

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Hope Board of Selectmen**  
**Tuesday, January 9, 2018**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Hope Town Office**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

- Samantha Mank, Mary Tolles, and Jason Hall

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Brian.

**Public Comment:**

- Jason Hall spoke regarding two (2) items. First, the calendar on the Town website indicated a wrong starting time for this Selectmen's meeting. He concluded the comment by stating this is a minor thing and that he was probably the only person affected by the error. The second item was about the ability of residents to get 2 five-gallon buckets of sand from the sand/salt shed. He asked if the office staff and other town officials have received any complaints. Jason also commented on the matter being resolved and settled back when he served on the Board of Selectmen. He wanted to know what has changed since then. Brian explained why this current Board made the policy change and that at this point there is no feasible solution. Jason also said that the signs that were put up at the sand/salt shed were offensive and condescending. In addition, he searched the town website for the agenda or minutes that discussed that the policy was going to be changed in advance so that the public could be informed and speak about the matter before the policy was adopted. Dick said that Board would talk to the Road Commissioner and have the condescending signs remove and have them replaced with something more appropriate. In addition, the Board would write a short explanation and post it at the sand/salt shed. All of the Selectmen agreed that this would be an ongoing discussion.

**Minutes:**

- Dick made a motion to accept the 12/12/17 minutes as written. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

**Administrator's Report:**

- The sign for the entrance of True Park was removed because the wooden pole had rotted. The sign will be put back in place in the Spring.
- I spoke with Rick Bresnahan about the True Park budget. He has indicated that he would like to participate in the budgeting process this year. He will submit a budget to Mary and will make a presentation the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
- I called MMA Risk Management to ask specifically about the cost of insurance for private or personal events. MMA explained that the Town is forbidden to insure events that are private and/or personal. MMA said that the insurance underwriter strongly recommends that municipalities guard themselves against lawsuits when they can or if they are aware of potential law suits. The TULIP insurance offers \$1 million of coverage for around \$75. That \$75, protects the Town as well as the resident from what could be costly litigation. MMA will

defend the Town even to the detriment of the resident. If the Town's intent is to protect itself and its residents, then requiring 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance in municipally owned buildings and naming the Town as the additional insured, can prevent a bad thing turning in to an even worse thing.

- I also spoke to MMA Risk Management about the cost of obtaining bonds on the Town Office staff. The Town of Hope is already insured beyond the Faithful Performance of Duty. Currently the Town is insured against crimes such as: employee dishonesty, faithful performance, forgery, alteration, theft, disappearance, & destruction. In addition, there is coverage for the General Assistance Administrator and the Road Commissioner.
- There are currently **944** - 2018 real estate accounts totaling \$1,280,548.99.
- There are 23 outstanding **2017** real estate accounts totaling \$46,680.80 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent.
- There are 7 outstanding **2016** real estate tax accounts totaling \$7,238.74 with liens that will automatically foreclose on January 26, 2018 if the accounts remain delinquent.

#### **New Business:**

- Quarterly Report, Mary Tolles: Mary told the Selectmen that there was nothing too remarkable about the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report. There was an increase in the amount of property taxes collected in December most likely due to the change in the tax law that was approved by Congress. The Bookkeeper also gave the Selectmen a current detailed report of expenditures from the roads budget. Brian said that the Selectmen are very appreciative of all that Mary does and that Bill Brewer, the auditor, spoke very highly of her.
- Road Commissioner, John Monroe – Updates: Due to the extreme weather, the Road Commissioner was working and unable to attend the meeting. He will be scheduled to give any updates at the next Selectmen's meeting on January 23, 2018.
- Ambulance Service Needs/Wants: The Selectmen were give an update on the Ambulance Review Committee meeting. At the meeting Mr. Russell, the CEO from North East Ambulance, said in order to keep the same level of service that the town now receives, the contract would increase from \$79,000 to \$315,532. Mr. Russell said that the increase was due to a substantial decrease in the call volume. The town of Hope had 60 ambulance calls last year with the annual cost for the Town's portion of \$10,214. *{Union Ambulance covered a part of the Town during a portion of the contract}* Mr. Russell also presented 3 additional options with varying levels of service. The Selectmen decided to follow the recommendation of the ambulance service provider and chose option 3. Option 3 still provides full coverage to the Town however, only 2 paramedics will be required to be on duty on the daytime weekends. This change recognizes that much less transfers are provided or scheduled on weekends therefore less calls for paramedics. The proposed contract subsidy would increase from the current \$79,000 to \$240,180. Hope's share is approximately 13%. Brian wanted to know if the 4-towns are unique or is this is a trend through-out the state. The Selectmen wanted to know what the level of service was when Camden First Aid had the contract. None of the Selectmen could recall any complaints about Camden First Aid's level of service. The next Ambulance Review Committee meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2018.

#### **Old Business:**

- Budget Meeting Updates: The Selectmen were informed that the Town's budget process is moving forward. All of the department heads and committees have been informed that budget requests are due by January 19, 2018 at 4:30PM. Budget presentations to the Board of Selectmen will begin on February 6, 2018.

- Mid-Coast Solid Waste: The Selectmen were given updates on the budget process for Mid Coast Solid Waste. At this point, the Board of Director's is waiting for the final audit numbers before proceeding with the remaining budget items. The next meeting has not been scheduled yet.
- North East Ambulance: See notes above

**Other Business:**

- Mike said that the street light at the end of Highfield Rd. does not come on. Samantha will call CMP about getting it fixed.

**Review & Sign Warrants #'s:**

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrants #'s 48, 49, and 50. It was seconded by Sarah.

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Adjournment:**

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 9:58 PM. It was seconded by Wendy.

**Motion passed 5-0**