

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, October 23, 2018
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

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Mike made a motion to accept the 10/9/2018 minutes. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 4-0

Administrator's Report:

- Mary is back from vacation and the office has returned to full staffing.
- I have been meeting with the other 3-member towns to see how we can best assist the MCSW Board of Director's and the Facility Manager. We will begin presenting some of the ideas at the next MCSW meeting tomorrow night.
- Harbor Digital has started the process of migrating all of our data in preparation for the new server. I have not noticed any glitches during the process yet.
- I submitted the questions regarding who would bear the liability of the small weather station to the Dept. of Forestry. I have not heard anything back from them yet.
- The Ambulance Review Committee is trying to schedule a meeting to review the first few months of our 12-month contract. Nothing has been firmed up yet. We are 3^{1/2} into our 1-year contract.
- Vern has sent out the letters to the taxpayers in the farmland exemption requesting their income verification.
- In November, there is a training in Northport for the Planning Board. The cost is \$55 per person. We do have money in the training budget. Hoping to do this training in lieu of the December meeting.
- There has been 1 account that has paid \$276.86 toward 2020 RE taxes.
- There are 1,043 outstanding 2019 real estate tax accounts totaling \$1,645,329.64.

- There are 28 outstanding 2018 real estate tax accounts totaling \$55,703.09 that were lienied today. Automatic foreclosure is in January 2020 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 12 outstanding 2017 real estate tax accounts totaling \$29,166.55 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent.

New Business:

- Road Commissioner – John Monroe:
 - Plowing/Sanding- The Road Commissioner reported that the backhoe has been staged at the sand/salt shed and that the plowing contractor is now fully ready for the winter season.
 - Trees – There are several trees that currently pose a safety concern on Fogler Rd. John asked the Selectmen how they would like him to proceed. Dick asked if the trees were on private property or on the public way and who is actually responsible for them, the Town or the property owner. In addition, the Selectmen wanted to know if the trees are on private property but falls into a public way and someone is injured, or property is damaged, who’s insurance company pays for it? Samantha will find out who owns the property that the trees are located on. She will also find out if the Town can require the homeowner to remove the trees.
 - Sand/Salt – John said that the cost of the sand and the salt was a little over budget. We have approx. 2,100 yards of sand with 400 yards reserved for back-up.
 - The arrow directional signs on Gillette Rd. have been installed in both directions.
 - The beavers are back at the HFWA dam. The dam and pool area needs to be cleaned out before the water freezes.
- September Report from North East Ambulance: The Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with all of the run data for the month of September that was provided by North East Mobile Health. The quarterly meeting of the EMS Performance Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:00PM.
- Marquee/Reader Board Sign options (So. Hope FD): The Town Administrator provided several options for a town information sign at the South Hope Fire Station. None of the Selectmen thought that the town needed to have an LED sign, nor did they want any kind of scrolling sign. After much discussion it was determined that the Selectmen would like to have a white sign with black letters that is 4 feet wide by 4 feet tall. In addition, they would like the budget to be \$1,000 and someone would have to be willing to keep up with changing the sign and coordination with the Town Office regarding the messages. Samantha will provide additional information at the next meeting.
- Update about meeting w/ Attorney: Dick and Samantha had a discussion with the Town Attorney regarding issues surrounding MCSW. Dick discussed the highlights of that meeting with the Selectmen.

Old Business:

- Investment Policy: The Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with a draft of the proposed Investment Policy. After some discussion, Samantha was instructed to share the policy with an investment manager to assist with the appropriate and specific wording of the proposed policy. Once the wording has been reviewed, the policy discussion/adoption will be put back on the agenda.

Other Business:

- None

Review and Sign Warrants:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Dick made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 26, 27, 28, and 29. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 8:30PM. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0