and comments on the proposed library project. Phil said that the floor is opened for discussion on tabling the article only. Terry said it was mentioned at the CIP meeting that they are looking to put in emergency housing at the library. Moderator Waystack said discussion is limited to tabling the article or not. They are no longer interested in this any longer, and it dies at the end of this meeting. Terry said she is not going to argue about this, and has emailed the Board and they know what she is talking about. **A show of voting cards was in favor of tabling the article.**

Moderator Waystack announced the results of the secret ballot vote on Article 19 – Waste Water Holding & Metering Station. The article passed with 3/5 majority vote:

Yes: 77 No: 13

Moderator Waystack said that Sara Doucette is going to give a three-minute update on the landfill proposal for Dalton.

Sara thanked Moderator Waystack and the voters for this opportunity. This is a critical time for Whitefield. Casella Waste Systems is poised to get permits for a new landfill in Dalton. They plan to dump 1800 tons of waste daily for 18 years close to the Whitefield town border—garbage imported from throughout New England, at least 49% of it from out of state. This will destroy 150 acres of forest and wetlands—half a mile from Forest Lake, literally in the Ammonoosuc River watershed, on gravel and fractured bedrock. That's the most dangerous hydrogeology for a landfill.

NH's waste management policies are controlled by an alliance of waste industry executives, state regulators and politicians. Public benefit and environmental health are consistently sidelined in favor of tremendous investor profits that will turn New Hampshire into the garbage capital of New England. Permit applications are being considered now at a time when NH doesn't need more dump space for its own trash.

The project will bring generational harm to Whitefield, its waters, air, community health and safety, quality of life and economy. Stopping this dump requires professional analysis and testimony to challenge faulty permit applications and dangerous policies. It also requires public outrage and action from townspeople.

Please consider helping North Country Alliance for Balanced Change.

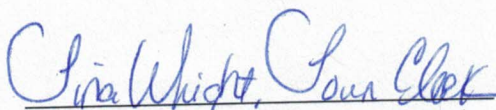
Learn more at NorthCountryABC.net.

You can join our mailing list for more information to inform your friends; write to newspapers, legislative committees, and regulators; join hearings and rallies; make donations and solicit donations to cover the tremendous cost of professional consultants.

Now is the critical time for people who care to stand up and make noise. If we don't do it now, it will be too late. I hope you will be moved to act and protect the life we cherish here.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

I hereby certify that the above return of the Annual Town Meeting of March 12, 2024 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tina Wright, Town Clerk". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tina Wright, Town Clerk
Town of Whitefield, New Hampshire