

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

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

- Samantha Mank, John Monroe, Jacob Esancy, Jeff Connon, David Hall, Julie Jones, Judith Jones, Barbara Mason, Nancy Connon, Deborah Richardson & Linda Lord

**Call to Order:**

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

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Minutes:**

- Dick made a motion to accept the 8/22/17 minutes as written. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 3-0-1 (Wendy)**

**Taken Out of Order:**

- Hobbs & Fish Pond Association: Update & Follow-up on Dam Repair: Jeff Connon, the newly elected president of HFPA, distributed a copy of a letter written to Brian Powers, Jr., Chair, Board of Selectmen and Samantha Mank, Town Administrator by Ronald Kreisman, the attorney representing the HFPA. Jeff stood and read the letter in its entirety. Jeff also inquired that since the letter was read in a public meeting if it would be on record. The selectmen told him that it would be. Jeff asked the selectmen if they had any comments or questions or if they wanted to have a discussion. The selectmen stated that since the correspondence was from their attorney that it would be inappropriate to have any further discussions without first consulting the town attorney. Jeff then stated that all future discussion and correspondence could be directed to him via Richard Kreisman, their attorney.

**Administrator's Report:**

- Updated the selectmen on the results of the 9/6/2017 Planning Board meeting.
- I contacted the Town Attorney with some subdivision questions. It appears that the Land Use Ordinance (LUO) does make the site plan for CELL null and void. The subdivision plan was registered at the registry of deeds. However, the approved site-plan was not recorded in the registry.
- Informed the Selectmen of various trainings and meetings on the Town Administrator's schedule for the next few weeks.
- The annual school audit began yesterday and the annual town audit was today. Mr. Brewer, the auditor, spoke with me about any fraud concerns or any possible areas of improvements. In addition, he wanted to know if the town was going to make a succession plan for when and if the need to hire new employees arises. The cost of staff replacement almost always turns out to be higher than staff retention. This should be planned for sooner than later.

- Dianne Helprin has asked to have the issue of electronic signatures removed from the agenda per the school board.
- There are currently 1,125 2018 real estate accounts totaling \$2,494,269.78. This is down 58 accounts since August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- There are 28 outstanding 2017 real estate accounts totaling \$56,771.23 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent. This is down 2 accounts since August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 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. This remains unchanged since August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Old Business:**

- Plowing Contractor Update: The Contractor stated that he has 2 trucks and a loader ready to plow if needed right now. He has a 3<sup>rd</sup> truck that is still having some plowing equipment installed. The company doing the work is a few weeks backlogged but said it should be finished within a couple of weeks. Jake also has a 4<sup>th</sup> truck as a back-up. The Road Commissioner will be helping to make a specific plowing route for each truck and will be sure to point out known problem areas that will require more attention in plowing, sanding and salting. Jake is planning on having cameras installed in order to monitor the area around the sand and salt shed. Contractor will receive written authorization from the Town Administrator for those cameras. The Contractor is also parking/storing his vehicles and equipment on the Road Commissioner’s property until his own garage/storage is built.
- Road Commissioner: John informed the Selectmen of a potential complaint from the Knox County SO. The Road Commissioner received a phone call from Knox County Dispatch telling him that a speed limit sign was missing on Seacoast Rd. The dispatcher told John to go and post a 35mph speed limit sign. John refused to do so because he doesn’t have the authority to post any speed limit signs. Later a Deputy contacted the Road Commissioner telling him to post the speed limit sign. Again, the Road Commissioner refused because only the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) has authority to post speed limits.

**Executive Session:**

- Dick made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:11 PM to discuss consultation with the town attorney regarding letter from HFPA’s attorney. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 4-0**
- Dick made a motion to adjourn from executive session and reconvene the Selectmen’s meeting at 7:22 PM. It was seconded Wendy.  
**Motion Passed 4-0**

**Resume Old Business:**

- School Union 69 Electronic Signatures on A/P Warrants: Removed from agenda per School Board
- Correspondence from Town Attorney, Bill Kelly, regarding Union Chemical: In short, if the town does not want to take the property back, the Town should write a proactive and emphatic letter to the Commissioner and the Court stating the Town does not want the property returned to the Town. Brian stated that he was willing to do this because it is still doing the “will of the people” as they had already voted at the 2015 Town Meeting to not take the property back. The Town Administrator will contact the attorney regarding specific content for the letter.

- Discussion- Hope Chest: After much discussion about creating a policy for the Hope Chest, the Selectmen decided on some criteria elements that the Town Administrator will draft into policy form and have it ready for the next Selectmen's meeting.

**New Business:**

- Adoption of the 2017-2018 General Assistance Maximum Levels: Dick made a motion to amend the GA Ordinance Appendices and adopt the new maximum levels as presented by the State for appendices A-D. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 4-0**
- 2017-2018 Contract for Assessor's Agent: Mike made a motion to accept and sign the contract to retain assessing services from Fort Halifax Appraisals. It was seconded by Dick.  
**Motion passed 4-0**
- Sign opting to not participate in LUCA (US Census Bureau): Wendy made a motion to follow the recommendation of the Town Administrator and the Town Bookkeeper for the Town to opt out of participating in LUCA. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 4-0**
- Spurwink – A Family for ME- Municipal support and/or assistance: Received an email from Spurwink asking if they would be able to set up an information table at Town Meeting to help inform and possibly attract new foster families. The Selectmen do not want to be involved in supporting, advocating or promoting the organization. However, they are not opposed to very low-key displays such as an informational table or a flyer on the bulletin board.

**Other Business:**

- None

**Adjourn/Convene:**

- Dick made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Selectmen and to Convene as the Board of Assessors at 8:20 PM. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 4-0**

**New Business:**

- 2017 Municipal Valuation Return (MVR): Dick made a motion to approve and sign the 2017 MVR as presented. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 4-0**

**Adjourn/Convene:**

- Dick made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and to Convene as the Board of Selectmen at 8:29 PM. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 4-0**

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

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19. It was seconded by Dick.  
**Motion passed 4-0**

**Adjournment:**

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 PM. It was seconded by Dick.  
**Motion passed 4-0**