

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010
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, Ray Sisk, Kathleen Hastings

Others Present: Jon Duke, Alex Ludwig, Tim Higbee

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the December 8, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse moved, and Kathleen Hastings seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8th meeting of the Board of Selectmen. **Motion passed 3-0. (Bentley and Ames abstained)**

b. Minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Ray Sisk moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26th meeting of the Board of Selectmen. **Motion passed 5-0**

III. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting will be at the Hope Town Office on February 23rd.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

- An ad has been created and circulated to Villagesoup for the Town Clerk position. The position closes on March 2nd, and interviews will commence immediately after. I hope to have a candidate for the Board to appoint by the end of March.
- Due to the gap between the time Florance's retirement takes effect and a new clerk is hired, the town will need to appoint an interim clerk to fulfill the duties of that office. Most importantly, an individual will need to take over the responsibility for the tax commitment as that does not convey with the position. This action will take place at your next meeting
- During interim discussions with individuals interested in the Town Clerk position, it was pointed out that the 7:30 opening on Wednesday and Friday are not conducive for many who have children. I will look further into this and look at how much traffic the office sees between 7:30 and 8 AM.
- Wednesday night at the Hope Elementary School will be a meeting for South Hope residents to weigh in on the future of their community in terms of land use and development. The Ordinance Review Committee is gauging the feelings of those residents before tackling the portions of the new land use ordinance that might deal with future development on Route 17.

- Thursday night at the Town Office will be the initial budget meeting to provide a preview for the Budget Committee of the school and municipal budgets.
- The Board reviewed the 2nd Quarter financial report prepared by Mary Cooke. Revenues, and tax collections in particular, are up over FY 10 at the same point last year.

V. Old Business

a. Town Office ADA/Maintenance Plan

The Administrator condensed the estimate provided by HP Cummings to address the town office building's maintenance and ADA issues into a single page document for the Board to discuss.

b. Old Fire Station Sale

The Planning Board met with Josh and Ben Leavitt to discuss Josh Leavitt's proposed woodworking shop to be housed in the old fire station. The Planning Board saw merit in Leavitt's proposal, but had concern in regards to the town's requirement to see the fire station parcel and Ben Leavitt's parcel combined. The matter will be referred to the new town attorney.

VI. New Business

a. Town Attorney Appointment

Ray Sisk made a motion to appoint Sally Daggett of Jensen Baird as Town Attorney. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

b. Town Clerk Resignation

Tim Pearse make a motion authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Resignation and Release Agreement with Florance Merrifield as proposed. Ray Sisk seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Mike Ames made a motion to accept the resignation of Florance Merrifield as Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Election Warden, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Registrar of Voters as of February 26, 2010. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

c. Approval of Warrants

Tim Pearse moved, and Ray Sisk seconded, a motion to approve Warrants 60-63. **Motion approved 5-0.**

VII. Adjournment

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