

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008
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, Mike Ames, Tim Pearse, Ray Sisk

Others Present: Jon Duke

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 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

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

Motion passed 4-0-1. (Sisk abstained)

III. Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator presented to the Board the results of the November 4th election. While the number of voters participating was an all time high for the town, the number of registered voters also rose dramatically. Therefore the town did not surpass the 2004 record of 84% of all registered voters participating.

The Town has yet to receive a letter from the Bureau of Labor Standards regarding its inspection from two weeks ago, and MMA has contacted the town to provide a similar inspection for the town's insurance. The MMA inspection will be put off until a course of action has been set in response to the letter from BLS.

Prior to the Board's next meeting, the town should receive a new cost estimate from the Penobscot Company in regards to the new fire station project. The Board asked the Administrator to prepare a schedule of the legal costs to date and future legal costs when the Board sits to discuss the contract.

The Town received a letter Tuesday from the MMA Health Trust informing the town that health insurance rates for 2009 will rise 5.9%. The Town budgeted a 10% increase in the current fiscal year budget, and the health insurance increase is inline with the Social Security cost of living adjustment of 5.9%, so the increase will not outpace fixed incomes.

The Road Commissioner attended a workshop on mitigation grant funding in Alfred this past week and will be attending a snow removal workshop held by the DOT shortly. Also, Alex reported that his meeting with Joann Mooney, who oversees mitigation grant funding for MEMA, went well and helped him greatly understand the process.

The Administrator was approached this week by Deb Stewart, Union #69 Superintendent, regarding a potential building rental cost for FY 2010. Upon consultation with the Board, the Town will suggest a rental cost of \$10,000.

The Board asked the Administrator to contact the contractor responsible for the construction of the new front walkway and have him deliver additional loam soon and install the flagpole.

IV. Public Hearing

a. 2008-2009 General Assistance Maximums

Eric Campbell made a motion to accept the 2008-2009 General Assistance Maximums. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Ray Sisk made a motion that the town create an account, entitled the Hope Chest, for the purposes of providing heating assistance and deposit a \$40 contribution from the Selectmen. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

V. Old Business

a. Personnel Policy – Sick/Leave time

Tim Pearse made a motion to approve the amended section 4:03 as proposed. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VI. New Business

a. Committee Appointments/Resignations

Tim Pearse made a motion to accept Ray Sisk's resignation from the Ordinance Review Committee and appoint him as an ex-officio member of the very same committee. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Sisk abstained)**

Eric Campbell made a motion to appoint Tug Kellough as a member of the Ordinance Review Committee. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

b. Warrant Approval 37-40

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

c. True Park – Alcohol Policy

Ray Sisk was approached by Ron Leadbetter regarding concerns he had heard regarding consumption of alcohol at True Park. The Board asked to have this as a future agenda item.

d. ICS Compliance

The Federal government is now requiring all town elected officials to comply with Incident Command classes 100, 200, and 700 to receive Federal grants in aid. Training can be accomplished through the FEMA website.

e. BLS – Fire Department

Ray Sisk reported that the fire department review by BLS turned out a handful of issues that and the Board should not be surprised by a letter with fines totaling over \$10,000.

f. Emergency Management Ordinance

Ray Sisk asked that the Board consider, at an upcoming meeting, the draft Emergency Management Ordinance

g. Shoveling Contract

Ray Sisk made a motion to accept the shoveling contract bid from Todd's Lawn & Landscape for FY 2009-2011. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**