

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009
SOUTH HOPE FIRE STATION
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, Clarence Keller, James Hardy, Paul Harriman, Wayne Luce, Sam Luce, Jason Luce, Raphael Vitalo, Mary Jane Mitchell, Brian Powers, Ann Powers, Teresa Duke, Allen Duke, Bryan Brackett, Judy Brackett, John Monroe, Walter Stinson, Kevin Jones, and Leslie Robinson.

I. Call the Meeting to Order

Barbara Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the August 11, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Mike Ames moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2009 meeting with corrections.

The minutes were approved 5-0

III. Selectmen's Roundtable

• Tim Pearse noted the seizure of Bruce Melanson's excavator during a drug raid on Mr. Melanson's property by local law enforcement officials. Mr. Melanson owes more than \$12,000 in personal property taxes on the excavator and the town should make sure that it is able to recoup these unpaid taxes if the machine is sold.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

- Dwight Johnson met with the Administrator to begin work on an appraisal for the existing Hope Corner Fire Station in anticipation of the next steps of moving into the new fire station building.
- An ad will run in the Herald Gazette in the coming week advertising the opening of the deputy clerk position. Applications are available in the town office.
- The installation of the TRIO motor vehicle software package is complete and the town is now "live" and allowed to process all transactions through the system. Though there have been minor glitches, overall the system has worked well.
- The Administrator presented to the Board a copy of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's map of high and moderate value wetlands. This map will become the basis for potential changes to the shoreland zone's resource protection areas though, with Maine DEP approval, these areas can be altered.

- The town has received interest from a developer to place another communications tower on top of Hatchet Mountain for the use of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.
- On Monday, the Administrator and Road Commissioner Alex Ludwig drove around Hope's state roads with Paul Stilphen, interim director of maintenance for Maine DOT in this area. The Administrator and Road Commissioner relayed to Mr. Stilphen the concerns raised by citizens and the Board of Selectmen regarding the poor quality of work in regards to state roads within Hope. Mr. Stilphen pledged his support for fixing many of these long standing issues and working with the town in the future to addressing areas of need when the town brings them to the DOT's attention.
- Brian Powers asked about the status of the Union Chemical site and the Board agreed to put the matter on a future agenda.
- Brian Powers, and other members of the audience, also noted concerns about the safety of the Harts Mill Road/Route 17 intersection. The Administrator pledged to speak with the DOT and discuss with them potential changes to the intersection to slow the flow of traffic down as they enter Harts Mill Road.

V. Old Business

a. New Fire Station Construction Update

The Administrator reported that the doors and windows are in the building, and site work is progressing despite the ground being wet. The next construction meeting will be held on September 8 at 3pm at the Hope Town Office.

Chief Keller surprised the Board with news that the fire department had received a check from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 to fund the vehicle exhaust system that had been removed from the fire station budget due to budget constraints.

VI. New Business

a. Road Salt Bid

Tim Pearse made a motion to accept the Road Salt Bid for FY 09-10 from Mid – Atlantic Salt, LLC in the amount of \$68.78 per ton. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

b. Cemetery Lot – Andrew Larrimore

Tim Pearse made a motion to approve the sale of a cemetery lot to Andrew Larrimore. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

c. Committee Appointments/Resignations

Kathleen Hastings made a motion to appoint Vera Rand to the vacancy on the Budget Committee for a term ending June 30, 2010. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

d. Approval of Warrants

Ray Sisk moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve Warrants 14-16. **Motion approved 5-0.**

VII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**