

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 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, Eric Campbell, Tim Pearse, Ray Sisk, Mike Ames

Others Present: Jon Duke, Pat Hopkins, Cathy Murphy, Clarence Keller

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mike Ames seconded.

Motion passed 5-0

III. Town Administrator's Report

The Administrator reported that as of March 31st, the Town of Hope was NIMS compliant. Thanks go out to Clarence Keller and the volunteer firemen for working hard to finish all remaining training as well as to the Selectmen and Town Office staff for completing their work in a timely manner. Thanks to this designation, the town is now eligible to apply for grants from FEMA including a grant for \$2600 for new radios and a grant for \$3451 to upgrade the electrical system at the town office. The upgrade will allow a portable generator to be hooked up to the town office wiring and allow for the town to use this facility in the event of an emergency as a shelter of sorts.

In related news, the Administrator and Chief Keller traveled to Augusta last week to meet with the Bureau of Labor Standards (BLS) regarding the proposed fines for issues cited during the Bureau's inspection of town facilities late last year. Due to a team effort, the town was able to not only have all fines rescinded, but the town was recommended for the BLS SHAPE award which only eligible to the top 2-3 percent of all municipalities and quasi-municipal departments across the state. Further, being part of the SHAPE program allows the town to avoid periodic BLS visits and potential fines, so long as the town meets the requirements of the program and addresses areas of need as noted by bi-annual program check-ins.

IV. Public Hearing

a. Emergency Management Ordinance

Clarence spoke to present the draft Emergency Management Ordinance to be considered at the June town meeting by secret ballot. There was one amendment to clarify the powers of the EMD to spend funds during a state of emergency.

There were no comments for or against the proposed ordinance.

V. Old Business

a. New Fire Station Construction Update

The Administrator is pleased to report that the DEP has asked for the town's contribution to the fund for protecting Megunticook Lake which means the approval of the town's stormwater permit is days away. Since the permit is generated electronically, the town will know instantly when the permit has been approved. In addition, the Penobscot Company and Rich Higgins have been notified that the process is moving ahead and that final approval should be coming shortly.

VI. New Business

a. CSD School Budget Presentation

State funding issues and student population decreases are creating a great number of challenges for the CSD in their budget preparations for this coming fiscal year. Superintendent Pat Hopkins noted that the district is looking at outside sources of funding to prevent serious funding cuts in the years to come. Prior to the beginning of the budget process, the CSD board pledged to keep the budget at as close to a 0% increase as possible. The proposed CSD budget includes the cost of opting in to the state laptop program which would provide Apple Macbooks to every student at the high school.

Part of the challenge to state funding for the CSD are state imposed penalties for the five towns not agreeing to consolidate into one school district. Pat Hopkins reported that she calculated that the cost of consolidating would have increased the budget by 750 thousand dollars, which is well above the amount the state has penalized the five towns.

Business manager Cathy Murphy noted that Hope sends 88 students to the CSD and pays approximately \$6,401 per pupil. This is less than half the amount Rockport or Camden pay per pupil due to the manner in which the state implements its Essential Programs and Services funding model.

b. Five Town CSD 2009 Warrant Approval

Tim Pearse made a motion to approve the 2009 CSD school budget warrant as presented. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the 2009 CSD school budget referendum as presented. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

c. 2009 Town Meeting Warrant Approval

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the 2009 Town Meeting Warrant as amended. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

d. Set Town Meeting Dates

Tim Pearse made a motion to set the secret ballot portion of the Town Meeting Warrant for June 9th from 10am to 8pm at the Hope Town Office, and the Annual Town Meeting for June 15th at 7pm at Hope Elementary School. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

d. 2009 Dog Warrant

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the 2009 Dog warrant. Mike Ames seconded.
Motion passed 5-0.

e. Warrant Approval 81-85

Ray Sisk made a motion to approve the warrants as presented. Eric Campbell seconded.
Motion passed 5-0.

Ray Sisk made a motion to enter the Board of Assessors and exit as the Board of Selectmen.
Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VI. Board of Assessors

a. Abatement – Maxine Martz

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve an abatement to Maxine Martz in the amount of \$58.42. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Eric Campbell made a motion to exit as the Board of Assessors and re-enter as the Board of Selectmen. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**