

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, January 28, 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, Alexenia Payor, Willow Hall, Clarence Keller, Mike Eaton, Rick Bresnahan, and Susan Pushaw

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 6:25PM. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

- Regular Session was reconvened by Brain at 6:30PM

Public Comment:

- Rick Bresnahan said that he wanted to know how to get a petition started for the Area Interfaith Outreach (AIO) so that it could be on the warrant for Town meeting. Rick indicated that AIO has provided Hope residents with assistance this past year. The Selectmen told him that the Town Administrator would let him know the process. Rick is planning to pass the information along to Joseph Ryan.

Minutes:

- 1/14/2020 meeting: Thom made a motion to accept the January 14, 2020 minutes with a minor correction. It was seconded by Bruce.

Motion passed 5-0

Town Administrator Report:

- A proposed Budget Committee meeting schedule is being circulated. So far, those that have responded are in favor of this schedule. I am still waiting to hear from a couple more people before making it the final schedule.

- The request for the snowplowing bids has been advertised. The deadline for the bids is Friday, February 21, 2020.
- The request for the mowing bids has been advertised. The deadline for the mowing bids is Friday, March 6, 2020.
- Quotes have been requested from some local companies to change the hot water heater in the South Hope Fire Station. Right now, there are two different companies that are putting together some options including costs for your review. The options include, converting to propane to heat the hot water, upgrade the panel box to be able to produce enough power to heat the on-demand heat, install a smaller 10-gallon electric tank that is 110 volts, or a hybrid tank.
- Three insulation companies have called and confirmed that they will be here to inspect the attic and offer a quote sometime this week.
- I did reach out to revision regarding the pipes in the radiant floor heating system potentially freezing if there is no call to heat in the Hope Corner Fire Station. Our concerns have been forwarded to Ben Hatfield who is going to be in touch with the system designer and get an answer for us as soon as possible.
- I spoke with Alan Hinsey from LCI (Lincolnton Telephone). He is prepared to come a discuss how to get the high-speed internet throughout the Town and to provide some public forums for the residents. He said to just let him know if the Selectmen want to talk with him first and then move forward from there. He is prepared to come and speak with you whenever you want.
- There are 7 outstanding 2018 real estate tax accounts totaling \$7,227.46 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 \$30,703.23.90 with liens that will go to automatic foreclosure on February 16, 2021 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 1,015 RE 2020 tax accounts totaling \$1,568,084.68. The second half of real estate taxes are due on April 30, 2020.

New Business:

- Renew Liquor License for Pushaw's Trading Post – Susan Pushaw: The Selectmen reviewed the liquor license renewal form for Pushaw's Trading Post. At this point, Susan has stopped serving wine, but is continuing to sell beer in the restaurant portion of the store. Thom made a motion to sign the renewal form so that Pushaw's Trading Post can continue serving beer. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

- Discussion Heat Pumps/Energy Policy/Thermostat Policy – Clarence Keller: Clarence said that he wanted to start with a couple of updates. The pumper truck was taken to be repaired on January 20th and was returned to Hope today, January 28th. They need to transfer the equipment and other items from the borrowed truck back onto Hope's truck. Once that has been completed, the borrowed truck will be returned to Camden.

The recruitment campaign was successful. There were four (4) new recruits this year. However, there were three (3) who left over the past year. Of the three who left, two joined the army and one said that they were not cut out for the fire service. There are still three names to follow up with at a later date.

Clarence said he asked to be on the agenda since installing the new heat pumps. He wants to know what the goal is and what if any are the new rules going to be. The other heat source will be used as a secondary back up so, the thermostat policy will need to be updated. Clarence wanted to know if he was right about the heat pumps being the primary source of heat.

Brian said that he was concerned that the radiant heat floor pipes don't freeze if they aren't being used. Mike Eaton so that we could install a slab sensor so that it could be circulating the water, or we could put a thermostat in the bathroom. Currently, the door to the bathroom has been propped open.

Clarence was told that the minimum temperature setting for heat pumps is 61°. He said that Danielle from Revision did come down and talk with him however, Revision does not set policy for the Town of Hope.

Rick says that he has a guy who's going walk around and get questions answered. There was some discussion about putting electric heaters in the South Hope Fire Station in the bathroom, as well as in the hall and bathroom at the Hope Corner Fire Station.

Clarence said he would like to discuss adjusting the thermostat policy. The meeting room at the Hope Corner Fire Station is fine. He would like to increase the bay temperature from 55° to 60°. He said it is very cold in there and it's very hard to react to once returning from a call.

Clarence said the prior policy had the temperature set at 60°. The staff and the firefighters were happy, now it is too cold to work in there.

Arguably if the heat is turned down, we would save money but, he wants to know how much money we are actually saving. Clarence reached out to Maritime Energy and asked what the difference would be to turn increase the temperature from 55° to 60°. He spoke with a man named Bryan Forin from Maritime who said to calculate an 8% increase in propane consumption. Clarence said that he calculated how much more it would cost or create based on cubic footage and 79% of fuel usage. Take the total dollar amount for three years and multiply that by 79% and then multiply the product by 8% or three years.

The total would be an increase of about \$123.94 increase per year to increase the heat from between 55° and 60°. The rationale for increasing the heat includes protecting the equipment and the morale of the firefighters. He said this would definitely be a sign of goodwill from the Town of Hope.

Bruce said if equipment is already leaving the bay cold, it can freeze even sooner when it gets outside. He also said that is cheap enough to spend an additional \$124 a year in order to have heat.

Tom asked some clarifying questions including:

1. Firstly, Did the old policy used to be 60° and now it is 55°? Clarence confirmed that that was the case. He also said that he polled several fire departments within our mutual aid compact. Of those 18 departments, only 9 fire departments returned answers. What he asked was what was the temperature in the Fire Station's equipment bay. The answer was averaged out among those nine fire departments. The average temperature in an equipment bay is 60° while the average temperature in the meeting rooms is 65°.
2. Secondly, Thom wanted to know if the fire department heating budget at the current amount is already covering the need or is there a need for the budget to increase. Clarence said he believed that the cost would be covered in the current heating budget.
3. Thirdly, the energy/thermostat policy clearly states that the Fire Chief can make adjustments as the chief decides. If that is the case, what adjustments to make do the Selectmen really need to make or change in the policy?

Sarah said for \$124 a year, it just doesn't seem to be a problem to set the temperature at 60°.

Bruce made a motion to change the energy policy to be 60° in the Bay at the Hope Corner Apparatus Bay. It was seconded by Sarah.

The discussion continued by Brian stating he wanted to give some background information on this topic. There have been a lot of discussion over a lot of time and that he is not in favor of making a change with just 15 minutes of a conversation. He said that Clarence is not a heating engineer.

Bruce said that this is not enough money to have heating energy analysis done. For just \$124 a year, turn the heat up to 60° and you can have a heating engineering study at a different time. At \$124, we need to just set it down and forget it and quit beating our heads against the wall. It just doesn't make sense he said. Bruce said that Clarence didn't make the numbers up that he got them from the heating company.

Wendy said we should wait to put a slab thermometer sensor in an electric heater before changing the policy.

Brian said because we added heat pumps, we can't accurately determine the fuel difference because we are making too many changes.

Rick said that the biggest thing is to make the firemen happy. 8% is a no brainer for our firefighters to have 60°. This probably equals about \$10 per firefighter to have it set at 60°. In addition, the Town got a really good deal on the heat pumps, so we are still ahead even if we turn the thermometer up by 5°. Bruce said he would like to bring this to a vote.

Motion passed 3-2 (*Brian & Wendy*)

Clarence said he would also like to discuss the South Hope Fire Station. Mike Eaton said we are having trouble because both of the units are on the South wall and thermostats are directly under them. It is very cold on the North side of the building. One heat pump just blows into the side of the truck. Rick said we are going to speak to the engineer.

The floor is 41° and the room is 48° on the North side. It is staying the same temperature day and night. Rick said he would get a meeting set up and let the Fire Chief know when it was going to be.

- Sign Statement of review and understanding of 2nd Quarter Report: The Selectmen reviewed the statement and signed the statement of understanding for the second-quarter financial report.
- Adopt Appendices A-H 2019-2020 General Assistance Ordinance: Sarah made a motion to adopt the 2019-2020 General Assistance Ordinance Maximums. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

- Meet and Appointment New Office Staff: The Town Administrator formally introduced Alexenia Payor as the new Town Clerk to the Board of Selectmen. In addition, Willow Hall was presented as the new hire for the Bookkeeper position. Willow said that she is very excited to work the Town. Bruce made a motion to confirm Willow Hall as the Town Bookkeeper. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

- Change Authorized Signatory for Town Banking: In order to remove Chelsea Summers as a signatory on behalf of the Town and to name Alexenia Payor as the authorized signatory, the Selectmen need to sign authorization to have Alexenia Payor added to the account and to remove Chelsea Summers from the account. Bruce made a motion to authorize the change. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- Bruce said that he had two additional ideas. The first is something for the Fire Department. He thinks it would be helpful to make little cards that could be placed on the refrigerator of the residents. The cards would have simple tips on how to handle small fires that could happen in their homes. In addition, there could be a second card regarding tick information for our residents.

The second idea has to do with replacing the Superintendent of Schools. Right now, the central office is funded by the three towns paying a percentage. Lincolnville pays 40% Appleton pays 30% and Hope also pays 30%.

Bruce believes that the Hope Elementary School Principal, Danielle Fagonde, is already a certified superintendent. He thinks that we should recommend that our principal become the superintendent. She would act as the HES principal as well as the superintendent and the other two towns can continue to pay the percentages for the remainder of Danielle's salary.

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Bruce made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 61, 62, and 63. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Sarah made a motion to adjourn at 8:37. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0