

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 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, Walter Campbell, John Wilson

Others Present: Jon Duke, Tim Pearse, Ray Sisk, Jan Campbell, Vera Rand, Richard Higgins, Fred Holbrook, Lewis Merrifield, Judith Jones, Clarence Keller, Brian Powers Sr.

I. Call the Meeting to Order

- James Annis called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.
- a. **Minutes of the Tuesday, June 12, 2007 Board of Selectman's meeting.**
Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Walter Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**
- b. **Minutes of the Friday, June 22, 2007 Board of Selectman's meeting.**
Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. John Wilson seconded. **Motion passed 3-0-2 (Barbara Bentley and Walter Campbell abstained).**

II. Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator updated the members of the Board who were unable to attend the special Selectman's meeting on Friday, June 22nd, on the course of action due to the failed school budget articles. The date for the election will be Tuesday July 10th and the poll hours will be the standard 10am to 8pm. Legal notices and postings for the election will be handed out once the Budget Committee and School Committee meet and ballot has been finalized.

As has been past tradition, the Town Office has been closed for the year end financial close out on the last day of the fiscal year. The TRIO program speeds up this close out greatly, and it appears this could be done in the matter of a few minutes. However, there is a great deal of cleaning and organization that typically are done that day. This is made difficult by the upcoming July 4th holiday and the traffic that causes in the office, but the Administrator recommends closing the office at either noon or 2pm.

Walter Campbell made a motion to close the Town Office at noon on June 30th to close for the year end close out. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

III. Unfinished Business

- a. **Fire Station discussion**

Vera Rand of the Fire and Emergency Services Capital Planning Committee updated the Board on the work of her committee over the past three years. After having explored a number of options for construction and visited several fire stations across the state, the Committee joined members of the Board of Selectmen in meeting with the Sheraton Corporation in hopes of getting a reasonable cost estimate on a metal building. Despite a lengthy delay, Sheraton reported back to Architect Richard Higgins an estimated cost of \$175 per square foot. This cost is much higher than anyone anticipated and caused the Town Administrator to request the architect to feel out area builders on the potential cost of a new fire station. Catalano Construction responded to Higgins' request with an estimated cost of \$605,000 for a new fire station, which corresponds to the \$125 per square foot estimate discussed by the committee.

In addition, the Board of Selectmen updated the committee on their efforts to study the future use of the Town Office. The completed space study completed by Richard Higgins proposes a number of proposals to augment and renovate the current building to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which the Town Office does not meet. Prices ranged for renovations at the current Town Office from \$250,000 to over \$420,000 (which included dedicated space for the library and School Union #69). Higgins also provided the Board with a plan for a combined new fire station and town office building which combines some common areas but with separate offices for personnel. This plan was also reviewed by Catalano Construction and estimated a cost of \$870,000. Catalano did also suggest that a lower figure could be used depending on how the bid process was structured.

Members of both the committee and Board of Selectmen discussed the next steps and where for each project to proceed from here. Richard Higgins proposed putting together an information session for the community to come out and understand more about the project and give feedback as to what the next steps should be. Members of both groups felt it was important to get this feedback given the amount of increases seen on tax bills.

The Selectmen asked the Town Administrator to investigate the availability of the gym for a large meeting for this at the end of July/early August and to begin putting together information in preparation for this meeting.

b. Morey Hill Cemetery costs

Eric Campbell made a motion to amend the mowing contract with Todd Snyder that begins July 1, 2007 by adding \$300 to each year of the contract to account for additional mowing to the newly cleared section at Morey Hill Cemetery. Walter Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

IV. New Business

a. Approval of Interstate Septic Contract

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve the contract with Interstate Septic for Fiscal Year 2008 in the amount of \$2,300. Walter Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

b. Alford Lake Camp crosswalk and signage

The Town Administrator presented the Board with a request from the Alford Lake Camp to place a pair of sidewalks and accompanying signage on Alford Lake Road near the camp. The Camp Director states in the letter that the Camp would be responsible for the perpetual care of the signs and crosswalks and the town would bear no responsibility for the signs or crosswalk. Ray Sisk asked whether they have the ability to place these on a town roadway and circulated amongst the Board DOT guidelines for crosswalks from the DOT website.

Barbara Bentley made a motion to ask the Town Administrator to gather more information on placing signage for ALC on Alford Lake Road from MMA Legal. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

c. MCSWC Appointment

Barbara Bentley made a motion to appoint Walter Campbell to the MCSWC Board of Directors for a one year term. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Walter Campbell abstained).**

Barbara Bentley made a motion to appoint Eric Campbell to the MCSWC Board of Directors for a one year term. John Wilson seconded. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Eric Campbell abstained).**

d. Appointment of Town Officials

Walter Campbell made a motion to approve the list of Town Officials for appointment as presented by the Town Administrator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008. John Wilson seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

e. Approval of Warrants 93, 94, 95

Eric Campbell made a motion to approve Warrants 93, 94 and 95. Walter Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

f. Personal Property valuation discussion

The Board asked the Town Administrator to invite Assessor's Agent Vern Zeigler to the next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss his letter to the Board regarding Personal Property valuations.

VII. Adjournment

Eric Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

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