

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 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, Ben Leavitt, Josh Leavitt, David Nazaroff

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting with corrections.

The minutes were approved 5-0

III. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting will be at the Hope Town Office on December 8th.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

- Construction on Morey Hill is proceeding and it appears that none of the abutters along the road will be pursuing underground power along Morey Hill Road. However, there may be instances where it will need to be buried underneath the road. The Road Commissioner has been in conversation with the land owners and the land owners will be responsible for informing fellow residents of the road if there is any interruption of the traveled way.
- MMA Property and Casualty division's Ann Schneider will be visiting the town facilities to review the very same standards the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards reviewed a year ago, but Ms. Schneider's aim is to see the town is following the requirements of our insurance policy. Chief Keller and I will be meeting with her during her visit.
- Following the conversation at the last meeting regarding health insurance rates increasing, I came to learn that Knox County's employees are one of the handful of individually bargained units that work with the Maine Municipal Health Trust. Ray Sisk suggested this might be an area for Knox County towns to join this pool and thus join in a lower risk pool as Knox County's rates only increased by little over 1%.
- Assessor's Agent Vern Zeigler provided to the Board a copy of the status of the properties in town within the farmland program. While a handful need to still provide more information, every property in town has updated records in regards to this program. The Board wished to thank Vern for his hard work in this matter.

V. Old Business

a. New Fire Station Construction Update

David Nazaroff of the Penobscot Company spoke with the Board to inform them that he has chosen to release his earthwork contractor from the project and will be moving ahead with George Hall and Sons. Nazaroff cited numerous delays in completing the site work and an inability to meet several timelines mutually agreed to between the Penobscot Company and the subcontractor. George Hall has already brought equipment to the site and will begin working on the project soon.

As a result of recent rains, water has begun to collect at the end of the driveways and nearly enter Route 105. Gartley and Dorsky have reviewed the various grades at this location and now recommend a catch basin be added to collect this water and move it into the ditch in front of the Historical Society.

The Town Administrator contacted Todd Snyder to receive a bid to shovel the new fire station and was provided a price of \$900 for this fiscal year and \$950 for FY 11. The Board asked to have the Administrator contact the Fire Chief and inquire as to how the department wished to clear snow around the walkways and doors.

VI. New Business

a. Road Paving Plan FY 11

High Street and Gurney Hill Road are the two roads the Road Commissioner recommends paving in the FY 2011 budget. Gurney Hill is only the section that was not paved recently and the total mileage for these roads is 1.35 miles.

Looking ahead the Road Commissioner suggests paving Robbins Road and Howe Hill Road in the FY 12 budget totaling 1.74 miles; Pushaw Road, Jones Hill Road, and Seacoast Road in the FY 13 totaling 1.42 miles; Church Street and Beverage Road in FY 14 totaling 1.22 miles; and Gillette Road in FY 14 totaling 1.32 miles.

The Board suggested to the Road Commissioner to add more to his proposed paving budget in FY 11 to meet 1.8 miles of road paved. Once completed, the Board asked the Road Commissioner to circulate a proposal to pave these roads to prospective bidders and receive proposals for the Commissioner to use in formulating his budget including cost and amount of asphalt required to complete the work.

b. Sale of Fire Station Lot

The Administrator proposed a variety of options for the Board to consider in deciding how to dispose of the existing fire station lot at Hope Corner. Ben and Josh Leavitt, who are one of two abutters to the station, expressed interest in purchasing the property and asked if the abutters might be able to receive a right of first refusal. The Leavitts also questioned whether the oil spill that occurred several years ago has been properly cleaned up and dealt with. The Board asked the Administrator to investigate the oil spill, whether an easement was granted for the property to exist across the lot line shared with the Leavitts, and whether the building was ever transferred to the town in the form of a recorded deed.

Ray Sisk will make a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to begin the process of making the existing Hope Corner Fire Station ready for sale. Mike Ames seconded.

Motion passed 5-0

c. Undesignated Fund Balance policy

Tim Pearse made a motion to accept the Undesignated Fund Balance Policy as presented.

Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

d. Hope Corner Fire Station Use policy

The Administrator presented a draft policy for the Board to consider in terms of use of the new Hope Corner Fire Station. The Board asked the Fire Chief to investigate the costs of renting other fire station spaces in Knox County, and what potential costs the town might be facing for janitorial services for the building.

e. Approval of Warrants

Tim Pearse moved, and Ray Sisk seconded, a motion to approve Warrants 37-41. **Motion approved 5-0.**

VIII. Adjournment

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