

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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, Tim Pearse, and Mike Ames

Board Members Absent: Kathleen Hastings and Ray Sisk

Others Present: Jon Duke, Tim Higbee, Rick Bresnahan

I. Call the Meeting to Order

Barbara Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the September 22, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2009 meeting with corrections.

The minutes were approved 3-0

III. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting will be at the South Hope Fire Station on October 27.

The Board will poll whether or not it is feasible to meet at an alternative location in South Hope for those in attendance at the next meeting.

Barbara Bentley noted a recent article in the Bangor Daily News which reflected a situation in the Town of Etna where the budget had been artificially lowered as a result of utilizing undesignated fund balance to lower that town's mil rate.

Mike Ames noted that the culverts that had been replaced on Gillette Road were taking a beating from the rain and should be covered as soon as possible.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

- Paving has been completed on Alford Lake Road, Crabtree Road, and Hope Street. Alex and I agreed to postpone the paving of the sharp corner on Gillette Road and a section of Gurney Hill Road due to a pair of errors. Marriners, who won the bid for paving this year, chose to lay 2 ½ inches (including shim coat) on Alford Lake Road which put us significantly over what was budgeted for that stretch. This was due largely to the fact that the town had altered the bid specs and Marriners did not adjust accordingly. The town was notified of this fact after the paving had completed on Alford Lake Road. Secondly, the road widths used by the town in calculating the amount of asphalt needed to complete this year's work was under the projected amount. This overage amounted to over 300 tons of asphalt. I will be speaking with Marriner's to work out an arrangement to resolve this disagreement, perhaps through other items needed to be completed in town.

- Kathleen Hastings and I attended the MMA Convention last week in Augusta, and came away with a number of helpful items to improve our services and management of the town. Kathleen will expound on the ideas of getting more citizens involved at the Board's next meeting.
- Also at the MMA Convention, the town was honored with a Superior rating on the 2008 Annual Town Report. This meant Hope's report was ranked as the second best town report in Maine in our population range. Congratulations to Mary for all her hard work in putting this report together.
- Earlier today, we were visited by the rep for MMA's Loss Prevention group and while she gave us a number of tips, one item that came up was the need for a lease agreement, with a "hold harmless clause" between the town and the library. While the library is a small operation, it is not a town group but rather a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The town may not wish to alter its arrangement with the library, but the advice we received indicated it would be wise to formalize the town's relationship with the library. The Board asked to invite a representative of the Library to come to a future meeting to discuss this and perhaps craft an agreement.

V. Old Business

a. New Fire Station Construction Update

The Town Administrator updated the Board on the final stages in the construction of the fire station. The building is due to be completed Saturday, October 17th, and a group will be going through the building around that date to compile a punch list of items that require further attention from the Penobscot Company. However, site work will be continuing beyond the 17th, and with at least a week of work yet to be completed.

The Board expressed great concern with paving the parking lot and driveways at this late of a date and hoped the binder coat could be laid down with a finish coat postponed until the spring.

Barbara Bentley provided information regarding the open house for the fire station which is tentatively schedule for Saturday, December 5th.

VI. New Business

a. Climate Change Discussion

Lew McGregor spoke to the Board regarding Climate Action Day. An organization called 350.org is working with local governments to support efforts to reduce the amount (in parts per million) of CO₂ released in the atmosphere worldwide. October 24th is Climate Action Day, and McGregor asked the Board to formally declare this date as Climate Action Day in Hope.

An event is planned at the Camden Snow Bowl on October 24th to rally this collection of support and direct attention to a meeting going on at that time in Copenhagen, Denmark where over 100 nations will meet to discuss climate change at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.

Mike Ames made a motion to name October 24, 2009 Climate Action Day in the Town of Hope. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

b. School Consolidation Repeal Referendum – Rick Bresnahan

Rick Bresnahan spoke to the Board regarding the school consolidation law repeal referendum and requesting that the Board take a stance supporting repeal of school consolidation. Bresnahan noted that the law does not save the Town of Hope money, and in fact increases the cost of education. Due to the fact that Hope, and the other four towns in the Five Town CSD, has not approved a consolidation plan, we are due to receive penalties in the next fiscal year barring a change in legislation.

Tim Pearse made a motion to support the referendum question regarding the repeal of the school consolidation law. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion failed 2-1. (Bentley opposed)**

c. Town Office/ADA Plan – Tim Higbee

Tim Higbee spoke with the Board regarding assisting the town with organizing an ADA and maintenance plan for the Town Office building. Higbee conducted some research on ADA claims against other municipalities in Maine, and found both claims came as a result of the Department of Justice investigating at random. While the initial concerns were focused at the Town Office, Higbee feels that these investigations range town wide and the town should self assess all municipal buildings for ADA compliance. In particular, the ramp to the new fire station's front entrance does not appear to be ADA compliant at this point.

d. Approval of Warrants

Tim Pearse moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve Warrants 26-28 with the exception of the payment to Marriners on Warrant 28 for paving of Alford Lake Road, Crabtree Road, and Hope Street. **Motion approved 3-0.**

e. Sandy Point Road discussion

The Board heard a discussion based upon a request from Sydney and David Hall to change the name of their private road from Honeymoon Point to Sandy Point Road.

Tim Pearse made a motion to change the name of Honeymoon Point to Sandy Point Road with the cost of the new road sign borne by the Halls, in response to their request.

Subsequent road signs will be replaced at the town's expense. Mike Ames seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Selectmen and convene as the Board of Assessors. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

VII. Board of Assessors

a. Abatement – Jay Leech

Tim Pearse made a motion to grant an abatement to Jay Leech in the amount of \$82.22. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

b. Abatement – Cynthia Cunningham & Dennis Wadsworth

Tim Pearse made a motion to grant an abatement to Cynthia Cunningham & Dennis Wadsworth in the amount of \$425.04. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

a. 2009 Municipal Valuation Return

Tim Pearse made a motion to sign the 2009 Municipal Valuation Return. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and reconvene as the Board of Selectmen. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

VIII. Adjournment

Mike Ames moved to adjourn at 10:05 pm. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**