

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Hope Board of Assessors
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Emily Burgess, Langley Willauer, Chelsea Summers, Katlin Maynard, John Monroe

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment:

Emily Burgess, from the Hope School Board, wanted to let the Selectmen know that in an attempt to have more open communication with the Town, the School Board is going to try to have a representative attend meetings. She also extended an invitation to the Selectmen to attend School Board meetings. She also discussed having a "Taxpayer Appreciation Day". The school is looking for ways to implement this in a meaningful way. Perhaps someone from the town is aware of a resident who has a need that students can provide for. They are really looking to implement the schools core value at the middle school level. Emily is going to meet with Bill Jones and do some brainstorming. The school is looking forward to working together.

Minutes:

- Mike made a motion to accept the 10/24/17 minutes as written. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Suspend as Selectmen/Convene as Assessors:

- Dick made a motion to suspend as Selectmen and to convene as the Board of Assessors. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
- Certificate of Settlement: The Board of Assessors reviewed and signed the Certificate of Settlement which discharges all liability and/or obligation of collecting the remaining \$1,489,516.28 from Bobbi Oxton.

Suspend as Assessors/Reconvene as Selectmen:

- Dick made a motion to suspend as Assessors and to reconvene as Selectmen. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
- Appointment of new Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Sarah made a motion to appoint Chelsea Summers as the new Town Clerk and Tax Collector as well as all of the other jobs associated with the position. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 5-0

- Administer Oath(s) of office for newly appointed Town Clerk/Tax Collector: The Town Administrator administered the oath of office for the Town Clerk and for the Tax Collector. Chelsea signed each oath.

Suspend as Selectmen/Reconvene as Assessors:

- Certificate of Recommitment: Dick made a motion that the Board of Assessors reviewed and signed the Certificate of Recommitment which transfers a true list of all assets that are to be levied and collected in the amount of \$1,489,516.28 to Chelsea Summers. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjourn as Assessors/Reconvene as Selectmen:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and reconvene as the Board of Selectmen. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- Upon the resignation of the Town Clerk, ads were immediately posted to get the position filled without a long span of time with no clerk. Pleased to introduce Chelsea Summers as the candidate to be hired as Town Clerk/Tax Collector.
- There was vandalism at True Park again. This time it was damage to a batting cage owned by the Five-Towns Little League. I have talked with the Recreation Committee regarding this matter.
- The storm that hit caused state-wide power outages. The Town Office was without power and closed for 2 days. I am going to meet with Clarence to determine if the can be a contingency plan for conducting town business in the event of something similar happening again in the future. Clarence spent a lot of extra time away from his regular employment to handle town business. I wrote a letter to Rankin's thanking them for letting Clarence perform his Fire Chief and EMA Director duties while he was supposed to be at work.
- There are currently 1,031 2018 real estate accounts totaling \$1,484,127.81.
- There are 25 outstanding 2017 real estate accounts totaling \$50,979.50 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent.

New Business:

- Road Commissioner – John Monroe: There was a lot of storm damage mostly from fallen trees. There were road closures. In some cases, roads were closed for 3 to 4 days and some even longer. This was worse than the ice storm. There was a little bit of snow fall and some areas that had ice on the roadways. Jake Esancy was out a did some spot sanding. The Road Commissioner thinks that he is ready for the winter season. There was a lot of maintenance and clean-up work needed at that sand/salt shed. The rain runoff from the roof was causing drainage damage in the parking. There 2 large drainage pipes installed on each side of the shed to correct the problem. In addition, 16 loads of debris including barrels of antifreeze, barrels of oil, tires. There are still jersey barriers belonging to the Hobbs and Fish Pond Association remaining there. Jake built a ramp for loading sand & salt into the trucks. He did this on his own time and did not charge the town. In addition, the Road Commissioner reminded the Selectmen about a basketball sized hole in the roof that happened approximately 4 years ago. It is too late to have the previous plowing contractor have it fixed or make an insurance claim. This may be something that should be included in the next budget and finally have it repaired. The building is now locked, and appropriate signage has

been posted. In addition, cameras have been installed to monitor activity at the sand/salt shed. The Road Commissioner acknowledged that the clean-up and maintenance was beyond what was budgeted. However, the building was in some real need of attention before becoming a great liability to the town.

- Policy Review – Municipal Building Management: The Town Administrator explained that there were approximately 5 current policies regarding municipal buildings. In an effort to consolidate policies, the Administrator asked the Selectmen to provide some insight into the direction they would like to pursue. At this point, the Selectmen are seeking a more uniform Building/Facility Use Policy. The liability insurance will be the main driver. Brian stated that we need to make sure that there are no encumbrances or liabilities to the taxpayers. The Town Administrator will contact MMA and present the Selectmen with policy options at the next meeting.

Old Business:

- None:

Other Business:

- None

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Dick made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0