

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 14, 2017
6:00 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Brian Powers Jr., David Bosken, Wendy Pelletier, Dick Crabtree & Mike Brown

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Mary Tolles, John Monroe & Mike Ames

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Brian.

Public Comment:

- None

Budget Presentation Roads:

- Road Commissioner, John Monroe, presented a FY 2018 proposed roads budget to the Board of Selectmen. John pointed out that the Town has fallen behind on paving at least 1.6 miles of road each year in order to maintain paving all of the approximately 16 miles of Town roads every 10 years. We are not even achieving 1 mile of paving a year. At some point, neglecting the roads will be more costly to repair or reconstruct than it is to just maintain if the budget continues to be cut. He outlined the proposed work for the next fiscal year.

No action taken

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 1/24/17 minutes as written. Seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 5-0
- Dick made a motion to accept the 2/8/17 minutes as written. Seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- All of the 2015 real estate taxes were paid prior to January 31st resulting in zero tax acquired properties. There are 33 liens for 2016 real estate taxes that are scheduled to foreclose in January 2018.
- Met with Bangor Savings Bank and The First National Bank representatives regarding investments and higher interest-bearing account options. Would like to set aside a time for the Selectmen to meet as well in order to make the best financial choices for the Town.
- At this time, Knox County is not providing animal control services for individual municipalities. The current ACO does receive a stipend but no budget was in place to offset the costs of mileage, supplies, postage, or immunizations. The ACO has sent an invoice to the Town for those items. In addition, there is no job description or contract in place for the ACO. Mary will contact the current ACO to find out if the Town has received all invoices.

New Business:

- **Accept Donation from Sweet Treat Arts for True Park:** There was some discussion as to whether or not to accept this donation. Brian felt that it is a community park and the donation is a great gesture but not sure if a donation is the best way to express appreciation. Mary told the Selectmen that this is only the 2nd time that a financial donation has been made for the park. David thinks that by not accepting it that the Selectmen would be taking something away from the donor. Therefore, David made a motion to accept the \$200 donation from Sweet Treat Arts to be put into the True Park Fund. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Brian)

- **Accept Donation from Mary Holmes for Fire Department:** Dick made a motion to accept a donation from Mary Holmes in the amount of \$42.93 for the Fire Truck Fund. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

- **Snowplowing Discussion – Mike Ames (Farley & Son’s):** Mike Ames, representative from Farley & Son’s, wanted to speak with the Selectmen in an effort to clear up some matters that were discussed in previous meetings. John Monroe began the discussion by stating that he has had very few complaints this year and in fact said that the blizzard was handled very well. However, he has had complaints that the sanding has been too good and some residents feel that the roads are being over sanded. John also stated that he would like to see the town put the snow plowing contract back out for bid this year because there are certain things that should be changed such as having the contractor be responsible for the sand and salt because it would offer better accountability to the amounts being used. John also mentioned that having the sand shed open for people to come and get it for their own private use is a bad idea. The sand/salt is purchased for use on the public roads in the Town. There is also a liability to having people entering the shed because of a possible “avalanche effect”. Citizens can be seriously injured and should not be given access. Mike Ames commented that there has been a lot of sand use this year because there have been several storms that have created ice on the road ways. Not all storms use the same amount of sand. Mike also thinks having the contractor being responsible for the sand in the new contract could be a hardship on the town should there be a state of emergency or in the event of a shortage, in which only the state and municipalities can purchase the sand or salt when contractor cannot. In addition, towns can purchase the sand at a lower cost because they are tax exempt and contractors aren’t. Mike wanted to address some specific issues that have come up recently as well, such as sanding private driveways. In the cases where it was a blatant misuse, the driver was reprimanded. In the case where the drivers stop for breaks and food, Mike said that he gives permission because the trucks have to be able to get in and out of the driveway with out getting stuck themselves. He said that GPS records were reviewed for runs on January 2nd and that there were no Farley trucks in the area so whoever had a load of sand in the bed of their truck was someone other than Farley & Sons. He also stated that the Town of Hope sand is not used on the school parking lot. He said that snowplowing is a challenging thing and would like to keep the Town’s business. Brian asked Mike to have the drivers place the loader or truck horizontally in front of the sand shed doors to deter theft.

Old Business:

- **Town snow plowing contract review:** The Road Commissioner stated that he thought the current contractor was doing a good job and recommended extending the current contract. The Town Administrator echoed his recommendation. The Selectmen reviewed the previous bid quotes. Wendy made a motion to extend the current Town snow plowing contract with Todd’s Lawn & Landscape for 2 years. It was seconded by David.

Motion passed 5-0

- **Roads snow plowing contract review:** The Selectmen decided to table the contract decision until they could determine if there would be a competitive bidding process.
No action taken
- **Animal Control contract/renewal:** It was brought to the Selectmen’s attention that the ACO does not have a contract or a job description with the Town. In addition, items such as mileage, supplies and immunizations were not in last year’s budget. Dick felt that the current stipend for animal control is not unreasonable to have someone on call. He suggested that the Town pay her the mileage and to also put a contract in place. The Selectmen would like to meet with the Animal Control Officer and tabled this item.
No action taken
- **Marijuana ban proposal:** Dick made a motion to accept the lawyer’s recommendation to place a warrant article at the annual Town Meeting in June to adopt an ordinance prohibiting retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs in the Town of Hope, Maine. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Other Business:

- None

Future Agenda Items:

- None

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- Dick made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, & 65. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 10:09 PM. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 5-0