

Town of Whitefield
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

2018

The balloting session of the Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Article 1. The polls were opened at 8:00 o'clock in the forenoon by Moderator Russell and closed at 6:00 o'clock in the afternoon. The results being as follows:

Selectperson (Three Year Term)	Stanley Holz – 196 votes Wendy Hersom – 125 votes
Moderator (Two-Year Term)	Bruce Brekke – 286 votes
Library Trustee (Three Year Term)	Kathy Dunlap – 297 votes
Cemetery Trustee (Three Year Term)	Barbara Pinkham – 199 votes
Trustee of Trust Funds (Three Year Term)	Sondra Brekke – 6 votes Bob Stiles – 5 votes Ken Russell, Jr. – 4 votes Shawn Sherwood – 4 votes

Moderator Russell reviewed the rules of procedure for the meeting. Moderator Russell introduced his Assistant Moderator, Bruce Brekke, who is our newly elected Moderator.

Selectman Corey thanked Selectmen Wendy Hersom for her 15 years as a member of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Whitefield.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$357,000 (Three Hundred & Fifty-Seven Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new fire engine/tanker; and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$220,000 of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$137,000 (One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Dollars) from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (2/3 ballot vote required)

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom to move the question. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion. John Ross, Jr., Fire Chief, said the truck will be replacing two trucks a 1988 engine and a 1984 tanker. It is a 2018 International Workstar 7500, 4-door, 6x4 engine/tanker. The tanker we currently have only has a few drivers for it, as it is a standard. We have had a lot of breakdowns with these two pieces of apparatus and our front-line engine. ISO is a company who rates your insurance and they are recommending you rotate out your front-line vehicle out every 15 years. The seat belts we currently have do not have a shoulder harness and the new vehicle will have all the up-to-date safety standards. It will be a very safe vehicle. It meets all current codes. If we get this new vehicle, we will resell the older two trucks so those funds will come back in to our general fund. Sara Doucette thought it would be helpful if someone could give the tax implication over the years for the new truck. Wendy Hersom said it will be a ten-year bond with yearly payments starting out at \$31,004 and decreasing to a yearly payment of \$20,500 at the end of the ten years. The tax rate increase for the first year will be .15 cents per year thousand. Fire Chief Ross said if we pre-pay and give them all the money up front we will save 3% on the price of the vehicle. Moderator Russell explained that this is a secret written ballot vote and needs to pass by 2/3 vote. The polls were opened for secret written ballot at 7:43 p.m. and the polls closed at 8:45 p.m. A separate ballot box was used for this bond vote. There was not any motion made to reconsider the vote on this bond issue. **The article passed with a 2/3 vote:**

Yes – 78 No - 3

Article 3. – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts 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: A motion was made by Wendy Hersom 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 \$509,393.**

Public Safety: A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Wendy Hersom. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$811,930.**

Airport Operations: 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 \$9,000.**

Highways/Streets & Bridges: A motion was made by Wendy Hersom to move the question. It was seconded by John Tholl. The floor was opened for discussion. Marcia Hammon said she has been aware of monies from our gas tanks for local bridges and when she did her first reading of the report it didn't look like there was any money for the bridges, in particular the Hazen Road bridge. Is there funding included in this figure for bridge repair, expansion, maintenance?

Shawn said there is nothing in this portion of the budget for the bridge. He said it is included in Article #5. Shawn said the town receives \$79,257 in highway block grant funds. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$733,779.**

Sanitation: A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Wendy Hersom. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$180,333.**

Health: A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Peter Corey. The floor was opened for discussion. Ken Jordan made a motion to amend the article to include \$2,919 which would bring the appropriation up to \$4,496. The motion was seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion on the amendment. Ken said he works at White Mountain Mental Health and this is for their yearly appropriation. Ken said 48 people in town benefited from their services last year. They offer free psychiatric services to people who cannot afford the service due to lack of insurance. Ken said the person who did the petition in the past retired this year and Ken missed the deadline to get his article submitted. Moderator Russell explained that this was the only place they could try to get their appropriation in as they missed their deadline for a petition warrant article. A show of voting cards was in favor of the amendment. The floor was opened for discussion and voting on the article as amended in the amount of \$4,496. Someone asked if these funds are approved who oversees the expenditure of it, and Moderator said the Board of Selectmen oversees the expenditure of the entire town budget. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article, as amended, in the amount of \$4,496.**

Welfare: 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 \$21,000.**

Culture & Recreation: A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Wendy Hersom. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$133,095.**

Conservation Commission: A motion was made by John Tholl to move the question. It was seconded by Wendy Hersom. The floor was opened for discussion. Wendy said we still need people to serve on the Conservation Commission, and if people are interested in serving on the Commission please let the Board of Selectmen know. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$2,500.**

Economic Development: A motion was made by Wendy Hersom to move the question. It was seconded by Mark Lufkin. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$5,000.**

Debt Service: A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Wendy Hersom. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$153,128.**

Municipal Sewer Department: 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 \$222,825.**

Municipal Water Department: A motion was made by Wendy Hersom to move the question. It was seconded by John Tholl. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$285,573.**

Article 4: 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 Wendy Hersom. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$40,000.**

Article 5: Bridge & Town Buildings Repair/Maintenance/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) 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 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 \$55,000.**

Article 6: Ambulance 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 Ambulance Capital Reserve fund created in 2004. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom 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 7: 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 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 \$15,000.**

Article 8: 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 Wendy Hersom 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 \$60,000.**

Article 9: Highway Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$47,500) 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 Wendy Hersom. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$47,500.**

Article 10: 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 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 as amended in the amount of \$20,000.**

Article 11: Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) 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 Wendy Hersom 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 12: Town Hall Paving

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars {\$50,000} for the purpose of paving the town hall parking lot and driveway. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey 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 13: Skid Steer for Transfer Station

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand (\$35,000) to purchase a Skid Steer for the transfer station and authorize the withdrawal of Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$25,652) from the Recycling Center Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$9,348) is to come from general taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom 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 \$35,000.**

We have an issue here there is an article further on, article 23, that might require some input from Shawn White who is really anxious to get back out and help his crew with the roads.

Wendy Hersom made a motion to move article 23 forward to be addressed at this point in time. Peter Corey seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion, and a show of the voting cards was in favor of the motion. We will now go to article #23 and then back to article #14.

Article 23: Northwood Drive (Northwoods Estate)

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept a deed to the road known as Northwoods Drive (Northwoods Estate), located off Mountain View Road as town owned and maintained Class V Road. To accept and maintain the streetlights and the water and sewer system as said road having been constructed in accordance with the requirements of the town's subdivision regulations. Subdivision plan of Northwoods Estate accepted by the Whitefield Planning Board on July 11, 2006, Plan #535. Recorded July 12, 2006 in the Coos County Registry of Deeds, Plan #2715. (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

Ken read the article, this is a petition article - Northwoods Drive - Northwoods Estate:

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept a deed to the road known as Northwoods Drive (Northwoods Estate), located off Mountain View Road as town owned and maintained Class V Road. To accept and maintain the streetlights and the water and sewer system as said road having been constructed in accordance with the requirements of the town's subdivision regulations. Subdivision plan of Northwoods Estate accepted by the Whitefield Planning Board on July 11, 2006, Plan #535. Recorded July 12, 2006 in the Coos County Registry of Deeds, Plan #2715. (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

Ken said nothing is going to happen until someone moves the question. The question was moved and seconded from the floor. The floor was opened for discussion of article #23 and at this point Ken said he usually recognizes one of the petitioners or a representative of one of the petitions. Mr. Roger Croteau said the estate was built back in 2006 and divided up and most of the lots are now sold. Out of the 20 lots only 3 are left. There are 6 brand new houses up there in the past couple of years so they are looking for the town to accept to plow the road and take over the street lights and the pumping station and stuff like that.

Wendy Hersom said on behalf of the town the way the article is written, so people understand what is being asked for, right now the way the article is written it says to accept a deed and saying accepting a deed is not quite good enough as there are all different types of deed, i.e. warranty deeds, quit claim deeds, easement deeds and it is not specified in this article so that is one problem with it.

The second problem depending on what type of deed is taken is if the town is going to take ownership of the land that means anything under the land is also owned by the town at this point and streets lights, water, and sewer systems. Wendy pointed out that the town already owns the water system at Northwoods Estates. There was an agreement reached in 2008 for the town to take that over that water main so that should not even be included in here. The town did not take the sewer system because the system was not built in the way the town would have liked it to be built. It is a underground pump station system opposed to an above ground station, and there can be issues with an underground system. The town back in 2008 when approached by the builder opted not to take the sewer because it wasn't built in accordance with the way the town wanted it done. There is concern with issues there currently because of maintenance issues and just the way it was designed. That is another issue with it.

Again going back to the deed issue, if we take the land and own it as in a fee simple deed, like a quit claim deed or warranty deed, and it is not spelled out here who is responsible for preparing the deed but if we do it that way whatever is in the land the town will own it so we if there is a sewer pipe in that land we would own it. The water is not an issue as we already own that. We don't know, based upon the description, if the street lights are encompassed in that and if we take

a deed and the lights are not on the parcel that town is going to own then we wouldn't own them anyway. This is another problem with the way this is drafted.

Wendy is proposing to make a motion to change this article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to accept a maintenance easement deed to the road known as Northwoods Drive located off of Mountain View Road (see Northwoods Estate Subdivision Plan #2715 for specific location) to be maintained as a Class V Road.

Wendy said what this would do is the maintenance easement deed would spell out what the town is responsible for in maintaining the road as a Class V road and accepting it as Class V road so we would plow it, sand it, and any repairs we would have those. It would not obligate us in the future if we ever decided to discontinue it. If we took it fee simple deed, we would still own the land under the road. If we did it as a maintenance easement deed, we would extinguish the easement deed and we wouldn't be in the position of owning the land because if we owned the land and discontinued the road then we would have to have easements to all the land owners because they would need a right of access so they could travel to and from over the road. This proposed amendment eliminates all those issues and we would not be taking over the sewer and we would not be taking over the lights.

Moderator Russell asked for a second of the motion. The motion was seconded by John Tholl.

Wendy said that this is complicated and we apologize for that.

Ken said we are amending the whole article to read as follows: To see if the Town will vote to accept a maintenance easement deed to the road known as Northwoods Drive located off of Mountain View Road (see Northwoods Estate Subdivision Plan #2715 for specific location) to be maintained as a Class V Road.

This is what we are going to amend if we pass the amendment. It is the same subject and is not changing the whole nature but changes the obligation of the town. Yes, you can amend petition warrant articles.

Ken said we are now going to discuss the article as it is proposed to be amended. Scott Colby lives in the development and said as a homeowner in the development this makes sense to him what they are trying to accomplish. He has a question back to the ownership of the road and everything under it, how does this work with other roads in the town? Does the town own everything under all of the existing roads in town? Wendy said it depends. Ken said there is not a simple answer to this question Ken was town counsel for a number of years, and they have all been done a number of different ways. A lot of roads were there before things came about creating roads, they were there. The more modern ones work in different ways, the ownership of the roads work in different ways. Ken understands in this development the roads are owned by an association. Some are owned by the lot owners and some are owned by the sub-divider.

As a petition article, Scott said he understands that there is an opportunity to make an amendment to this, which is what we are discussing right now. Ken said that was correct.

Dan Zajac asked what changes when we take on the responsibility of another road? Wendy said what changes is we take on the cost to maintain it and plow it. She said she cannot give us an exact cost. It is maybe a 1/3 of a mile long, off of Mt. View Road, down and out. The road is actually in great shape and was built to town specifications. It is probably the best road in town. In terms of short-term costs for maintenance there doesn't appear to be much, but asphalt will break down over time, can't tell how long it will take it or what it will cost when it gets to that point. Daniel Zajac asked is this going to increase the property values of those properties? Wendy said probably not. Dan asked so any additional cost will be basically footed by other taxpayers because it is not going to increase their taxes? Maintenance money for roads comes from taxes. Wendy said you could look at that way, but she can tell us that the homeowners look at it they are paying their fair share of taxes and aren't getting a service that other people in are getting.

Rick Wright asked if we can take this on with existing resources in terms of manpower and equipment? Do we have the capacity for this?

Shawn White said taking on any road is going to lengthen the plow routes. Currently that plow route is 3-1/2 hours, and taking on that road will probably add another 15 minutes to that route. Resources wise, it is not a very long road, and every winter is different. It is hard to come up with figures for salt and sand and however the road is maintained. The big factor will be the phone calls we receive asking where is the plowtruck and why hasn't the truck gone past in the last 1-1/2 hour and will extend it even further.

Shawn said to clarify this is just including the Northwoods Drive. There are two more roads off that road, and they are not on the list so this is only approval for Northwoods Drive. The other two roads will be owned by the association. Shawn just wants to make sure that is clear.

Scott Colby was going to ask since we are amending this now, can he make an amendment because the intent of the petition was for Northwoods Estates. Ken said they cannot do that because it is separate roads. They weren't warned separately about three roads they were put on notice for one road. It changes the whole nature of the article. Scott said we can amend the warrant article itself but we just can't make that change to it. Ken said you can't add more roads to amend this article. It changes the purpose of the warrant.

Sara Doucette asked for clarification on the article, and Ken read the article again. Ken said this clears up what kind of deed it is going to be. It puts it in one sentence and takes out the water, sewer and street lights.

We are going to vote on amending the whole article so if you vote you are voting on approving amending the article. A show of voting cards was in favor of amending the article.

A vote was taken to approve the article as amended: To see if the Town will vote to accept a maintenance easement deed to the road known as Northwoods Drive located off of Mountain View Road (see Northwoods Estate Subdivision Plan #2715 for specific location) to be maintained as a Class V Road.

A show of voting cards was in favor of the article as amended. The article passed as amended.

Article 14: North Country Transit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) in support of the Tri County Transit Bus Services. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. Sara Doucette asked why the Board was not recommending these articles. Wendy said the next few articles are petition articles for charitable purposes, and Wendy said that the Board can either recommend or not recommend these articles and the Board feels it is not the Board's place to tell people if they want to donate or not. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$4,000.**

Article 15: 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 568 current WHITEFIELD patients, as well as reach more of those in need. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. Lee Hallquist spoke in support of Ammonoosuc Community Health Services. He said they see almost 3,000 people from Whitefield and the surrounding areas. Lee said we have spent a lot of money on different items and this money is for medical care for our elderly. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$4,500.**

Article 16: Senior Meals Program

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$2,800) in support of Tri-County CAP, Inc. for Town of Whitefield funding in support of the Senior Meals Program. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$2,800.**

Article 17: Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Nineteen Dollars (\$1,019) (.50 per capita) for the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. Beth Cape, Administrative Assistant for the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the events, activities, advertising and events the Chamber provides for the Town. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$1,019.**

Article 18: 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 Services 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)

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. Roxie Severance said she is on the Board of the North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency. The two home health agencies merged into one agency this past year. She said the provided 3,000 visits last year to Whitefield residents. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$14,913.**

Article 19: The Center for New Beginnings

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to support The Center for New Beginnings, who provided services to twenty-four (24) Whitefield residents in 2017. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$1,000.**

Article 20: Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to help support Caleb Caregivers, Inc., a non-profit organization helping Seniors living independently. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was moved and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$4,000.**

Article 21: Coos ServiceLink Resource Center

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) in support of Tri County CAP, Inc., Coos ServiceLink Resource Center. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was moved and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. A show of voting cards was too close to call. A hand count of the voting cards was as follows: Yes: 33 No: 26. **The article passed in the amount of \$1,000.**

Article 22: Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Weekend Food Backpack Program

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred and Seventy-One Dollars (\$571) in support of the 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 2018/2019 school year. The Whitefield School was added to the program in September, 2016 and has served an average of 25 children each week. This includes the food and snacks as well as a voucher for ½ gallon of milk each week. Saint Paul's is currently serving an average of 196 students weekly in the town of Stratford, Groveton, Stark, Lancaster, Jefferson, and Whitefield. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was moved and seconded from the floor to move the question. The floor was opened for discussion. Richard Carlson, the Coordinator for the Backpack Program of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was given permission by the voters to speak, as he is not a resident of Whitefield. He said they serve over 199 kids in the area schools. There are 27 backpacks that will be delivered to Whitefield students this Thursday. He said they are trying to see that kids get the proper nutrition to build their nutrition and health for a successful life. **A show of voting cards was in favor of the article in the amount of \$571.**

Article 24: Repeal Ordinance Relating to the Licensing of the Taxicabs

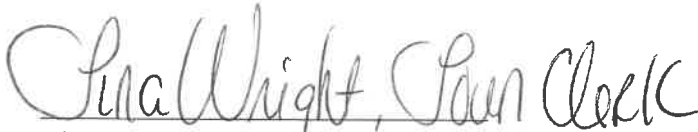
To see if the Town will vote to authorize the repealing of the ordinance relating to the licensing of taxicabs (RSA 31:40) which was adopted on May 1, 1953. (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made by Peter Corey to move the question. It was seconded by Wendy Hersom. The floor was opened for discussion. Wendy said it is a really outdated ordinance and we are trying to clean up the books and get rid of it. We want to clean it off the books. It is a

housecleaning issue. **A show of voting cards was in favor of repealing the ordinance relating to the licensing of the taxicabs.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

I hereby certify that the above return of the Annual Town Meeting of March 13, 2018 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina Wright, Town Clerk". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tina Wright, Town Clerk

Town of Whitefield, New Hampshire