

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 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, Mike Ames, Kathleen Hastings, Ray Sisk

Others Present: Jon Duke, Alex Ludwig, Leslie Robinson

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting with corrections.

The minutes were approved 4-0 (Sisk abstained)

III. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting will be at the Hope Town Office on November 24th.
- Hope Elementary School held a school fair this past weekend and the turnout was fantastic. The Board hoped the fair might be a model to use in drawing more citizens to town meeting.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

- Election Day went off without any issues, and Administrator reported the results of the election to the Board. Election results for all Hope elections are available on the town's website.
- Molly Cole began training last week in her new role as deputy clerk. She did fantastic work, and seems to be picking up our policies and procedures quickly.
- Maine Municipal Health Trust reported today that health premiums will rise by 8% beginning January 1st. This is above the 5% increase we had budgeted, but because MMHT uses a calendar year and we use a July 1 Fiscal Year our exposure is only for six months.
- Fred Brewer dropped off a completed version of the town's FY 09 audit and was pleased report no concerns or issues in the town's finances and commended our bookkeeper for her outstanding work. Brewer noted that Mary's attention to detail helps keep the town's audit costs down dramatically.

- In response to the conversation from last meeting in regards to releasing checks ahead of warrant approval, all accounts payable checks will be held until approved by the Board. Mary and Jon will review these checks to see if any must go out prior to the Board's meeting to avoid finance charges.
- David Allen spoke with the Town Administrator today and pledged to visit the Rt. 17/Harts Mill Road intersection later this week to review its suitability for T-ing the intersection. Also, Mr. Allen indicated that traffic count data from the Rt. 105/Rt. 235 intersection had not yet been compiled to determine whether or not a four way stop would be suitable for that situation.
- The Midcoast Ladies Club has indicated that they will be removing the chairs from the library as they move their operations to the new fire station. Jon spoke with Francina and indicated the town is not interested in keeping the tables and wishes to see them find a new home.
- Residents of Morey Hill are in the process of extending electrical service up the road and may require Board action at a future meeting.

V. Old Business

a. New Fire Station Construction Update

- The Administrator presented a pair of change orders to the Board for their consideration. Change Order #4 totaled \$1020 and included the additional paving for a walk way to the front parking area. Change Order #5 was a credit to the town, in the amount of \$6,302 in return for the Penobscot Company not being required to pay for a new sign or Central Maine Power fees.
- The Town received a copy of the appraisal conducted by Dwight Johnson of the existing Hope Corner Fire Station. The report appraised the land and building in the amount of \$15,000.
- A committee has been meeting to discuss plans for the opening of the new fire station with the hope of setting a date of December 5th at 1pm.

Tim Pearse made a motion set the date for the Grand Opening of the new Hope Fire Station for December 5th. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Tim Pearse made a motion to approve Change Orders 4 and 5 and the November invoice from the TPC. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VI. New Business

a. Road Paving Plan FY 11

The Board asked the Road Commissioner to provide them with recommendations for roads to be paved over the next three fiscal years. The Commissioner should review the roads that are due to be paved in the next couple years and to also review roads that are not due to be paved for the next five years and include them in his possible recommendations.

b. FY 11 Budget Discussion

The Administrator told the Board that he was speaking with Rick Bresnahan and he asked to meet with key members of the Budget Committee to set goals and parameters for the School Committee, Selectmen, and Budget Committee to work within.

c. Approval of Warrants

Tim Pearse moved, and Ray Sisk seconded, a motion to approve Warrants 34-36. **Motion approved 5-0.**

VIII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 9:05 pm. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**