

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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: James Annis, Barbara Bentley, Eric Campbell, Tim Pearse

Board Members Absent: Ray Sisk

Others Present: Jon Duke, Eric Gallant, Richard Higgins, Paul Gibbons

I. Call the Meeting to Order

James Annis called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the February 12, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 4-0**

III. Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator noted the upcoming dates for the Budget Committee and the budget review process. The budget will be completed on Tuesday March 11 and available for distribution the following day. The Budget Committee will meet on March 19th with the Capital Planning Committee for an organizational meeting and a primer on the work undertaken by the CPC over the past three months. Budget review sessions with the Budget Committee and Selectmen will follow on April 1st and 2nd, despite the fact that a final number for the fire station bond will not be available until later that month. A "place holder" number will be used to "guestimate" what impact that project will have on the budget.

The Camden Herald will be running a pair of articles in the coming weeks on the results of the Capital Planning Committee's efforts and the Digital Tax Mapping project currently underway. We are encouraging citizens to come into the office to review the maps to make sure the lot lines shown are reflective of those landowners' deeds and surveys. Vern is doing his best to keep up with these requests and forward corrections to Aerial Survey and Photo for revisions.

Lastly, the town's email server has gone online and new email addresses are now available for all Selectmen and other appointed officials. I will have a memo later this week detailing how to access these accounts and other added features that should allow for a greater sharing of information between all involved in town government.

IV. Unfinished Business

a. Fire Station Design-Build package update

Richard Higgins asked to discuss how the bid process for the proposed new Hope Corner Fire Station should proceed. Paul Gibbons mentioned that no project is required by state law to go through a bid process, however a town could be sued for an unfair bid process. So long as that town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, the Town should be safe from litigation. Eric Campbell noted that expenditures over \$500 must be put out to bid due to the Selectmen's bylaws. Gibbons suggested that the Town put out an RFQ for prospective bidders for the design-build package. Higgins asked whether Town should draft a letter or put an ad in the newspaper to recruit bid teams to place bids.

Letter and ad should have description of project, mention it was design-build, and mention work on similar projects. These letters should return by March 10th, and the final design-build package will be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting.

b. Personal Property Tax

Paul Gibbons spoke to the Board regarding the letter drafted by the Assessors' Agent and Barbara Bentley to inform Hope citizens regarding changes in the Personal Property tax law. Gibbons did not feel that circulating the letter to all Hope residents would be in the town's best interest as it would be propagating an already poorly crafted law. Circulating that letter only would only enflame and confuse Hope taxpayers and this would heighten the concerns. Gibbons suggested placing a letter in the town report explaining the law and requiring citizens to report at their own peril. The Selectmen agreed this would be an easier way to inform citizens without causing a great deal of concern by taxpayers.

V. New Business

a. Mid Coast Regional Planning Commission Route 17 Corridor study – Eric Galant

MDOT has asked Midcoast Regional Planning Commission to assist them in determining where their monies can be best spent to improve Route 17 and routes that connect to that road. Dangerous intersections and possible "Park and Ride" lots are possible additions to the Rt. 17 corridor. Zoning and land use concerns are another area this group will look at and work with individual towns to improve. The Town must select two individuals to represent the town on this committee.

b. Land Use Fee Schedule

The Town Administrator presented a new Land Use fee schedule for the Board to consider for the upcoming fiscal year. The Administrator noted that since the Town's last update to the fee schedule in 2004, building has increased dramatically as has the amount of time devoted to land use and planning by the Code Enforcement Officer. The Administrator looked at the building fees charged by four other municipalities and noted that in many instances Hope's fee schedule was far behind other towns.

The Board asked the Administrator to circulate this schedule to the Planning Board for their consideration and return with their recommendations.

c. Warrant Approval 59-67

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve Warrants 59-67. Tim Pearce seconded. **Motion passed 4-0**

VII. Adjournment

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