

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009  
HOPE TOWN OFFICE  
6:30 P.M.**

*Note: These minutes may not be considered an official public record until such time as they are read and accepted by the Board of Selectmen.*

**Board Members Present:** Barbara Bentley, Eric Campbell, Tim Pearse, Ray Sisk, Mike Ames

**Others Present:** Jon Duke, Alex Ludwig, Rick Bresnahan

**I. Call the Meeting to Order**

Barbara Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**II. Minutes**

**a. Minutes of the January 6, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Eric Campbell made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Tim Pearse seconded.

**Motion passed 5-0.**

**III. Town Administrator's Report**

The Administrator presented to the Board revised language of the letter Assessor's Agent Vern Zeigler will circulate to Hope taxpayers who have land in the state's farm land program. The letter will be sent out to those citizens in the next couple days.

Maine DOT informed the Town on Tuesday that a contract has been awarded to pave Barnestown Road this summer. The entire paving job will begin at the intersection of John Street and Rt. 1 in Camden and proceed to the intersection of Rt. 235 and Barnestown Road in Hope. Work will commence between the end of July and the end of September.

Half of the work to be done to the electrical system at the town office is complete, with the electrician due to come back next week to complete the job in time to satisfy the Bureau of Labor Standards' deadline of February 6<sup>th</sup> for all findings of their December inspection to be addressed. In addition, the Town Office staff and Union #69 staff completed fire extinguisher and emergency event training last Wednesday.

The Midcoast Solid Waste Corporation will meet Wednesday night to consider adoption of the corporations FY 10 budget. The Town of Hope should see a modest decrease in the assessment to the town, but the global fiscal crisis has caused the MCSWC Board of Directors to make significant changes to lessen the impact to taxpayers meanwhile meeting the needs of the Maine DEP and working toward closure of the landfill. The FY10 budget includes money to increase the per bag fee for solid waste from \$1 to \$1.50.

Barbara Bentley asked me to get an update from Terry Connolly, from the EPA, to provide the Board an update on the Union Chemical facility. Terry suggested that he could come up and meet with the Board to answer any questions they may have in person.

The Town's bond counsel has prepared a letter for the town to circulate to area banks interested in submitting a bid for the financing of the new fire station project. We expect to open bids on February 9<sup>th</sup>, with the Board considering accepting a bid at their next meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Work by the Ordinance Review Committee is steaming ahead on a new Land Use Ordinance. I am meeting with Tom Ford this week to go over the new land use table of uses and administration section. We are aiming for a March 1<sup>st</sup> completion to the first draft of this ordinance.

Ray Sisk directed me to the Town of Damariscotta in response to our discussion last time regarding a new winter maintenance contract and making the town eligible for disaster relief money to offset contractor costs during those storms. I hope to incorporate Damariscotta's language into that contract when we consider its adoption next month.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **a. Winter Maintenance Bid Specifications**

The advertisements for the Winter Maintenance bid were received by the Herald Gazette, but never ran in the paper. Therefore, after consulting with Barbara and the rest of the Board of Selectmen, I informed all prospective bidders that the town will be opening bids on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. The Board will accept those bids at their next meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **a. True Park Use Regulations**

Rick Bresnahan met with the Board, in his capacity as chairman of the Recreation Committee, to discuss setting up a series of regulations for those who wish to utilize True Park. The Recreation Committee did set forth a series of guidelines in 1996, but they were not comprehensive and the Board of Selectmen may, or may not, have considered those guidelines. A new set of rules would be helpful for the Recreation Committee as it would carry with it the endorsement of the Board of Selectmen. The Board asked the Town Administrator to incorporate the guidelines set forth by the Recreation Committee in 1996 with a draft rules presented at the meeting and then circulate a draft with the Recreation Committee for their input and support before returning to the Board of Selectmen for final adoption.

##### **b. Disbursement of Foreclosed Property (963 Hatchet Mtn. Rd)**

Eric Campbell made a motion to send a letter to Palmer Pease, with a carbon copy to all of those with a former interest in the property, informing them that the town owns the property at 963 Hatchet Mountain Road and offer two options. One, for the former owner to move out within 30 days time. Two, for the former owner to pay the full amount of unpaid taxes, interest accrued, legal fees, and any other expenses incurred by the town in this matter. The payment schedule is as follows: 1/4<sup>th</sup> February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1/4<sup>th</sup> February 28<sup>th</sup>,

1/4<sup>th</sup> March 31<sup>st</sup>, and 1/4<sup>th</sup> April 30<sup>th</sup>. Failure to pay the amount in full by April 30<sup>th</sup> will result in the loss of all payments to date and eviction from the property. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 4-1 (Bentley opposed)**

**c. Roads Budget Outlook for FY09**

Alex Ludwig spoke to the Board regarding the status of the Budget for the rest of the fiscal year. Alex noted that the town's paving bid came in \$26,000 over budget for paving last summer and will therefore require cuts in the work to be done this spring. Lee Andrews of Marriner's Paving met with Alex last week to look at the roads to be addressed. Andrews predicted that the town will face \$85/ton in asphalt costs in the next fiscal year.

**d. Employee Cost of Living Adjustment FY 10**

Mike Ames made a motion to include 2% as a cost of living increase for FY 10 municipal budget. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 3-1-1 (Pearse opposed, Sisk abstained)**

**e. Warrant Approval 57-64**

Ray Sisk made a motion to approve the warrants as presented. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**VI. Adjournment**

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 9:35 pm. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**