

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, November 27, 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, John Monroe, Chris Pinchbeck, Cameron Pinchbeck, Dave Miramant, Bradley Boyd, Lisa Cummings, Tim Whelan, Thom Ingraham, James Kimmett, Betty Ingraham, Barbara Karp, Rudy Karp, Harold Mosher, Elsie Pinchbeck, Lindsay Pinchbeck, Rob Hoffman, Larrain Slaymaker, Ellie Goldberg, Mary Ireland, Rick Bresnahan, David Hall, Willow Hall, Jim Guerra, Valerie Behrens, Emily Burgess, Marie Berry, Elizabeth Tibbets, John Luft, Bill Pluecker, Michael Douglass, Bill Jones, George Finlay, Esme Finlay, and Langley Wilhauer

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Brian.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 11/13/2018 minutes. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- The FEMA money from the October 2017 storm has been received. It will be going in to the Emergency Roads.
- Health Insurance costs are going up 4% in January. We budgeted for a 5% increase. This will still be within our budget when the increase takes effect.
- Mary and I met with Bill Brewer today to review the Town audit. Everything is in order. I have copies for you to review. Bill will be at the next Selectmen's meeting to go over the audit and answer any questions.
- I will be meeting with Matt from 1st Advisor's regarding all of the paperwork and details of the Town's investments. If the timing is such that he is ready to have our initial investment money, I need the Board of Selectmen to authorize me to write a check ahead of the warrant date. *(Dick made a motion to authorize Samantha to write a check in advance of the warrant for the initial investment. It was seconded by Mike. Motion passed 5-0)*

- Mary has been working with The First. Bank accounts have been opened. We will be working over the next few weeks to make a full transition.
- There have been 3 accounts that have paid \$577.37 toward 2020 RE taxes.
- There are 1,031 outstanding 2019 real estate tax accounts totaling \$1,593,372.05.
- There are still 28 outstanding 2018 real estate tax accounts totaling \$55,703.09 that were liened today. Automatic foreclosure is in January 2020 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are still 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:

- Discussion on Solar Power for Municipal Buildings – Hope Residents: Chris Pinchbeck began the discussion by presenting the Board of Selectmen with a list of approximately 80 names that his children had collected from Town residents that are interested in having solar energy in our Town. Chris then gave a Power Point presentation on the different ways a solar array could be achieved and some rough figures on costs and savings. He proposed that municipal buildings and possibly the school could be solar powered. After much discussion, the Selectmen created a committee to explore the costs, benefits, economics, and return among other things. The committee will report back to the Selectmen their findings. Dick stated that if solar is economical and has a reasonable payback period with a reasonable return, then the Selectmen could be in favor of such a proposal. However, if it is an ideological matter then this issue could go before the voters. The members of the newly created Solar Committee are: Chris Pinchbeck, Thom Ingraham, David Hall, Rick Bresnahan, Jim Guerra, Lindsay Pinchbeck, and Bill Jones. Ellie Goldberg asked the Energy Analysis article be put on the Town website.
- Award Bid for Town Office Lock Replacements: A total of ten invitations to bid were sent out. The Town received two bids back:
 - Brunswick Key and Lock - \$2,268.14
 - Sargent Lock and Safe, Inc. - \$764.00
 Sarah made a motion to accept the bid from Sargent Lock and Safe Inc., in the amount of \$764.00. It was seconded by Wendy. Dick stated that he wanted the Town to have a Key Policy in place prior to distributing any new keys to the Town Office.
Motion passed 5-0
- Accept Donation from Coastal Opportunities: Coastal Opportunities sent a check in the amount of \$300 one-time donation for services received in the communities in which they own property. Dick made a motion to accept the donation and to put it in the general fund. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
- Legislative Roundtable Regarding School Funding – Dianne Helprin: A legislative round table for the entire School Union 69 School Committee, the Selectmen from

Hope, Lincolnville and Appleton, as well as the budget committees from each of the Towns are invited to meet with Representatives from the State to discuss School funding issues.

- Public Hearing for Knox County 2019 Budget: The Town Administrator gave the Selectmen a copy of the Knox County Draft Budget for 2019. The Public hearing on the budget will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2018.
- October Report from NEMH Ambulance: The Selectmen were given the October report for the ambulance runs. North East is meeting all of the required performance measures at this time. The current contract was only for one year. We will need to begin discussing options for ambulance service after July 1st.
- Roads: There were some complaints made at the Town Office regarding the plowing and sanding of the roads during the last snow storm. Overall, the Selectmen think the roads have been satisfactorily plowed and sanded.

Old Business:

- Information Sign Quote for South Hope: The Town Administrator provided the Selectmen with a quote of \$1,650 from a local business for the reader board sign for South Hope. The quote is higher than the Selectmen were willing to approve. The Town Administrator has been authorized to shop around and purchase a suitable reader sign for no more than \$1,000.
- Roads Ownership/Easements and Responsibility – Bill Kelly Response: The Town Attorney expressed that the Selectmen have the authority and responsibility for cutting and or removing tree that are in the public way. The Selectmen will wait to hear a report back from the Road Commissioner regarding any assistance from Central Maine Power and the trees that may fall on the power lines if not removed.

Other Business:

- Bill Pluecker – State Representative: Bill introduced himself as the newly elected State Representative. He said that that he would like to be a liaison between the Towns and the State. He has had the opportunity to visit with the Selectmen in the other Towns he represents. It seems that most Towns have had the same concerns such as: restoring revenue sharing, increase education funding, and FRAP (roads) funding. He asked if Hope had any specific concerns that they would like to have addressed. The Selectmen expressed a concern with the Farmland Exemption application and verification. Currently, the State does not require any kind of proof or evidence of income on the income verification form as it is all self-reporting. Since individuals receive a substantial reduction in their property taxes if the property has Farmland Exemption status, the Selectmen believe there should be some sort of checks and balances to ensure that the property is being utilized in accordance with the Farmland Exemption rules and guidelines. Bill said that he would check into this and report back to the Town Administrator. Another issue the Selectmen discussed was the “cookie cutter” plans that really are meant to address urban areas. Dick stated that there is a ton of pressure on rural communities and what works in a larger more urban area doesn’t work in small Towns like Hope.

Review and Sign Warrants:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 34, 35, and 36. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Sarah made a motion to adjourn at 9:29PM. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

Some agenda Items were taken out of order