

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, August 8, 2017
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Brian Powers Jr., Wendy Pelletier, Dick Crabtree, Mike Brown & Sarah Ann Smith

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank & John Monroe

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Sarah made a motion to accept the 7/25/17 minutes as written. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- If there is anything that you would like to have printed on a ballot, it needs to be given to Bobbi by the next Selectmen's meeting in order to make the printing deadline.
- Tax bills have been mailed.
- Received the recorded copy of the environmental covenants for the Union Chemical property.
- The paving contract was signed on July 27th. The paving on Alford Lake Rd has been completed.
- Updated Selectmen about Planning Board. As Code Enforcement Officer, I will speak to property/business owner and issue a stop work order until proper permitting has been obtained.
- Attended an MCSW Executive Board meeting last night. We discussed the process for interviewing the firms that had responded to the RFP to redesign the facility. Those interviews are going to take place next Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The interviews will be open to the public for watching but not for public participation.
- There are 34 outstanding 2017 real estate accounts totaling \$67,483.46 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent.
- There are 13 outstanding 2016 real estate tax accounts totaling \$23,791.24 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2018 if the accounts remain delinquent.

New Business:

- Personal Property Taxes - 30 M.R.S. 105 §760-A Minor or burdensome amounts: The Selectmen have reviewed and discussed the FY 2018 assessed personal property tax list. Dick made a motion to release the Town Tax Collector from the duty of billing or collecting any of the FY 2018 personal property taxes and to remove all personal property taxes that have been assessed for FY 2018 in the amount of \$4,166.20 from the municipal books pursuant to 30-

M.R.S. 105 § 760-A, minor or burdensome amounts. Seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

- General Assistance Ordinance update: Currently the town is operating under the 2005 General Assistance Ordinance. The Selectmen have reviewed the updates and changes. Sarah made a motion to adopt the 2016 General Assistance Ordinance. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

- Road Commissioner:
 - Sand & Salt Bids: The Road Commissioner presented the Selectmen with the bid from New England for the road salt for \$58.39 per ton. He said the Town usually purchases 400 tons. He also submitted a bid from Lucas for the sand for \$11.75 per yard. Lucas will also mix the sand and the salt and “put it up” in the shed for that same price. The Town usually purchases 2,400 yards. Mike made a motion to accept the bids and to purchase the road salt from New England for \$58.29 per ton for at least 400 tons and to accept the bid from Lucas to purchase the road sand at a rate of \$11.75 per yard for at least 2,400 yards for the 2017-2018 winter season. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0
 - Paving: The paving has been completed on Alford Lake Rd. and Taylor Hill Rd. After the work was completed, there was approximately 1,240 tons still available. This translates to approximately \$10,000 left over. John said that there is enough left over that when the pavers come back to pave where the new culvert work is being done, that Hackleburnham Rd could also be done at the same time. The Hackleburnham Rd would take approx. 120 tons. He also mentioned that another option would be to have it as a carryover into next year’s budget. Brian wanted to know how much distance was left on Alford Lake Rd to have the paving completed. John said that there was still 1.6 miles left to complete Alford Lake Rd. One possibility would be to use the money to complete the paving of the Alford Lake Rd in just one year instead of two. However, it is too early in the budget year to consider budget carry-overs at this time.
 - Road Closing: A new culvert is going to be put in on the Alford Lake Rd. Since it is a very large culvert it will require that the road be closed for at least a week and possibly for two weeks. John has contacted Clarence, the Fire Chief, to make sure that all of the proper public safety notifications have been made. Since Alford Lake Rd is not a state aid road, there is not a need to coordinate with MDOT. John will put out signs tomorrow informing residents of the pending road closures on Rt. 17 & Rt. 235. He reiterated that it is important to do the work now because it is dry now and he considers it to be an emergency need. The Selectmen are all in favor of the emergency work to be done.
 - Plowing: The contractor is still moving forward. The Road Commissioner thinks he will be able to meet the September 1st deadline of being fully ready for the plowing season to begin. Jake Esancy needs to attend the September 12th Selectmen’s meeting and discuss his progress and readiness.
 - Salt/Sand Shed: John will be working on all of the needed repairs to the salt/shed. He will purchase the needed door knobs, locks, cables and other necessary items. He will also post appropriate signage indicating no entrance into the shed by any unauthorized personnel. There is also some electrical work that needs to be done to fix the exhaust fan. When he tried to turn it on, a bunch of pigeons flew out of it. It is a safety concern, so it really needs to be fixed. The Town Administrator will contact an electrician to get the work done as soon as possible.

- Donation to Hope Volunteer Fire Department: Two checks arrived as a donation to the Hope Fire Department for \$125 each totaling \$250. Dick made a motion to accept the donation and to have it earmarked for the Public Safety budget. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Old Business:

- Hope Chest Request: There was a request for assistance from the Hope Chest. Dick stated that he has a concern that the money in the Hope Chest is on the municipal books and is under the oversight of the Selectmen. The Hope Chest should be treated the same as any other uses for spending. He firmly believes that the Selectmen should adopt a policy and then needs to follow that policy. The current system allows for the Board or just the chair if the Selectmen were unable to meet, to make the determination about someone getting assistance without any guidelines or criteria. The system as it is currently, creates a perfect situation where someone with less than honest intentions can make money disappear. Sarah stated that having good checks and balances protects all involved. Brian stated that there have been lots of discussions in the past regarding the best way to administrate the Hope Chest. There have been times when it was an emergency type of request and there was just too much time until the next meeting to wait. Brian further stated that yes, it is a loose system but we have not been able to come up with system that could get the Hope Chest working the way it was intended to. There is no paperwork. Dick stated that the Board should not be willing to accept the liability of not having any policy whatsoever. In this particular case, he thinks it is a good use of the money and he will vote for it. However, he will not vote for anything in the future without some sort of criteria or guidelines. Samantha will check with other towns who have benevolent funds and the policies they have regarding those funds. Wendy made a motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

- Union Chemical letter to Town Attorney: The Selectmen approved sending a letter to the Town Attorney, Bill Kelly, authorizing no more than 2 hours to determine what is the best course of action for the town to ensure that the Court does not order that the property be returned to the Town based on the simple fact that it was the last owner of record before the appointment of a Receiver?
- Electronic Signatures on warrants: Dick said that the Board of Selectmen owe it to the voters to not condone a system that allows the School Board to not do their job. Therefore, he is unwilling to accept electronic signatures on A/P warrants. Dick made a motion to accept electronic signatures for payroll warrants on the weeks when there is no School Board meeting, since they only meet once a month. All other warrants will require original signatures. In addition, the Selectmen will be provided a master signature sheet of all of the School Board signatories to have on file at the Town Office. The warrants must also have the printed name below each signature. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passes 5-0

Other Business:

- Executive Session: pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) – Personnel matter: Dick made a motion to go into executive session for a personnel matter, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) at 8:45PM. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

- Dick made a motion to leave executive session and to return to the open Selectmen’s meeting at 8:50PM. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 8, 9, 10, and 11. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 9:11 PM. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0