

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, July 11, 2017
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:50 PM by Brian.
- Executive Session: Wendy made a motion to go into executive session for Town Administrator's evaluation, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6) (A). It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0
- Executive Session adjourned at 6:29PM
- Selectmen's Meeting reconvened at 6:31PM

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 6/27/17 minutes as written. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- Informed the Selectmen about racial graffiti on the shed at True Park on Monday July 3rd. It had promptly been painted over covering the graffiti by Wednesday morning.
- Todd Snyder is going to repair the phosphorus treatment soil filter ponds at the fire station. He quoted the entire project out at \$1,400.00 to be paid out of the fire department budget.
- There are 14 outstanding 2016 real estate tax accounts totaling \$24,178.44 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2018 if the accounts remain delinquent. There are 58 unpaid 2017 real estate tax accounts totaling \$99,844.94 that will be liened on July 25th if not paid prior to the deadline date.
- Two additional questions were asked during the Administrator's report: 1.) What % of personal property taxes were paid each year on average in the past? How will this affect the overlay? and, 2.) How does the school give the money back to the taxpayers if in fact they end up getting more than was voted on? *ANSWERS: 1.) For fy2017 personal property taxes totaled \$4,489.36. This is the amount to be considered for the overlay if personal property taxes are not going to be collected. 2.) Any additional money given to the school from the state subsidy will be obtained late in the year. Unexpended funds go into the undesignated fund balance for the school and used to reduce the taxpayer's tax commitment for the next tax year.*

New Business:

- Ian Stewart – Coastal Mountain Land Trust: Ian Stewart is the Executive Director of the Coastal Mountain Land Trust (CMLT). There are 3 land preserves as well as 3 conservation easements in the Town of Hope. The current project is to purchase a conservation easement from the Maine Water Company which has property in Hope. Land that is in a conservation easement remains in the control of the property owner and is still subject to town property taxes. However, there are permanent covenants restricting how the land can be used. Mr. Stewart is asking the Selectmen to write a letter of support for the acquisition of the conservation easement for the Water Company's property. The Selectmen will discuss this at the next meeting.
- John Monroe – Road Commissioner Update:
 - John reported that the plowing contractor now has 4 working trucks as required. He is also outfitting the trucks with additional equipment. Everything seems to be on track so far. Brian asked that the contractor be informed to keep the sand/salt shed property cleaned up and to not leave any trash from vehicle maintenance laying around. Dick inquired about the repairs needed for the sand/salt shed. John indicated that the exhaust fan needs to be replaced and new locks need to be purchased and installed. These items will be paid for out of the municipal building budget line. John also stated that he was very surprised at how empty the building was considering the amount of sand and salt that was purchased and put in the shed.
 - The Road Commissioner told the Selectmen that it was time to decide who we were going to purchase the road salt and sand from and how much. He recommended that the sand gets purchased from Lucas and he has quoted the same price for the sand and to put it up as last year. Salt- Morton's was the low bidder for the County but the Town has had trouble getting timely deliveries from them in the past. New England, has worked better with the town in the past. It also a locally owned company with better delivery service.
 - There were 3 unfinished projects from the last budget year. John asked the Selectmen to carryover \$11,267.00 from last years unexpended roads budget in order to complete those projects. There is \$21,669.13 remaining in the fy 2017 roads budget. However, it is possible that not all of last year's invoices have been deducted yet. Therefore, it was recommended to the Selectmen to not authorize more than \$20,000.00 for a carry-over. After much discussion regarding paving, Dick made a motion to carry over \$11,267.00 for previous projects that are incomplete and \$8,733.00 for additional paving during this paving year at the Road Commissioner's discretion. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
- Clarence Keller – Fire Chief Update:
 - Clarence asked the Selectmen if the monthly reports that he sends to them has been helpful. He hasn't received much feedback so he would like to know if the Selectmen would to see any changes in the way the reports are handled or if they would like any additional information.
 - Reminder that Saturday, July 22nd at 5:00PM is the annual Chicken BBQ at the Hope Corner Fire Station.
 - There is some work that needs to be done that was included in last year's budget that is still incomplete. Clarence requested that the Selectmen to carryover \$1,400.00 for

the repair work to the Soil Filter Ponds. In addition, utility truck #3 has a rocker panel on the passenger's side that is rusting through. It should be repaired before the winter months to prevent more damage. There is \$4,904.05 remaining in the fy 2017 public safety budget. However, it is possible that not all of last year's invoices have been deducted yet. Therefore, it was recommended to the Selectmen to not authorize more than \$3,500.00 for a carry-over. After much discussion regarding the availability of grants and possible auto body shops, Mike made a motion to carry over \$1,400.00 for repair of the PTP Soil Filter Ponds and \$2,100.00 for vehicle maintenance. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

- Hatchet Mountain Publick House -Liquor License Renewal: Dick made a motion to approve and sign the Liquor License renewal request by the Hatchet Mountain Publick House. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- Paving Bid: Selectmen asked how the paving bid was doing. John explained that he has been unable to get in contact with the bid winner to get the contract signed. He will follow up on this prior to the next Selectmen's meeting.
- Selectmen asked if a building permit had been issued by the town for a possible subdivision on Highfield Rd. The CEO indicated that to best of her knowledge there have not been any permits for anything on Highfield Rd. This will be followed up by CEO to see if there is a potential code violation.

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrants # 1, 2, 3, and 4. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 PM. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0