

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, December 27, 2016
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Brian Powers Jr., David Bosken, Wendy Pelletier, Mike Brown & Dick Crabtree

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Bill Pearse, & Bill Brewer

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Brian.

Public Comment: None

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 12/12/16 minutes as written. Seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- Met with Michelle Merrifield about the active beaver dam at Hobbs Pond culvert. In order to make sure that the Town is in compliance with the Resource Protection Act, someone from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife should be contacted and be present if possible before disturbing any beaver dams that are blocking the culverts or even endangering town roads. She has also suggested that the town install a device that would keep the beavers from damming up the culverts but would continue to allow water to flow. There are different devices to consider with differing costs of installation and maintenance. I met briefly with a representative from CAI Technologies about upgrading our ArcGIS (Geographical Information System) to an online AxisGIS system. I also met with David Hall from the Hobbs and Fish Pond Assoc. He expressed that the HFPA has spent a lot of money and time trying to have the dam repaired and that they have felt like the Selectmen have been resistant to this effort. He said that the Association is not seeking any money from the town for the repairs. A building permit application has been submitted and will go before the Planning Board on January 4, 2017. I spoke with legal from MMA. There needs to be a little bit more research to show that in fact the Monroe property was "included" in the subdivision and not merely depicted on the map for the subdivision consideration. 30-A M.R.S.A §4401 4(b) exempts the Monroe property from being included because the subdivision happened after the property was acquired.

New Business:

- **Set FY 2017-18 budget calendar with Bill Pearse:** A tentative budget calendar was passed out that was very similar to the same time line as last year. Bill explained that the actual task of the Budget Committee is to make recommendations to the townspeople. He has asked that the selectmen review, change and approve the Admin budget prior to it going to the budget committee. There was discussion about conducting joint meeting with the selectmen and the budget committee. Bill doesn't want the budget committee to be in negotiations with the other boards or departments. He doesn't see the committee as one that is collaborative in nature but rather a stand-alone committee that will not discuss any of their thoughts until the round table discussion. The round table does not include any other people, boards, or

committees but the public is allowed to attend and listen in on the process. Several selectmen expressed the desire to work with the budget committee and to use them as a resource and as an oversight board. Bill will contact the rest of the budget committee members to confirm the budget calendar. Budget books will be available to the budget committee by February 14, 2017.

- **Auditor's Report – Bill Brewer:** The auditor presented the Annual Audit Report to the Selectmen. There were no negative findings. The Town's assets exceeded the liabilities with \$790,803 reported as "unrestricted net position". Unrestricted net position represents the amount available to be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. Bill also commented that the Town saves over \$3,000 in audit fees because of the work that Mary does in advance of the audit. He said that the Town was very fortunate to have her. The Selectmen ask about eliminating delinquent personal property taxes. He highly recommended that the selectmen "clean" those up and remove them from the books. He said that all towns struggle with collecting personal property taxes as it is state law to assess them but there is no legal mechanism to effectively collect them.
- **Waive Foreclosure Lien:** There is a property that is going to be tax acquired by the town for nonpayment of real estate taxes in 2015. The home owners have since taken the homestead exemption which exceeds the assessed value of the mobile home negating future real estate taxes. The mobile home is situated on property that is owned by someone else. The total amount of past due tax amount is \$45.23. The Board of Selectmen have the authority to waive the foreclosure lien mortgage pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §944 and approved by the voters in Article 17 at the Town Meeting. Samantha will speak to the assessor to find out the best way to remove it from the books. A motion was made by David to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgage for property located on map 27 lot 043-00-99. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0
- **Town Attorney Bids:** Samantha requested bids from several attorney firms that represent municipalities. Two firms came highly recommended from neighboring towns. The Selectmen would like to meet with each as prospective town attorneys in the upcoming weeks.

Old Business:

- **"Recreational Marijuana" Discussion:** The Selectmen discussed how to proceed in the best interest of the Town regarding the legalization of recreational marijuana. The options available at this time are: 1.) Do nothing; 2.) Proceed with steps toward a moratorium on retail marijuana stores, retail marijuana cultivation facilities, retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities and retail marijuana testing facilities; 3.) Develop a Town Ordinance regulating retail marijuana stores, retail marijuana cultivation facilities, retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities and retail marijuana testing facilities, as those terms are defined by the Act, codified at 7 M.R.S.A. §§ 2442 (36), (38), (39), (40) (41), or; 4.) proceed with steps toward a ban of retail marijuana stores, retail marijuana cultivation facilities, retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities and retail marijuana testing facilities. Brian suggested a straw poll to find out how the Town feels about it and what the Town wants. Mike made a motion to proceed with steps toward a moratorium on retail marijuana stores, retail marijuana cultivation facilities, retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities and retail marijuana testing facilities. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0
- **Delinquent Personal Property Taxes:** The Selectmen would like to remove some of the uncollectable personal property tax. However, in order to be compliant with law, they are

tabling making a formal decision until they know specifically what Maine Statue allows for this action.

- **Response to DEP Letter:** Dick wrote a response letter to the DEP regarding their letter to the Town on December 13, 2016. The letter explains that the Town did not place a mud/dirt berm in front of the dam. It further stated that the Town will schedule removal of the rip rap as soon as it is safe to so, but would like to do it concurrently with the reconstruction of the dam in 2017. All of the Selectmen signed the letter.
- **Hobbs & Fish Pond Association Dam Repair:** This matter will go before the Planning Board on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. There was no further discussion.

Other Business:

- None

Warrants:

- David made a motion to approve and sign warrants 49,50 & 51. Seconded by Wendy.
Motion passes 5-0.

Adjournment:

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 9:15. Seconded by Dick.
Motion Passes 5-0.