

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 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

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the December 16, 2008 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 explained the outcome of the Board of Appeals meeting Monday evening, at which the Appeals Board chose to continue the matter so that the applicant could seek out further information to substantiate her request for a five foot front yard variance to build a garage.

Personnel Reviews are complete and the Administrator and Mike Ames met with Mary and Florance to review the minutes from their meeting.

The Town of Lincolnville is currently negotiating with Lincolnville Telephone Company to renew the town's cable agreement. The Administrator believes that changes to Lincolnville's agreement with LTC could help Hope residents receive more services with their cable bill.

The Administrator previewed the budget calendar with the Board and reminded them of the dates forthcoming for the town's municipal budget. Department heads must have their budget to the Administrator by January 23rd, with budget books finalized for the Selectmen and Budget Committee on February 6th.

IV. Old Business

a. Fire Station Project Update

The Administrator noted that the Town received the first bill from The Penobscot Company for the bond for the building, and noted that it would be paid in the next warrant.

The Administrator also noted he spoke with the town's bond counsel, Mike Trainor of Eaton/Peabody in Bangor, regarding the town's options for financing the project. Trainor suggested the town circulate a letter amongst likely lenders requesting they submit a bid to provide financing for the project. Trainor suggests the town include several options for the banks to consider, so that the town can make the best decision for its needs.

Ray Sisk also suggested the Administrator contact Chris Shrum at Eastern Maine Development Corporation regarding the town's eligibility for receiving money from President Elect Obama's forthcoming stimulus package.

b. Winter Maintenance Bid Specifications

The Town Administrator presented a draft winter maintenance bid specifications that combined the plowing and sanding bid specifications into one document. Mike Ames and Eric Campbell raised concerns that the old specifications did not include all of the important points that were placed within the contracts for those bids. Ray Sisk noted that some of the mileage appeared to be incorrect, so the Board decided to make the mileage used in the bid specs illustrative as opposed to definitive. The Board asked the Administrator to edit the proposed bid specifications to reflect these concerns and then circulate the bid specs and advertise the bid.

VII. New Business

a. Ad-Hoc Discontinued Roads Committee

The Board discussed a letter received by Barbara Bentley and the Town Administrator regarding how the Town may wish to respond to various discontinued roads in Hope and the role the town may or may not have in each instance. The Board agreed to consider the matter at the next meeting on the 27th at which time a charge for the committee would be drafted. Further, the Administrator was asked to begin advertising the need for volunteers for this committee, in hopes they can help define the group's mission.

b. Reappoint Registrar of Voters and Ballot Clerks

Eric Campbell made a motion to re-appoint the list of ballot clerks and registrars of voters as presented. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

c. Warrant Approval 53-56

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

VIII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**