

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 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, Tim Pearse, Mike Ames, Ray Sisk

Board Members Absent: Kathleen Hastings

Others Present: Jon Duke, Kim Lincoln, Ron Wright, Clarence Keller, Fred Holbrook, 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 July 28, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse moved, and Ray Sisk seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2009 meeting with amendments and corrections.

The minutes were approved 4-0

III. Selectmen's Roundtable

• Ray Sisk asked, and the Board agreed, to hold the next Selectmen's meeting on August 25th at 6:30pm at the South Hope Corner Fire Station. The note will be publicized on the website, on the agenda, and in the newspaper.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

- The Administrator informed the Board that he is in the process of looking for a new Deputy Town Clerk as Rosemary Hastings has informed him that she no longer has the ability to fill in as frequently due to increased responsibilities in her regular job. An ad will be circulated in the newspaper and other town offices will be contacted to inquire about the availability of their part time help.
- Florance completed printing of the new tax cards, which completes the process of transitioning to the new map/lot scheme implemented last summer.
- Training on the TRIO motor vehicle software package will take place next week.
- The Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) is behind schedule in getting a new land use ordinance on the ballot for a November vote.
- Work at Midcoast Solid Waste Corporation is moving ahead on a significant reshaping of the landfill in an effort to move towards closure in sections of the south quarry. In addition, scales will be installed later this fall which should help the corporation better assess the amount of material coming in the gate and charge accordingly.

- The Administrator presented to the Board the 4th Quarter financials and announced that the town's finances will be audited in early September.

V. Old Business

a. New Fire Station Construction Update

The Administrator informed the Board of a minor issue with the site of the septic field, as the engineer did not properly site the field on the site plan and now a conflict has arisen between the site of the field and the proposed future parking. Gartley and Dorsky have fixed this error and plans are moving ahead on sitework. On the issue of sitework, Penobscot Company is somewhat concerned about the lack of progress in the area of sitework despite the inclement weather earlier this summer. Since those concerns have been noted, the excavation subcontractor has increased their pace on the jobsite.

b. Knox County Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town Administrator presented to the Board a completed survey of town to be submitted as a part of the Knox County Hazard Mitigation Plan update for 2009. Several stressed areas such as those on Gillette Road, Howe Hill Road, High Street, Rt. 235 by Mansfield Pond, Rt. 235 west of Notch Road, Rt. 105 at the Camden town line, and Rt. 17 by the Fish Pond dam.

c. Fire Station Fundraising Update

Two and a half years ago Chief Keller put together a group to fundraise to help lower the amount of money needed from the town to pay for the construction of a new Hope Corner Fire Station. Chief Keller presented to the town a check in the amount of \$110,130, the amount the group had pledged to the town plus the amount mandated by the Maine DEP to offset the phosphorous that would enter the Megunticook Lake Watershed. In addition to the funds given to the town by Chief Keller's group, \$2,500, and any future funds to be raised, will be dedicated to supporting the building whether that money goes to cover office furniture or other furnishings for the building.

VI. New Business

a. Knox County Dispatch Issue Update

Chief Keller updated the Board on some issues that have arisen between the various public safety departments in the county and the Knox County Regional Dispatch Center. The regional fire chief's association has organized some concerns with the inability of the dispatch center to accurately implement necessary changes to the dispatching system. These issues have raised concerns amongst the various public safety departments as to whether or not the departments are properly being notified of emergencies in their area. Today, the County Commissioners voted to upgrade the hardware of the dispatch center, which should help ease these concerns.

b. Volunteer Firemen Stipend Policy

Tim Pearse made a motion to adopt the Volunteer Firemen Stipend Policy as presented. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 3-0-1 (Sisk abstained)**

c. Town Office Compliance/Maintenance Plan – Tim Higbee

The Selectmen spoke with Tim Higbee, who agreed to assist the Board in putting together a plan to address the ADA compliance and maintenance issues with the Town

Office building. The Board is hoping to have a plan in place prior to the budget process this coming winter and spring. Higbee stressed the importance of stabilizing the outside of the building no matter what the final state of the building will be.

d. Abatement – Donald and Patricia Holbrook

Ray Sisk moved to approve an abatement for Donald and Patricia Holbrook for TY 09 in the amount of \$21.76 and TY 08 in the amount \$20.06. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

e. Committee Appointments/Resignations

Ray Sisk moved to appoint Martie Cooper to the Planning Board for a five year term ending June 30, 2014. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

f. Approval of Warrants

Ray Sisk moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to approve Warrants 8-13. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Selectmen and convene as the Board of Assessors. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

VII. Board of Assessors

a. Abatement – Donald & Patricia Holbrook

Tim Pearse moved to approve an abatement for Donald and Patricia Holbrook for TY 10 in the amount of \$21.50. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

b. Abatement – Ben & Bridget Leavitt

Tim Pearse moved to approve an abatement for Ben & Bridget Leavitt for TY 10 in the amount of \$722.31. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

c. Farmland Withdrawal – David Wellman

Tim Pearse moved to assess a farmland withdrawal penalty to David Wellman in the amount of \$4,557.41 on a property at Map 23 Lot 31-28-004 (23 Seacoast Road). Mike Ames seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

d. Farmland Withdrawal – Linda Chapman

Tim Pearse moved to assess a farmland withdrawal penalty to Linda Chapman in the amount of \$4,316.18 on a property at Map 17 Lot 7-1 (Peasetown Road). Mike Ames seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

VIII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**