

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Hope Board of Selectmen**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**  
**Executive Session 5:30PM**  
**Regular Session 6:30PM**  
**Hope Town Office**

**Board Members Present:**

- Brian Powers Jr, Sarah Ann Smith, Wendy Pelletier, Thom Ingraham, and Bruce Haffner

**Others Present:**

- Samantha Mank, Mary Tolles, John Monroe

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM by Brian
- Sarah made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 13 §405 (6)(A) for the annual review of the Town Administrator at 5:30PM. It was seconded by Thom.  
**Motion passed 5-0**
- Thom made a motion to suspend Executive Session and re-enter regular session at 6:30PM. It was seconded by Sarah.  
**Motion passed 5-0**
- Regular Session was reconvened by Brain at 6:35PM

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Minutes:**

- 12/23/2020 meeting: Sarah made a motion to except the December 23, 2019 minutes as written. It was seconded by Thom.  
**Motion passed 4-0-1 (Bruce)**

**Town Administrator Report:**

- We received a total of 38 resumes for the Town Clerk position. We conducted interviews with five of those. It was a tough decision, but I did select a finalist who will begin work on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. She will be attending the next Selectmen's meeting to meet you. Her name is Alexenia "Allie" Payor.
- We received a total of 57 resumes for the Bookkeeper position. We have chosen five candidates to interview. The interviews started earlier today. We will conclude the interviews next week. I'm hopeful that we will have a candidate chosen and ready to start before the end of the month.

- The Budget Committee held a special meeting last night. There were four members present which meant we had a quorum. It was a unanimous decision to recommend Bill Pearse for the vacancy left by Theresa McGrath.
- A Board of Appeals meeting has been scheduled for January 21, 2020 as a housekeeping meeting. The appeal application deadline is today. This will determine if there are ongoing meetings/hearings. I did contact the Town Attorney to make sure we were able to get on his schedule if the appeal moves forward.
- Chelsea's last day and Hope will be this Friday.
- I met with the Road Commissioner earlier, and the plan is to put the snowplowing for next winter out to bid this week. I will also put the mowing out to bid. I have received some input from others regarding the mowing. I still need to talk with Beth but then I will have all that I need to try to make a more comprehensive spec requirement list for the mowing.
- There have been a number of meetings regarding ambulance service. The hospital has started an advocacy group consisting of local town officials including managers, administrators, fire chiefs and hospital representatives. There is a very consistent and growing concern about the ability of Northeast to stay in business in this area. The hospital is navigating and exploring ways to possibly join in with municipalities or a regional service that is countywide. There is a lot left to be talked about and I will keep you apprised of any new information.
- There has been a lot of concerning conversations surrounding the Midcoast Solid Waste manager. There is concern about his ability to provide a budget which by interlocal agreement/bylaws was due to the towns by December 31st. He was given a 30-day extension, but it appears that the budget is not coming together very well, and he is frustrating the finance committee. He's leaving town for an unforeseen family issue in Texas without a budget being prepared and may not be able to meet the already extended deadline.
- I will be going away on vacation from January 31st through February 10th.
- There are 8 outstanding 2018 real estate tax accounts totaling \$13,526.36 with liens that will go to automatic foreclosure on February 14, 2020 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 16 outstanding 2019 real estate tax accounts totaling \$31,154.90 with liens that will go to automatic foreclosure on February 16, 2021 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 1,019 RE 2020 tax accounts totaling \$1,577,000.94. The second half of real estate taxes are due on April 30, 2020.

## **New Business:**

- **Second Quarter Financial Report – Mary Tolles:** Mary passed out the roads budget to actual report a couple of weeks ago. She asked if there were any questions with that report from December. The Selectmen had no questions or comments on the actual versus budget report for the roads.

Mary stated that everything looks fine for the municipal financial 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. We have enough cash. The Town Administrator and the Bookkeeper discussed if additional money should be deposited into the investment account. Ultimately, it was decided to leave all of the money where it currently is to pay the upcoming bills and not need to move it around again. There's no risk with where the money is now, and we are earning a 1.9% interest.

Mary also commented that tax collections are up, and that the Town has issued the fewest numbers of liens since 2009. Excise tax appears to be going up, that likely means that people are buying new cars.

While going through the quarterly report, Mary explain the difference between a balance sheet and income statement. She told them that the balance sheet is a snapshot of a moment in time in this case it would be December 31, 2019. Whereas, the income statement explains the financial picture over a period of time. Instead of asking the Selectmen to sign a statement of understanding of the quarterly report this evening, Mary suggested that the Selectmen review the report and contact her over the next two weeks if there were any questions. They would be given the sheet to sign and accept the quarterly report at the next Selectmen's meeting.

- **Plowing of the School Bus Turnarounds – John Monroe & Ben Luce:** Ben Luce called and said that he was unable to make it to the meeting this evening. However, he did state that the issue with having the bus turnaround plowed out or shoveled out have been resolved as the father of one of the students will be taking care of that turnaround. John Monroe stated that school bus turnarounds have never been handled by the town. And it is also unfair to have a contractor who has been hired to plow the roads, plow private ways for bus turnarounds. It may appear that the Town has been plowing the turnarounds, however that is not the case. Often times, the school buses are using the plow truck turnarounds, giving the appearance of the Town plowing the school bus turnaround. John went on to say that in the past, Wayne Luce had actually contracted with a local person, Kevin Jones, to shovel/plow and maintain the school bus turnaround. If the issue arises again, Luce Transportation would need to hire someone to handle the turnarounds if the school buses are using a different turnaround than the plows or if they need something bigger.

The Road Commissioner was approached by the custodian at the elementary school asking if they could get salt and sand from the sand shed. Currently, the school has a contract with Farley's to sand and plow the parking lot, but they do not sand or shovel the sidewalks and they were hoping to get some sand or salt that the janitor could sprinkle on the sidewalks. The Selectmen believe that the sidewalks should be included in the plowing and shoveling contract. John said that he personally does not have a problem with the school using the sand, however he does not want anyone to go into the salt and sand shed. This is a matter that was decided on and put in place a few years ago and is working well.

Road Commissioner commented that the snow plowing contract seems to be a pretty good one, so he would like to keep the specifications as they are. The Town Administrator will be putting the plowing contract out to bid next week.

The Town Administrator informed the Selectmen, that the Fire Chief noticed that the handicapped accessible walkway it was not being shoveled by the contractor. Originally, the Selectmen believed this to be merely a path to the flagpole and not a handicap accessible walkway. Sarah made a motion to add to \$350 per year back into the plowing and shoveling contract that would include the handicap accessible walkway. It was seconded by Bruce.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- Committee/Board/Agent Appointments:
  - Board of Appeals: Brad Boyd - Sarah made a motion to appoint Brad Boyd to the Board of Appeals for the remainder of the recently vacated term. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 5-0**
  - Budget Committee: Bill Pearse- Sarah made a motion to appoint Bill Pearse to the Budget Committee for the remainder of the recently vacated term as recommended by the Budget Committee. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 5-0**
  - Motor Vehicle Agent: Samantha Mank - Wendy made a motion to appoint Town Administrator, Samantha Mank, as the Motor Vehicle Agent. It was seconded by Thom.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

**Old Business:**

None

**Other Business:**

- Brian asked the Town Administrator to contact Maritime Energy or Revision regarding the entryway and hall at the Hope Corner Fire Station to find out about the pipes in the radiant floor heating freezing if there is no call for heat in those areas.

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

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Sarah made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60. It was seconded by Thom.

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Adjournment:**

- Sarah made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and to reconvene the Executive Session at 8:00. It was seconded by Thom.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- Selectmen entered Executive Session at 8:01PM