

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
6:00 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Brian Powers Jr., Wendy Pelletier, Dick Crabtree, Mike Brown, and Sarah Smith

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Jan Campbell, John Monroe, and Clarence Keller

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Brian.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 2/6/2018 minutes as written. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- I have met with different insurance companies regarding the Town's liability insurance.
- The Board of Appeals met last week and selected the Board Officers. They will meet again this Thursday. The actual meeting with the parties requesting the Appeals Hearing has been scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2018.
- I have attended several meetings over the past couple of weeks. The Ambulance contract stills seems to require the most attention.
- I receive a complaint regarding environmental concerns and noise levels about the Knox County Fish and Game facility better known as Beaver Lodge. I went through the proper process and procedures for making an official complaint to the Code Enforcement with the concerned party.
- The Town Clerk has been scheduled to attend classes for New Clerk and Tax Collector. She took it upon herself to apply for scholarships for both classes and was awarded to full cost of both classes.

New Business:

- Budget Presentation(s):
 - Cemetery - Jan Campbell: Jan presented the Board of Selectmen the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019. The overall budget request is down. She noted that she has become a member of the Maine Cemetery Association in order to stay up-to-date with any legislative changes especially in regard to perpetual care funds. The cemeteries have two separate funds: perpetual care fund which is 30% of the purchase of a cemetery lot. Only the interest from this fund may be used. The other fund is the maintenance fund. This fund contains the remaining 70% of the sale of a

cemetery plot and any other revenue from taxes. The Sexton discussed the difficulty in issuing the new deeds to owners who already own plots. She is missing at least half of current mailing addresses. In addition, there is a lot of data input needed to ensure all new deeds can be issued. The Selectmen discussed various ways the Sexton could get help from the community. They would like a list of all of the things the Sexton needs assistance with.

Mike wanted to know if there were any issues with the mowing. Jan indicated that the previous contractor did more than just the letter of the contract. She is disappointed with the current mowing service. It is very sloppy, and she is not pleased with the quality of the mowing. She gave specific examples regarding the difference between the former contractor and the current contractor. Brian stated that when this contract expires, the Selectmen will be taking into account the various comments and will be sure to include those specifics in the scope of work for the job. Our current contractor is performing the job that they were hired to do. Wendy stated that when it is time to write the specs for the new bid, that the Selectmen will seek input regarding the mowing and additional work from the Cemetery Committee.

- Roads – John Monroe: Before the actual budget presentation, John wanted to discuss a couple of other things. The staff at the Town Office received a complaint from a school bus driver about an icy turn around. In Hope, most of the turn arounds are private driveways. The Town does not plow or sand private driveways. The Road Commissioner told the Selectmen that Luce Transportation has in the past, hired a contractor named Kevin to sand/plow/salt those school bus turn arounds. There hasn't been a need for any sanding of turn arounds for the past 5-6 years. The Road Commissioner stated that he did not want to be difficult with the school bus company, they have been very good to work with. Dick said that it isn't feasible for the Town to be responsible for the turnarounds. The timing of when they needed to be sanded or plowed would be very difficult for our plowing contractor. The Road Commissioner said that he really wanted to be able to help the bus company but, in this case, he just doesn't see how the Town can take it on. Dick said that since Wayne is the only one who knows the exact route and turn around for each bus that he is better suited to handle it.

There was an article in the Village Soup indicating that Knox Deputies are delivering sand to qualified residents who are 65 years old or older in Knox County.

There have been many small storms and many incidents of icy roads this season. There might be enough sand/salt left to cover around 3 to 4 more storms. Lucas called the Road Commissioner to let him know that they were sold out of sand.

The Road Commissioner presented the 2018-2018 budget request for Roads. The plowing and roadside mowing do not have an increase request. However, the need for additional money for signs is being asked for because the State has shifted the burden of road signage to the municipalities. The Road Commissioner explained the plan for paving and patching some roads including finishing Alford Lake Rd. He believes the need for additional maintenance is going to be a necessity because of the amount of sand and salt that has been placed on the roads this winter. The tree trimming has been cut out of the budget several years in a row. At some point, this is going to have to be addressed. Dick said that as Selectmen, decisions are going to have to be made about what work is actually going to be done and what can realistically be paid. There is a lot of work and projects listed in the budget, how much can actually be accomplished in the budget year time frame?

- Hazard Mitigation Update – Clarence Keller:
 - The Town of Hope can adopt the Know County Hazard Mitigation Plan or create one of its own. However, the Fire Chief would recommend that the Town join with the County for hazard mitigation. Clarence explained that the Town has a couple of projects to list in the plan. The implementation of any plan would be contingent upon outside funding sources such as Federal or State resources because of an incident such as a storm that causes a town-wide power outage, like we had last October. This is just an informational conversation. However, once the County writes up the plan, the Selectmen will need to review it and vote on whether or not to adopt it. The Fire Chief also mentioned that the Town needs to update the Emergency Operations Plan.

- Permission to use Posted Roads – Interstate Septic: Dick made a motion to allow Interstate Septic to use posted roads in cases of emergency. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

- Accept Donation from Camp Bishopswood: Dick made a motion to accept the donation from Camp Bishopswood and to place the monies in the Fire Truck Replacement Reserve Account. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

- Foreclosed Property: There was one property taken by automatic foreclosure on January 26, 2018. The Selectmen discussed various ways of moving forward with this property. The Town Administrator will contact the Town Attorney regarding some alternatives and report back to the Selectmen at a latter date.

Old Business:

- Municipal Building Use Policy – Review and Adoption of Policy: Clarence asked if there was any way to have a different funding source pay for private insurance for the Town. The Selectmen explained that it could not be on behalf of the Town. If a private entity wanted to pay for someone’s insurance, they certainly could. However, it would have to remain private and have no affiliation or under-pinning that it was insurance paid for by the Town. He also wanted to know what exactly “Town Affiliated” means. Dick explained that MMA Legal gave a very clear benchmark to measure this by. Basically, if the Town handles the money and controls the finances of a particular organization, then it is considered Town affiliated. Clarence also stated that there is a line in the policy that seems out of place regarding Fire Department equipment. The Selectmen agreed to remove the sentence. Dick made a motion to adopt the Municipal Building Use Policy with an amendment to remove a sentence about FD equipment. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion Passed 5-0

Other Business:

- None

Executive Session:

- Contract Negotiations - Pursuant to 1-M.R.S.A. 13(1) §405(6)(D): Tabled until next meeting.

Review and Sign Warrants: The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Dick made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 PM. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0