

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2007
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

Board Members Absent: James Annis

Others Present: Jon Duke, John Monroe, Doug Merrill, Kathy Baxter

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

a. Minutes of the Tuesday, September 25, 2007 Board of Selectman's meeting.

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tim Pearse seconded. Motion passed 3-0. (Sisk absent)

II. Town Administrator's Report

The Administrator reported that the Planning Board gave approval to Doug Merrill's relocation of his towing service to South Hope on a parcel currently owned by John Monroe. Merrill will file a building permit application shortly.

The town office's server crashed last week and currently the town office is running off of backups until a more permanent solution can be devised. The Administrator will use funds from the Tax Map project to purchase a server, and will look into getting prices from area vendors.

III. Unfinished Business

a. Septic System Variance - Brian Powers

The Administrator reported the findings from his discussion with James Marple who designed the system currently being considered for the variance request. However the Board felt more information was required before a decision could be made. The Town Administrator will contact abutters to understand the location of all wells (open and closed, how far the well is from the centerline of Rt. 17, the possible discontinuance of use for that barn, the amount casing needed between the well and leachfield.

IV. New Business

a. School Consolidation Reform – Kathy Baxter

The Board was presented with a petition drafted to ask the Legislature to repeal the School Consolidation bill passed last spring. Kathy Baxter, Hope's CSD representative, spoke to the Board on behalf of those supporting the petition and cited

the reduced voice for Hope in a consolidated district as well as the loss of its own school. Baxter noted that this is a statewide effort that is starting on the local level to ask the Legislature to come back with a more responsible piece of legislation and timetable to enact systemic reform. Before any budget discussions have begun, the funding formula created with this reform package results in the five towns losing \$1 million in state aid, which significantly affects the amount of savings created by consolidating.

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the petition. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-1.**

b. Town Office Roof Bid

The Administrator reported receiving a pair of bids to replace the Town Office roof. One from Crosby and Son for \$11,500 for architectural shingles but with a handful of changes from the bid specs and another from Anthony Simaitis Masonry/Roofing for \$15, 152.18 for three tab asphalt shingles (\$17,102.68 for architectural).

Tim Pearse made a motion to accept the bid from Anthony Simaitis Masonry/Roofing for three tab shingles at \$15, 152,18 and give the Town Administrator the authority to approve additional funds to resolve a water runoff issue above the Union 69 Superintendent Office's door. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

c. Approval of Warrants 25-28

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve Warrants 25-28. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

d. Committee Appointments

Ray Sisk made a motion to appoint Ron Smith to the Planning Board for a term ending June 30, 2009. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

e. NIMS Training

Ray Sisk wished to mention that all those still in need of NIMS training so that the town may be eligible to receive future grant funding from FEMA.

Eric Campbell made a motion to exit the meeting as the Board of Selectmen and enter as the Board of Assessors. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

V. Board of Assessors

a. Municipal Valuation Return

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the Municipal Valuation Return as presented. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Eric Campbell made a motion to exit the meeting as the Board of Selectmen and enter as the Board of Assessors. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

V. Adjournment

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 4-0**

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____ with the following amendments: