

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Mary Tolles, and John Monroe

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Brian.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 1/8/2019 minutes. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- Met with the MCSW Executive Committee regarding the budget. The proposed budget went to the finance committee and has been passed on to the MCSW Board of Directors. They will discuss during their next meeting.
- NEMHS is willing to extend the ambulance contract for an additional 1 year at the same price as last year.
- There are 1,013 outstanding 2019 real estate tax accounts totaling \$1,540,115.26. The second half of the taxes are due on April 30th.
- There are 26 outstanding 2018 real estate tax accounts totaling \$52,950.70 that were lienied today. Automatic foreclosure on February 14, 2020 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 4 outstanding 2017 real estate tax accounts totaling \$5,123.95 with liens that will automatically foreclose this Friday, January 25, 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent.

New Business:

- Quarterly Report 2nd Qtr. – Mary Tolles: Mary presented the Selectmen with the 2nd quarter financial report. Everything is right on track. The Town is in a good position. Dick commented that the financial picture of the Town of Hope is very good compared to other Towns. Our revenues are up, and our expenses are lower than our revenues and we are now investing in a good place that should yield a better return. There is still some money left in the renovations line. The Town Administrator will get the work on the

counters and cabinets then the remaining money that isn't used can be returned to the general fund or building reserve account. Mary also told the Selectmen to start thinking about who the Town Report is going to be dedicated and the Selectmen's report.

- **Select Board Vs. Board of Selectmen:** Mary conducted a small poll of surrounding towns about if other towns call the Selectmen, Select Board or Board of Selectmen. Recognizing that our culture is changing, she asked the Selectmen to determine if they wanted to change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board. Sarah said she was fine with it either way but, at the last Town Meeting she was approached by a mother who stated that being a Selectmen made it seem to her daughter that women didn't really belong. Wendy objected to the change because the title of Selectman is rooted in history and tradition. Although a formal vote was not taken, the majority consensus was to remain the Board of Selectmen.
- **Road Commissioner Update – John Monroe:** John reported that there was a big ice dam on Ludwig Rd. The ditch is over flowing onto the road. The ditch will need to be excavated and cleaned out to hopefully prevent this from happening again next year. There have been several reports of a problem at the Rt. 17 and Pushaw St. intersection. He reiterated that this is a State issue and not a Town issue. Right now, it is cleaned up, but it will recur again and again until the State fixes the problem.
The Road Commissioner also reported that we have maxed out our salt budget. We still have about ¼ of our sand left. He said that Appleton and Union have already used all of their sand and needed to order more. John said that our plowing contractor has already been out either sanding or plowing roads 24 times and it is only the middle of January. That is just about double from previous years.
- **Accept Donation for Fire Department – Camp Bishopswood:** Mike made a motion to accept a donation of \$500. From Camp Bishopswood and to put it in the Fire Truck Replacement Reserve Account. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0
- **NEMHS Ambulance December Data:** The Town Administrator gave the Selectmen the December ambulance run data information for their review.

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Review and Sign Warrants:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Sarah made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 49, 50, 51, and 52. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 8:38PM. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0