

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Brian Powers Jr., Wendy Pelletier, David Bosken, Dick Crabtree & Mike Brown

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Bobbi Oxton, and Heidi Blood

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Brian.

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 5/9/17 minutes as written. Seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- Successfully completed all exams and have been certified by the State as a Local Plumbing Inspector.
- Updated Selectmen about several meetings and trainings that were attended and a busy upcoming schedule for next week.
- There are 21 outstanding 2016 real estate tax accounts totaling \$35,255.89 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2018 if the accounts remain delinquent.
- The Town Clerk informed the Selectmen that the Town should appoint a Health Officer as soon as possible. In the absence of a Health Officer, the Chair of the Board of Selectmen fills the spot. The online trainings will be provided to Brian. Bobbi also discussed ways to make Town Meeting flow a little better. The Selectmen want to know if there is any way to make the sound at the school any better and if having 2 microphones on the Selectmen's table is possible. Selectmen asked to see if school would announce the election on June 13th and Town Meeting on June 15th through the texting system and in the Hawkeye newsletter.

New Business:

- Update with Animal Control Officer – Heidi Blood: Heidi gave the Selectmen an update on how things are going in Hope. She said a big part of her job is education and information. Often times, residents are unaware of some specifics of laws that regulate animal control. Spending time explaining the “do’s and don’ts” as well as the “can and can’ts” seem to go a long way with helping people to be more understanding. There are a lot of coyote hunters in Hope. This can cause an increase in complaints about posted land or noise complaints about howling hunting dogs. She encourages anyone that has a question regarding animal control to contact her and she will do her best to assist.
- The Town Administrator informed the selectmen that the ACO budget line was over the budgeted amount. This is because the FY 2016-2017 budget did not take in to account the mileage and supplies cost associated with the ACO position. There are still 5 months of mileage and supplies that have not been reimbursed yet. Dick made a motion to pay the ACO

for mileage and supplies through the end of the fiscal year and to present an amendment at town meeting due to a budgeting error. It was seconded by David.

Motion passed 5-0

- Discussion upgrade from DSL to Broadband Fiber Optic at Town Office: The Town Administrator provided a side by side cost and benefit comparison of the current service the town receives versus what a fiber optic service would provide. The current download speed at the town office is 2MB and the upload speed is 1 MB. This causes the backups to take as long as five days. In addition, there is lag time when trying to assist customers doing business at the town office. The fiber optic service can increase the download and upload speeds to 20 MB, 30 MB, or 50 MB. The Town Administrator will find out if there is a cost to upgrading the internet speed in the future and if so what it is. The discussion was tabled.
- Review Vacation/Sick time section of Personnel Policy: The selectmen had much discussion regarding updating and making changes to the current Personnel Policy regarding vacation and sick time. The discussion was tabled.

Old Business:

- Update with Winter Maintenance Contractor – Jacob Esancy (*If any*): None
- Maintenance and repair needs of the phosphorus treatment ponds at the Fire Station: David suggested that the ponds at the fire station should be removed from Clarence’s shoulders. Currently, Clarence makes monthly inspections and submits them to the state as required. David believes this should be the selectmen’s responsibility. The Town Administrator has contacted several engineering firms to help find the cause of the malfunctioning pond and to provide a solid plan to repair it. Expecting some results by the next Selectmen’s meeting.

Other Business:

- Brian asked if the town attorney should be present at town meeting since there is likely to be some legal questions and discussion surrounding the proposed Ordinance: Prohibiting Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs in the Town of Hope. The Town Administrator will contact town attorney and check on his availability.

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Warrant # 87 did not have the required signatures. David made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 88 & 89 and to not sign warrant #87. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

- Three of the Selectmen have agreed to come into the town office tomorrow once the required signatures are on the remaining warrant to sign it.

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 9:41 PM. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

