

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES OF ASSESSORS MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Hope Board of Assessors
Tuesday, December 12, 2017
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office**

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, John Monroe, and Langley Willauer

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 11/28/17 minutes as written. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- The budget presentation schedule has been set. All department heads will submit their budget requests to Mary. Mary will have budget books ready for Selectmen no later than the end of the day on Friday, February 2nd.
- State Offices including the Bureau of Motor State Offices (including Bureau of Motor Vehicles), Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions, as well as several towns are closing early or completely on December 22nd and remaining closed on December 26th. I would like to propose being open for the entire day on Friday the 22nd and remain closed on the Tuesday the 26th as there will be not be any State Offices which we would generally use for assistance or other needs that the Town may have. Typically, if the State is closed, the Town has also been closed.
- The gutters around the Town Office are either coming off or have been bent in such a way that water is dripping between them and the building. I have contacted an insured handyman who will be here later this week or early next week to adjust the gutters, add brackets to secure the gutters to the building, and replace the missing portion of the down spout on the front of the building.
- There has been concern expressed over an article regarding not funding the currently vacant Recycling Outreach Coordinator position at the MCSW. The Administrator will be attending the budget meeting tomorrow evening.
- The Hope Library sign has been installed. It looks good.
- The 45, 30-Day Notices depicting final warning of impending foreclosures will be mailed out December 13th, 2017
- There are currently 1,019 - 2018 real estate accounts totaling \$1,192,562.52.

- There are **24** outstanding 2017 real estate accounts totaling \$47,794.82 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 should the accounts remain delinquent.
- There are **11** outstanding 2016 real estate accounts totaling \$22,290.52 with liens that will automatically foreclose on January 26, 2018 should the accounts remain delinquent.

New Business:

- 2017 Audit Review –Due to inclement weather, the Auditor was unable to attend this evening’s meeting. He will be re-scheduled. Dick did mention some highlights of the annual audit. Both the School and the Town were found to be in order showing no issues or deficiencies. The Town was found to be in good financial shape. There was nothing found in either the School’s procedures or policies to be a problem.
- Appointment to Ambulance Review Committee: The terms of the Ambulance Review Committee expire upon appointment of new members to the Committee. Wendy made a motion to appoint Dick to the Ambulance Review Committee. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0-1 (Dick)
Wendy made a motion to appoint Sarah to the Ambulance Review Committee. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0-1 (Sarah)
- Road Commissioner – John Monroe: The Road Commissioner gave a report regarding the first legitimate storm of the season. He received a couple of negative remarks and one actual complaint about the roads in other towns being bare of snow and the roads in Hope were not bare of snow. There were also some compliments about the roads that were sent to the Road Commissioner via email and Facebook. There were a couple of “breakdowns” of the plow trucks, mostly blown hydraulic lines that were quickly repaired. Overall, the Road Commissioner feels that all went well. There have been some complaints about the Sand/Salt Shed policy. Some residents are quite upset about losing the availability of 2 buckets of sand per storm for their private use. The Road Commissioner and the Snowplowing Contractor have been referring residents to the Town Office to voice their complaints and concerns. Brian asked about having a sign at the crest of Barnestown Road as it enters Camden indicating there is a road (Gillette Road) on the down side of the hill. John explained that the State maintains Barnestown Road. He will contact MDOT and ask to have that sign replaced. In addition, there is a sharp curve on Gillette Road where there use to be 4 signs with arrows on them to help navigate that curve, particularly when visibility is poor. 2 of the 4 signs are missing. Brian asked the Road Commissioner to put that on the list for sign replacements as well.

Old Business:

- PERC- Municipal Withdrawal Agreement Updates: The Town Administrator gave the Selectmen an update on the withdrawal from MRC process. Another draft Withdrawal Agreement will be sent for the Selectmen to review.
- Policy Review – Municipal Building: The Town Administrator presented another draft of the Municipal Building Use Policy using the suggestions from the previous meeting. Sarah called the TULIP Insurers to inquire about the costs involved and what activities are permitted under that figure. The very basic 1 to 4-hour Meeting Insurance is \$77 per occurrence. While she was at the Elected Officials Workshop, this topic was discussed. The advice from the Maine Municipal Association (*the Town’s insurer*) was to not open buildings to the public for public or personal use that are not regularly/normally open for public or

personal use. In other words, “don’t change the use of the building”. There was much discussion surrounding the details of the policy. The Selectmen would like to receive input from the Fire Chief before deciding on the proposed policy.

Other Business:

- Dick attended the School Board meeting. He is pleased to announce that the School Board is truly invested in their jobs of providing accountability as they poured over the invoices before them asking questions. Currently, Danielle (school Principal) is filling in as the Athletic Director as there hasn’t been anyone found able to fill the position. She is not taking the stipend for that position.
- Dick attended the most recent Knox County Budget Committee Meeting and then went back and watched the entire 12 hours of previously recorded meetings. This is a very large budget and It seems that neither the Budget Committee nor the County Commissioners really know what specific questions to ask. It appears that only the County Administrator is aware of the specific details of the budget. Looking at a comparison analysis of neighboring counties (Know, Waldo & Lincoln), the District Attorney’s Office line is double that of the other counties. We need to become more aware and knowledgeable about our County Budget.
- Risk Assessment of True Park: On the path from the Town office parking lot into True Park there is a sign with rules providing adequate explanation. There is not, however, a sign at the Main Entrance of the park on Church Street. There needs to be a sign put at the Main Entrance.
- Closed on Tuesday, December 26, 2017: The Board of Selectmen agreed to have the Town Office closed on Tuesday, December. 26, 2017.

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Dick made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn as Selectmen and to convene as Assessors at 8:53 PM. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Abatement Requests:

- Vern Ziegler, the Assessor’s Agent, indicated that there was an assessment error in which the incorrect acreage was assessed on property located on Map 23 Lot 7 belonging to Curt Hahn. Sarah made a motion to grant an abatement to Curt Hahn for property located at Map 23 Lot 7 in the amount of \$17.94. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 5-0
- Vern also submitted another assessment error in which the assessment of the house structure was too high for the actual condition of the building for property located at 97 Blueberry Hill belonging to Charles and Elizabeth Booke. The Assessors had some questions regarding the abatement. Vern was contacted and via conference call and asked if this is really an assessment error or an insurance matter. Vern explained that the condition of the property is a

factor on April 1st of each assessment year. Therefore, this is an assessment error, however, the property has been flagged and will be inspected again before the next tax commitment to ensure a proper assessment. Dick made a motion to grant an abatement to Charles and Elizabeth Boone for property located at 97 Blueberry Hill in the amount of \$1,724.20. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Sarah made a motion to adjourn as Selectmen and to convene as Assessors at 9:10 PM. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0