

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Hope Board of Selectmen

Tuesday March 24, 2020

6:30PM

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Board Members Present:

- Brian Powers Jr, Sarah Ann Smith, Wendy Pelletier, Thom Ingraham, and Bruce Haffner

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, John Monroe, Clarence Keller, Vern Ziegler, Dick Crabtree, Todd Snyder, Mike Ames, Langley Willauer, Jacob Esancy, Crystal Robinson, KFSUWI

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:43PM by Brian

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- 3/10/2020 Meeting: Bruce asked to have a couple of items corrected in the minutes regarding his comments. Thom made a motion to accept the March 10, 2020 minutes with some changes as requested by Bruce. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Town Administrator Report:

- I spoke with Earl Johnson from the Maine DOT regarding the paving project on Rt. 235 (Hatchet Mountain Rd/Buzzell Hill Rd). He confirmed that the road would only be getting 5/8 inch of pavement. The work crew called the supervisor to come and look at it because it was so bad. The supervisor instructed the crew to cut back more trees to expose the road to sunlight which could help flatten out some of the frost heaves. The road simply does not have a high enough priority rating to get more attention.
- Lindsay from the Sweet Tree School wanted to know if the April rent could be waived since classes are no longer be held.
- Received a call from Jake Miller from the First National Bank letting us know that the interest rates on the Town's accounts have been lowered to .45% as a result of the current state of the economy.
- A crew from Williams Roofing was here last week to replace the shingles that had been blown off during the storm a couple of weeks ago. They have not fixed the front gutter or downspout problem yet.
- I believe we are just a few steps away from being ordered to shelter-in-place. In preparing for such an order from the Governor, I have asked all staff to have Harbor Digital grant them remote access to be able to work from home. I will also have Lincolnville Telephone

set-up the ability to have call forwarding so that calls to the Town Office can still be answered.

- I know that all of the flags are tattered and torn or missing. New American and Maine State flags have been ordered and the old ones will be replaced soon.
- Now that we have Zoom capabilities, I am hopeful that the Budget Committee will resume meeting very soon. We are currently two weeks behind. This can easily be made up by not having presentations from the Five Town CSD or the County. I will be in contact with the Chair to put together the new schedule.
- Things are definitely changing by the hour at the state level. I will keep you apprised as things are happening or changing.
- There are 16 outstanding 2019 real estate tax accounts totaling \$30,669.94 with liens that will go to automatic foreclosure on February 16, 2021 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 938 RE 2020 tax accounts totaling \$1,440,158.67. The second half of real estate taxes are due on April 30, 2020.

New Business:

- **Review/Award Snowplowing Bid:** There was much discussion surrounding the snowplowing bid. Mike Ames told the Selectmen that the bids were too high for the taxpayers of Hope. He suggested speaking with Lincolnville and then speaking to Tom Farley again about his bid.

Bruce suggested putting the whole contract back out to bid as he knows of another contractor who is interested in bidding.

The Selectmen chose to table awarding the snowplowing contract but instructed the Town Administrator to get clarity from Farley Inc. regarding: what is the 5% road improvement discount? How is it determined? Why is there such a difference in price between Lincolnville and Hope?

- **Discussion Fire Station Bond Refinancing:** Bruce contacted the First National Bank about a lower interest rate on the current bond. Jake from the First National Bank sent an email explaining that the Town could get a Change in Terms which would lower the interest rate from 4.46% to 1.76% for the remaining 5 years left on the loan. The Selectmen said it sounded good and to move forward with the Change in Terms.
- **Mailing to All Hope Residences Regarding Covid-19:** Clarence recorded a video explaining to all residents that a letter would be coming from the Town soon explaining that a team was being put together to help identify people in Hope who may need a little assistance during the time of the pandemic. The Selectmen reviewed the letter that had been written. There were minor changes recommended. Although the original idea was to send out a postcard to each resident, there was simply too much information to fit on a single post card. The Selectmen agreed to have the letter mailed out.

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Review & Sign Warrants #'s:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Sarah made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 75, 76, and 77. It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Sarah made a motion to adjourn at 8:01PM. It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 4-0 (*Wendy lost online connection with Zoom*)