

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 6, 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 and Clarence Keller

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 1/23/2018 minutes as written. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

- Dick made a motion to accept the 1/31/2018 minutes as written. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- None

New Business:

- Budget Presentation – Fire Department – Clarence Keller:
 - Clarence presented the proposed fiscal year 2019 Fire Department budget to the Selectmen. Everything is pretty consistent with the requests that were made last year. Dick asked about the plowing cost and wondered if it seemed high. Brian explained that it was the lowest bid and it is a job that is done well. Sarah had questions about how the Fire Fighters stipend is determined and Clarence explained the base rate as well as the point system that is added to the base rate based on certain criteria.
 - Fire Truck Reserve: Dick asked Clarence to explain what the Tanker Project was. Basically, it is the Fire Truck replacement. The particular truck that is likely to be replaced is the tanker. Clarence said that a final decision has not yet been made as to whether or not to dispose of 2 tankers and replace with just one apparatus or not. This is something that will be looked at more closely during the FY 2020 budget season. Dick wanted to know what the price range for a pumper truck would be. Clarence said that a new pumper could cost as much as \$200K - \$350K. A tanker could cost about \$15K more. He thinks the bare minimum would be \$150K but he wants to be careful and diligent and locate the best piece of equipment possible for that price. He has been talking with the Town of Washington and some other vendors. Wendy asked what the source and the scope was. Is it just limited to New England? Clarence explained that the brokers have sources all over the country. He thinks it would be best if the Town could acquire a truck from one of the southern states if possible. He

will be working out all of the logistics and doing some thorough research before presenting a final decision.

- Composite Air Bottles: The air bottles are nearing the expiration dates. Brian wanted to know if any laws regarding the how long bottles could be in use before they expired have been enacted since the last budget cycle. Clarence said that he was not aware of any law changes. The bottles that are currently owned by the Town expire in six (6) months. New bottles that have a fifteen (15) year shelf life and cost \$700 a piece.
 - FD Equipment Reserve: Wendy wanted to know if there was already anticipated spending for the \$20,000 being budgeted for the equipment reserve. Clarence explained that the \$20,000 request for the equipment reserve was an amount determined as a result of the 5-year plan. In order to plan for costs in advance and prepare for those costs, a reserve account was established in order to reduce a large increase in the budget during any given year. As of right now, the only expected expense will be \$12,500 for the composite bottles.
 - Grants: Mike wanted to know if there were any grants available that could help off set the cost of the bottles. Clarence said that he was not aware of any at this time. Grants are very competitive. The Town of Hope has been very fortunate to not have a high call volume due to structure fires. That low call volume for structure fires also works against getting grants.
- Budget Presentation – Cemetery: This presentation has been postponed until Feb. 13, 2018.

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 PM. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0