

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Hope Board of Selectmen**  
**Tuesday October 22, 2019**  
**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, Lindsay Pinchbeck, Argy Nestor, and Amy Gertner

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Brian

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Minutes:**

- 10/8/2019 meeting: Thom made a motion to accept the October 8, 2019 minutes. It was seconded by Sarah.

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Town Administrator Report:**

- I will be away on vacation from Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> until Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Bookkeeper/Deputy Clerk application deadline was last Friday. We received eleven resumes. Interviews have been scheduled for Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- I have still not heard back from Bill Kelly or Bill Behrens regarding the update language for the PPA or the Capital Equipment Lease. We did receive an invoice from Bill Kelly. The first half was my conversation with him. The second half is about his conversation with Bill Behrens. So, the work is being done, it just hasn't made it back to the Town Office yet.
- We expect to hear from the DEP regarding the fresh water wetland impact. Sometime in November. In the meantime, I received a notice from the Army Corps of Engineers stating that the application to temporarily fill 550 square feet of fresh water wetlands off of Route 105 & Church St. to install a buried utility line for a proposed solar array, qualifies for a general permit and that no further action is needed from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- The bids for the insulation work at the Town Office and the South Hope Fire Station, the on demand hot water heater installation, and the carpentry work at the South Hope Fire Station should be available to you on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- There was an Ambulance Review Committee Meeting last week. The Chair, Marc Ratner reviewed the report given by NEMHS and stated that everything looked good. Then meetings for the next two quarters were scheduled. There was no questioning or concerns raised about run times or mutual aid.
- I spoke with Judith Jones regarding any policy, procedure, or guidelines used by the library to determine what art is displayed and for how long. Judith said she didn't think there was any such document. The library board is meeting next week, and she will bring this up during that meeting.
- There are 12 outstanding 2018 real estate tax accounts totaling \$19,728.55 with liens that will go to automatic foreclosure on February 14, 2020 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 24 outstanding 2019 real estate tax accounts totaling \$51,149.09 with liens that will go to automatic foreclosure on February 16, 2021 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 1,038 RE 2020 tax accounts totaling \$1,702,122.37. The first half of the taxes were due on October 1, 2019. The second half is due on April 30, 2020.

#### **New Business:**

- Sweet Tree Arts (6-week check-in) – Lindsay Pinchbeck: Lindsay said that things are going well. She said that they are all very grateful to be in this space and children have adapted very well also. They use a job wheel that indicates the area that each child is responsible for taking care of. Amy will speak with the Library Board next week to how the library volunteers are feeling about the students using the space. Everyone agrees that it would be wonderful if the folding room divider doors were able to open and close properly. It was a little difficult to conduct parent/teacher conferences, but we did manage. Sarah suggested having white noise devices like those used at doctors' offices for more privacy.

Sarah noted that the room doesn't really look like a school and wondered if the children would like to display any of their work. Amy explain that the Town Office space is mostly used for academics while there are hands-on, tinker lab, arts, and theater at the main campus for their work to be displayed.

Argy did ask if an additional key could be issued, and the Selectmen agreed.

There was discussion about snow removal. The children walk back and forth from the main campus to the Town Office. Brian explained that the Town is responsible for snow and ice removal from the Town Office property. The school would have to be responsible for anything else that does not belong to the Town.

Lindsay asked if it was possible to bring the weather station to the Town Office and have it outside for the students to monitor. The Selectmen all agreed to allow it.

Brian asked Lindsay is she was happy with the current accommodations or would she still rather to the classroom down stairs. Lindsay said that she has pretty much abandoned the

downstairs plan as the fire codes require things that are just not possible to achieve (ie: lowering the windows, sprinkler system, and special sheetrock over all of the ceiling). Lindsay said, “For now, we are very happy with the current arrangement.”

- Award Bid for Municipal Buildings Snow/Ice Removal: There were two bids received for the snow and ice removal from the municipal buildings. 1.) Driftwood Property Care for \$2,500 each year for the next 3-years totaling \$7,500 and no bid for an extension. 2.) Todd’s Lawn and Landscape for \$13,500 for 2019-20 year, \$14,000 for 2020-21 year, \$14,500 for 2021-22 year totaling \$42,000 and a 5% increase for each extended year.

There is a very big difference between the two bids. Wendy asked the Town Administrator to contact Driftwood Property Care to ask for references, an equipment list, and how he plans on being able to take care of our property from Belfast. In addition, the Selectmen asked the Town Administrator to find out if he has any prior experience with municipalities.

The Selectmen also asked the Town Administrator to contact Todd’s lawn and Landscape and explain that his bid is greater than the amount budgeted and approved at Town Meeting. Would he be willing to take the lower amount this year and make up the difference next year when it can be budgeted?

The Selectmen will hold a Special Selectmen’s Meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 9:00AM in the Town Office for the purpose of awarding the bid.

- Discussion – Generator for Town Office: There have been power outages at the Town Office. Although the Fire Station has a generator, it is not practical to move the Town Office operations to the fire station. The Town Administrator has been asked to research the costs and various styles and generator option as a possibility for the 2020-2021 budget.

**Old Business:**

- None

**Other Business:**

- Thom asked if the Selectmen and the Budget Committee should meet with the School Committee earlier, perhaps in December when they start their budgeting process instead of once the budget has been prepared and finalized for the vote.
- Brian asked the Town Administrator to put a notice on the Town’s Facebook page informing residents that there has been a report of daytime break-ins in the Alford Lake area of Hope. People are knocking on doors to see if anyone is home. If nobody answers, that home could be a potential target for a robbery. Residents need to stay alert and report any suspicious activity.

**Suspend as Selectmen/Convene as Assessors:**

- Sarah made a motion to suspend as the Board of Selectmen and to convene as the Board of Assessors at 8:08PM. It was seconded by Wendy. **Motion passed 5-0**
- Abatement for error in assessed land acreage - Richard Pease: Thom made a motion to grant an abatement to Richard Pease in the amount of \$15.03 because of an error on his lot size. It was seconded by Sarah.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

**Adjourn as Assessors/Reconvene as Selectmen:**

- Wendy made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and to reconvene as the Board of Selectmen at 8:18PM. It was seconded by Sarah.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

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

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Sarah made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 36, 37, 38, and 39. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

**Adjournment:**

- Wendy made a motion to adjourn at 8:31PM. It was seconded by Sarah.  
**Motion passed 5-0**