

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007  
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, Ray Sisk

**Others Present:** Jon Duke, John Monroe, Angela Monroe, Walter Campbell, Vern Zeigler, Members of Alford Lake Camp management

**I. Call the Meeting to Order**

James Annis called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**a. Minutes of the Tuesday, June 26, 2007 Board of Selectman's meeting.**

Barbara Bentley made a motion to approve the minutes, aside from a pair of corrections, as presented. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**II. Election of Officers**

**a. Chairman**

Barbara Bentley made a motion to nominate Jim Annis as Chairman. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Annis abstained)**

**b. Vice Chairman**

Barbara Bentley made a motion to nominate Eric Campbell as Vice Chairman. Ray Sisk seconded. **Bentley and Sisk withdrew their motion and second.**

Eric Campbell made a motion to nominate Barbara Bentley as Vice Chairman. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Bentley abstained)**

**III. Town Administrator's Report**

The Town Administrator updated the Board on the School Budget re-vote and possible next steps if the three articles did not pass. In addition, at the same time as the Board of Selectmen's meeting, there was a regional meeting at Rockland District High School regarding school consolidation hosted by the Department of Education. The Administrator cautioned that this process bears watching as there will likely be a role for municipal officials in how the new school district operates. With over 75 cents of every tax dollar devoted to education, it is crucial Hope residents have a say in how their district functions.

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

#### **IV. Board of Assessors**

##### **a. Personal Property Tax Valuation discussion**

Assessors' Agent Vern Zeigler discussed with the Board the letter he had sent to them June 20<sup>th</sup> in regards to questions raised over personal property valuation. Zeigler reported that in response to complaints during last year's commitment that worked with the Town Clerk to obtain better information as to who may be eligible to pay personal property tax. In Hope, personal property has traditionally been a business focused tax, but the law is very broad and does not provide a great deal of guidance as to specific items to be taxed. John and Angela Monroe spoke against further personal property taxation and felt there was some inconsistencies in how the Town of Hope apply the tax and how the law is written. Walter Campbell felt the manner in which the Assessors' Agent attempted to acquire additional information on personal property valuations circumvented the Board and that they were not involved in expanding the personal property tax base.

While there were calls to attempt to not assess the tax, the Assessors' Agent informed the Board that failure to tax personal property taxes could result in the entire tax commitment being ruled invalid in court as the town would not be following state law.

Barbara Bentley made a motion to send a letter to all Hope taxpayers in January 2008 regarding changes in the personal property tax law and inform them of items that may fall under that tax. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 4 to 1 (Pearse opposed).**

In addition the Board asked the Town Administrator to collect any information on overdue personal property tax accounts.

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

#### **V. Unfinished Business**

##### **a. Alford Lake Camp crosswalk**

Sue McMullen of Alford Lake Camp addressed the Board regarding her request to have a crosswalk and signage placed along Alford Lake Road, in front of the camp, to protect the safety of her campers and staff. The issues with vehicles became worse 6-8 years ago when the speed limit was increase 5 or 10 mph to the current 40 mph speed limit. Campers are not allowed to cross the road without a counselor, but even the counselors have found themselves in danger by speeding vehicles. The Board responded to a comment by Ms. McMullen in her letter regarding the fact that a crosswalk would insure the safety of her campers and counselors by stating that while a crosswalk would assist in protecting the campers' safety, it could not insure it.

Ray Sisk made a motion to contact DOT regarding Alford Lake Camp and subsequent to that conversation draft an ordinance that enables a pair of crosswalks with signage in front of the camp. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**b. True Park**

The Town Administrator reported to the Board his findings from speaking with Central Maine Power regarding installing permanent power at True Park. The cost for installation would be \$23 as long as the installation occurs less than 150 feet from the nearest pole. Beyond that distance the cost is \$1,000 plus \$6.50 per foot beyond 150 feet. Bill Jones of Hope 4 Jazz marked off a potential installation location and found it to be less than 150 feet, however he is unsure what the costs would be for an electrician to complete the installation and onto what structure or pole the meter would be placed. Jones said he would contact the Administrator once those details had been established.

## **New Business**

**a. Set Date of New Fire Station Info Session**

Eric Campbell made a motion to set the date of the information session as August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at the Hope Elementary School. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**b. Approval of Warrants Alford Lake Camp crosswalk and signage**

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve Warrants 96, 1, 2, and 3. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**c. Committee Appointments**

Eric Campbell made a motion to re-appoint Dick Brodis and Peter Sexton to the Planning Board for a 5 year term ending June 30, 2012. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

## **VII. Adjournment**

Eric Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 pm. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_ with the following amendments: