

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, December 11, 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, Bill Brewer, Chris Pinchbeck, Thom Ingraham, Harold Mosher, David Hall, & Ellie Goldberg

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Sarah made a motion to accept the 11/27/2018 minutes as corrected. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 5-0
- Dick made a motion to accept the 12/27/2018 minutes. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- Bill Pluecker made a follow up call regarding the income verification for Farmland Exempted property. He spoke with Jeff Kendall who handles the Maine Revenue Farmland issues in Augusta. He was told that legally, it falls to the Assessors' of each municipality. If the Assessors' feel that there is a cause to doubt any of the self-reported income, then it is within their purview to require supporting documentation.
- Sargent's Lock and Safe will be on Friday to change the locks and issue the new keys.
- There have been more complaints about the roads not being sanded or plowed well enough and, in some places, not at all. It was reported that a car slid off of the road on Barnestown by the sand shed because it had not been adequately plowed or sanded.
- 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:

- Presentation of Annual Audit – Bill Brewer: The auditor reported that there were no

difficulties found in the audit. Again, he stated that the Town saves thousands of dollars because Mary does a lot of the prep work before the audit as well as reconciling the books for the school. Bill commented that the HES school lunch program is the only one in the SU69 District that is actually self-sustaining. Bill also noted that the school only has \$8,918 in the fund balance. The state won't allow more than 3% of the budget in the unallocated fund. HES is \$0 above the 3%. Bill suggested that the school set up some reserve accounts for special education or any other expected expense since there is such a low balance in the fund balance. The auditor was also pleased to see that Hope now has an investment policy and will making some conservative investments. He said that the Town has more than the required 9% in the undesignated fund. He spoke about having a succession plan for when Mary retires in 15 months. He told the Selectmen that they should be congratulated because Hope is one of the better towns in handling oversight. A lot of Selectboards don't really know what is going on financially. He complimented the office staff for work well done.

- Accept Donations from Camden Real Estate & Bonzo, Inc: Dick made a motion to accept the donations from Camden Real Estate for \$250 and from Bonzo Inc. for \$250 for the Hope Chest. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

- Solar Committee Report/Request: In order for the Solar Committee to be able to get real tangible numbers, the Solar Committee would like the Selectmen to authorize the committee to send out a Request for Proposal (RFP). The Selectmen said that they would want to review the RFP prior to it being sent out. The RFP must clearly indicate that it is for information gathering purposes only at least at this point in the process. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 20th.

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Review and Sign Warrants:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 8:48PM. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0