

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, June 13, 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, John Monroe, Bill Jones, Carole Whelan, Rick Whelan, Wendy Dewing, JC Dewing & Barbara Bentley

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Brian.

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 5/23/17 minutes as written. Seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Out of Order Item:

- Complaint regarding alleged establishment of a sport shooting range in violation of MRS 17 §2806 (2): Carole Whelan wrote a letter to the Board of Selectmen because she believes “there is disturbing illegal activity near her home.” She cited Maine Statute Title 17 MRS §2806 (2) as the basis for her concern. The illegal activity involves the establishing of a sport shooting range on the property owned by Hope Land, LLC a corporation established by Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen of Hope. Furthermore, Ms. Whelan believes that Maine Statute Title 30-A MRSA §4451, requires the code enforcement officer to enforce the Title 17 law. The Town Administrator explained that the since the Town of Hope does not have an ordinance regarding shooting ranges, the code enforcement officer has no authority to enforce that law. Several of the people attending had questions. The Administrator read aloud the legal opinion from the Maine Municipal Association’s legal team and provided Ms. Whelan with a copy. It was suggested that if she wanted to pursue a nuisance action in this matter, that obtaining legal counsel would be the best way to begin.

Administrator’s Report:

- Informed the Selectmen that Spectrum does not have any intension of providing cable service to Hope at this time.
- Gave updates on the preparations for the Annual Town Meeting
- Brian, Dick, and Samantha presented the Hope Volunteer Firefighters with a framed cover of the annual report and a framed copy of the dedication page.
- Reported to the Selectmen that there have been complaints regarding the mowing.
- Attended several meetings, forums, and classes.
- There are 19 outstanding 2016 real estate tax accounts with liens that will foreclose in January 2018 if the accounts remain delinquent.

New Business:

- Award paving bid: The Road Commissioner informed the Selectmen that 11 bids were received for the paving. The bids were as follows: Price per ton = total price

<i>Allstates Asphalt, Inc</i>	\$65.10	<i>Lane Construction Co.</i>	\$65.45
<i>B & B Paving, Inc</i>	\$57.00 = \$63,220	<i>Performance Paving, Inc</i>	\$58.25 = \$66,433
<i>Bard Paving Construction</i>	\$64.00	<i>Pike Industries</i>	\$62.50 = \$70,837
<i>F.C Work & Sons Inc</i>	\$57.60 = \$64,550	<i>Vaughn D Thibodeau II Inc</i>	\$63.00
<i>Hagar Enterprises, Inc</i>	\$64.00	<i>Wellman Paving Inc</i>	\$60.60 = \$67,482
<i>Hopkins Landscaping LLC</i>	\$75.00		

After some research, the Road Commissioner noted that it is becoming a popular trend to use recycled asphalt rather than “virgin” asphalt as it is less expensive but still meets the MDOT standards. The State has very strict guidelines for recycled asphalt. John Monroe looked into the 5 lowest bidders. He said that he could not find any information on B & B Paving. No website, no Facebook, & no internet presence. F.C. Works does not have a website but does have a Facebook page. There was only 1 like on the page otherwise there was no additional information according to the Road Commissioner. The Town has used Wellman Paving in the past but there were some issues with them shutting down roads and being vulgar toward residents. Thibodeau’s said that they had made a mistake in figuring the quote. John Monroe stated that whoever the Selectmen choose, they should require that they are bonded. He recommended Performance Paving because he is familiar with their work, they are local, and they have a good reputation. Mike made a motion to award the paving bid to Performance Paving. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

- Appointments to the Planning Board of Appeals: There were 2 applications for the Planning Board of Appeals.
 - Wendy made a motion to appoint Steve Bowman to a 5-year term on the Planning Board of Appeals. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
 - Wendy made a motion to appoint John Jensen to a 5-year term on the Planning Board of Appeals. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Old Business:

- Update regarding Winter Maintenance Contractor: The Road Commissioner, John Monroe, reported that the Winter Maintenance Contractor now has 4 trucks that are all being serviced. The contractor bought a truck from the Town of Union. He also has his loader up and going. The progress is actually going faster than John thought it would. The Contractor is still looking to see if he wants or needs additional trucks. He currently has 3 employees plus himself at this point. The Road Commissioner will be discussing planned routes and how the plowing will be done systematically.
- Maintenance and repair of the phosphorus treatment ponds at the Fire Station: The Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with Scope of Work quotes from 2 engineering

companies to repair the PTP soil filter ponds at the fire station. There was much discussion regarding insurance coverage and performance bond coverage. The Selectmen want it on record that the Fire Chief is not the responsible party for these ponds. The responsibility and accountability belongs to the Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen do not want to proceed with any engineering firms at this time because the phosphorous treatment pond filtering method has been discontinued. David made a motion to have the Town Administrator contact Todd Snyder to scarify and level the bottom of the pond and to re-seed/plant using the specific soils and grasses required for USF #3. This will be funded through the carryover of the Public Safety budget. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

- Discussion upgrade from DSL to Broadband Fiber Optic at Town Office: The Town Administrator presented information to the Selectmen indicating that the cost of the fiber optic upgrade to 30MB would cost .09¢ more per month but .02¢ less per minute for long distance calls than the current monthly bill. Dick made a motion to approve the upgrade to the town office internet and phone service bundle to 30MB. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

- Review Vacation/Sick time section of Personnel Policy: Dick gave an outline of the possible changes to the current vacation and sick time portions of the Personnel Policy. There was much discussion. This item was tabled for further discussion in the future.

Other Business:

- Mike informed the Selectmen that he has begun conversation with the Board of Director's on the MCSW Board regarding all of the towns having an equal vote on matters relating to solid waste facility. He doesn't think there is much rebuttal to the proposal. The other board members wanted to know if Hope received an equal vote if we would then be willing to commit those funds to the Jacobs Quarry closure. David said that a one-time investment for a lifetime equal vote sounded good to him. Dick stated that he really wants two things: 1.) for the Town of Hope to have an equal vote on all matters relating to MCSW, and 2.) a guarantee that the money will actually be used for the closure of the Jacobs Quarry. All of the Selectmen agreed with those items. Mike will continue talks with the MCSW Board.
- Brian had a 1½ hour meeting with the school superintendent regarding disbursement warrants. He outlined the process of having warrants signed. The School Board must have at least 3 signatures on each warrant. In addition, the Superintendent must sign each warrant **AND** initial two statements that 1.) declare that all expenditures have been approved by the voters, and 2.) the expenditures do not overdraft the budget lines. The Board of Selectmen will refuse to sign any warrants that have not been properly handled by the school board and/or the superintendent. Therefore, if teachers and bills don't get paid, it will fall on the shoulders of the school board. Brian also stated that as elected officials it is their responsibility and duty to ensure signatures are on each warrant, even if they only have a meeting once a month. The Board of Selectmen will no longer sign any warrants outside of the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting which are always posted and happen on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (*special circumstances aside*). The Superintendent, Diane Helprin, told Brian that chair of the school board, Tom Ingraham, said that he was upset that the school board looked bad because it refused to make any concessions during the Special Town Meeting to vote on the school budget. Bill Pearse made 9 separate motions to appeal to the board to keep in mind that taxes are paying for these increases. Diane also said that she believes there will be even more mandated costs coming down the road and that there is nothing we will be able to do about that.

- Brian stated that he is disappointed that our friend and colleague is leaving us. (*Brian was speaking of Selectman, David Bosken, who did not run for re-election; this was his last meeting*) He has been as helpful to the Town of Hope as possible. He has good thoughts and good actions for the Town. We will miss him.
- David said that he learned a lot and that if the U.S. Government worked as well together as the Selectmen for the Town of Hope, the world would be a much better place. 😊

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. David made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 90, 91, 92, 93 & 94. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 9:19 PM. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-1 (David)