

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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, Tim Pearse

Board Members Absent: Ray Sisk, Mike Ames

Others Present: Jon Duke, Kathy Swift, Andy Swift, Jim Guerra, Alex Ludwig

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 25, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

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

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

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

Motion passed 3-0.

III. Town Administrator's Report

Plowing Meeting: Last Monday, the Alex Ludwig and I met with Tom Farley and Mike Ames from Farley and Son Landscaping to discuss the upcoming winter season and inform Alex of the procedures used by Farley & Son over the past two winters. The meeting went very well and appeared to be quite timely with the events of last Thursday. On a related note, Farley & Son is now in winter storm mode and will be patrolling Hope's roads in the early morning hours to determine severity of the conditions.

Provider Agency Collections: The Town has thus far received \$1,247 in donations to area provider agencies through the first tax payment of FY09. This amount is up nearly \$50 from last year. You may note that the Town of Rockport is now undertaking a similar strategy with provider agencies and Lincolnville is also investigating the process.

Chimney Repair: A severely high wind and rain storm two weeks ago caused the evidence of a drip coming from the ceiling. I contacted Tony Simaitis, whom the town hired to roof the building last fall, to repair the ceiling; and it appears that the rain was coming in through the chimney top. While Tony completed some minor repairs to the chimney, it appears that integrity is compromised; and he advised that the town investigate rebuilding the chimney top. Simaitis estimates the repair will cost \$1,500.

Roads Committee: Paul Gibbons sent a letter to Barbara and myself regarding his thoughts following the roads seminar he held in mid November. Paul suggests that the town establish a roads committee, have that committee review each discontinued road separately, and have the committee meet with all abutters along this road for the purposes of establishing a road association. I would like the Selectmen to decide when, or if, a discussion of this issue should be scheduled in the new year.

Zoning Board: The Board of Appeals will hear a five foot variance request from Carol Bosken who wishes to construct a garage that would be within the 58 foot road setback standard. The date and time for this appeal is to be determined.

Christmas Luncheon: Tomorrow will be the town office and Union 69 staff Christmas Luncheon.

Personnel Reviews: The personnel reviews are complete, and Mike and I will meet with Mary and Florance within the next week to present them with the findings for their signature.

Storm: The Town Office was closed last Friday due to the power outage. While the office was closed I did come into the office Friday afternoon and contacted those whose tax payments were due that day or the properties would be foreclosed upon. We are working to compile all storm damage estimates to apply for storm relief, but the damage incurred by the town appears to be minimal.

IV. Old Business

none

VII. New Business

a. True Park Alcohol Use Policy

The Administrator presented to the Board the research he conducted regarding the gifting of True Park to the town to see whether there was ever any prohibition of alcohol consumption on the property. A pair of letters from Mr. True to Ron Leadbetter and the deed to the property were presented to the Board and none of those documents contained any conversations in regards to the banning of alcohol. However, Mr. True did mention in his letter from August 21, 1996 that he could see a future use for the park that includes festive activities where food and drink are sold.

The Board agreed to sit down with the Recreation Committee at a future meeting to discuss a True Park Use Policy.

b. Hope4Jazz Festival date

Eric Campbell made a motion to allow the Hope4Jazz group to utilize True Park July 24, 25, and 26 with the 2009 festival being held on July 25th. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0**

c. CSD Warrant for School Consolidation Referendum

Tim Pearse made a motion to approve the warrant for the school consolidation referendum and set the date for the referendum as January 27, 2009 with polls open from 10am to 8pm. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 3-0**

d. School Consolidation Referendum Public Hearing Date

Tim Pearse made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the School Consolidation Referendum on January 8th at 6pm at the Hope Elementary School. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 3-0**

e. Warrant Approval 48-52

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the warrants as presented. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

VIII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**