

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, September 26, 2017
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, John Monroe,

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 9/12/17 minutes as written. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (*Sarah*) {*Wendy was not present for this vote*}

Administrator's Report:

- Attended a Train-the-Trainer Ergonomics workshop. The Town Administrator will apply for a Safety Enhancement Grant early next year. The grants are awarded twice a year. The 1st one is in April and the 2nd one is in October. The grants are for ergonomic equipment. It is awarded at a 2:1 ratio. The amounts range from \$2,000 - \$5,000.
- A meeting has been scheduled to meet with the Town Attorney on October 24, 2017 in Executive Session regarding the HFPA letter.
- The SU 69 (HES) appointed a finance committee for the Town of Hope at the September 18th School Board meeting. The Finance Committee is made up of 2 members, Emily Burgess and Brooks Crane. This committee will take the place of any previously discussed electronic signatures for the time being. The 2 signatures from the Finance Committee are only for the payroll warrants. The accounts payable warrants still require a majority of the School Board to sign
- Received an email from a resident on Gillette Rd. regarding the road work and noise. The Road Commissioner had already notified me of the incident.
- The Town audit has been completed. The Auditor, Bill Brewer, will come and share the results in a few weeks.
- There are currently 1,095, 2018 real estate accounts totaling \$2,149,535.95. This is down 30 accounts since September 12th.
- There are 28 outstanding 2017 real estate accounts totaling \$56,371.52 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent. This is down 0 accounts since September 12th.

- There are 12 outstanding 2016 real estate tax accounts totaling \$22,893.28 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2018 if the accounts remain delinquent. This is down 1 since September 12th.

New Business:

- Road Commissioner: The salt/sand shed is locked up and signs have been posted. There continues to be miscommunication regarding posting speed limit signs. The Road Commissioner says that he is not authorized to arbitrarily post speed limit signs. The Town Administrator will contact the State to find out what authority and under what circumstances the Road Commissioner and the Town has to post speed limit signs.
- Town Policies Review: The Town Administrator noted that several of the Town Policies are now outdated and/or contain incorrect information. Samantha proposed going through all of the town policies and bring them to the Selectmen for updating at a rate of at least one per month until all were current.

Old Business:

- Hope Chest Review & Adoption: The Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with a draft of the Hope Chest Policy as follows:

| TOWN OF HOPE HOPE CHEST POLICY | |
|---|---|
| Introduction: | The Hope Chest was created by Hope residents donating their own financial resources to help other Hope residents. It is fully funded by donations. No taxpayer money is used for this fund. |
| Administration: | The Hope Chest is a discretionary fund. It is the intent of the Selectmen to dispense the Hope Chest funds for those in need of the necessities of life. In order to guard the dignity and privacy of any resident seeking assistance, the Selectmen will meet with residents in Executive Session. All decisions will be made by a majority vote. In case of an emergency, and while the Selectmen are out of session; a majority vote via email is needed. If a majority is unreachable; then 2 selectmen can make a decision to assist in an extreme emergency with a cap of \$250.00. |
| Criteria: | Anyone applying or receiving assistance from the Hope Chest must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Be a resident of the Town of Hope</i> • <i>Not be eligible for General Assistance or any other sources of aid</i> • <i>Must be an individual and not an entity or organization</i> |

Mike was concerned about the wording of “*Not be eligible for General Assistance*”, as it might exclude people who could actually be eligible. The sentence was amended to read: “*Not be able to pay for the expense with General Assistance or any other sources of aid*”. Sarah made a motion to adopt the Hope Chest Policy as amended. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

Other Business:

- The Town Administrator will forward letters to be sent to the Court, to the Town Attorney in order to make sure it contains all appropriate content regarding Union Chemical. Dick made a motion authorizing the Town Administrator to send correspondence to the Town Attorney for review. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

- Discussion of School subsidy returned to taxpayers: In order to ensure that the taxpayers get the benefit of 50% of the returned school subsidy, Dick asked to have Mary write a physical check to the Town as a paper trail for the money and to ensure it was in town control.

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Dick made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 20, 21, 22, and 23. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 PM. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0