

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Mary Tolles, Nazrine Dixon, Matt Weaver, Niki Janczura, and Rick Bresnahan

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment:

- None

New Business:

- Budget Presentation(s):
 - Recreation – Rick Bresnahan: Rick reviewed the history of True Park and how it became to be the Town's park. He outlined the expenses that he has paid for since the park's inception. It is his belief that the Selectmen should know the actual costs in case he ever stops, or something happens to him. There are several things that is done on a rotation. New wood chips are put down every third year. Tick control is a big concern and should be handled at least annually. This past year the shed was painted, the basketball area was updated. He spent approximately \$3,100 of his own money for upkeep and repairs for the park. In order for Rick to "phase out" he would want to know who would be responsible for the park, a committee or the Selectmen? The playground equipment is now 20 years old and has likely been used to its full capacity. It is time to start considering replacing it. The parking lot never had a final layer of pavement put on it. So, at some point the paving of the parking lot should be a real consideration. Perhaps making a reserve fund for True Park would be the best way to make sure the Park remained safe and usable and well-kept without having a large impact on taxpayers. The Selectmen asked Rick if he was satisfied with the mowing. Rick said that this past year was the very first time he did not have weekly contact with the mowing contractor. It is obvious that the new mowing contractor lost the pride in a job well done. He was able to really see the difference in taking pride in the work and just getting the job done. The Selectmen really need to weigh the value of what each contractor actually provides. In this case the savings of \$1,500 wasn't really a savings at all. Losing Todd meant losing the pride of the facility. The park represents Obed Hart and Tom Ford and others. Rick just wants the Park to be good and well taken care of. Dick said that we need to treat it like any other Town asset. Ewe should have a maintenance schedule and a reserve fund for taking care of it. Brian suggested advertising a request for Recreation Committee members on the Town and School websites. Brian also expressed that the Selectmen and the Town Administrator will be seeking his input when the mowing contract expires to make sure the right specifications are included as a part of the bid so that the job can be done not only right but also done well. All of the Selectmen thanked Rick and his

wife, Ann for all that they have done for the Town and expressed their appreciation.

- Animal Control – Samantha Mank: Samantha presented the Animal Control Budget on behalf of Heidi Blood. Heidi has asked for a \$400 raise. This is in part because of the late fees collected from dog license registrations. The shelter agreement with P.A.W.S. remains unchanged. She is asking for 100 stamps and mileage reimbursement at a rate of 100 miles per month @.545 per mile. Total Animal Control Budget request is \$6,890 an increase of \$450 from last year. Brian would like to see a collated list of the things the Hope ACO does within the Town.
- Administration – Samantha Mank: The Town Administrator asked representatives First Advisors to give a brief presentation about investing various monies. The Town Administrator gave a Power Point presentation about reducing the current number of cost centers to 4 broader categories. The Selectmen agreed to have the Budget Committee review the presentation before any decisions are made. Samantha presented the proposed 2019 Administration budget. The overall Admin portion of the budget request is down 1.5% approximately \$2,170. The General Admin Budget Request is up 20% approx. \$9,275. The contributing factors in such an increase are: Changes to the platform currently used by TRIO, which represents a 44% increase. The website cost is up 129%. The reason for such a drastic increase is that the reserve fund for the website has been used the past 3 years giving the appearance of a lower cost. The reserve fund is now depleted, and the full cost is now being seen.

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Executive Session:

- Contract Negotiations - Pursuant to 1-M.R.S.A. 13(1) §405(6)(D): Sarah made a motion to enter Executive Session at 9:02 PM. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
- Wendy made a motion to exit Exec. Session at 10:04 PM. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 10:05 PM. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0