

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016
HOPE TOWN OFFICE
5:30 P.M.**

Note: These minutes may not be considered an official public record until such time as they are read and accepted by the Board of Selectmen.

Board Members Present: Jim Annis, Brian Powers Jr., David Bosken, Chris Pinchbeck, Wendy Pelletier,

Others Present: Jon Duke,

I. Call the Meeting to Order

Brian Powers called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the March 22nd meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Chris Pinchbeck moved, and David Bosken seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of March 22nd meeting of the Board of Selectmen as amended. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Powers abstained).**

b. Minutes of the March 15th meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Chris Pinchbeck moved, and Jim Annis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of March 15th meeting of the Board of Selectmen as written. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Pelletier abstained).**

III. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place Tuesday, April 26th at 6:30pm at the Hope Town Office.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

Jon reported to the Board of the confirmed date and time for the meeting with officials from other area municipalities at the Union Town Office. The meeting will take place on Wednesday the 13th at 6:30pm. Jon will not be able to attend, but Wendy Pelletier and perhaps other Board members will attend on the Town's behalf.

Jon spoke today with Union 69 Superintendent Dianne Helprin to update the Town on the Hope Elementary School's budget. Due to the School Committee's concerns regarding funding for a new septic system, the School Committee has put off final approval of its budget until a funding package can be created which minimizes the impact to the taxpayers. One such proposal would ask the Town's voters to use a greater amount from the Town's unassigned fund balance to offset a greater cost increase from the school budget. The School Committee has set April 27th as the date to approve their school budget, and the Budget Committee will meet on April 28th to set their recommendations on that budget. The delayed school budget approval will then require a

quorum of the Board of Selectmen to meet on the afternoon of April 29th to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant which sets into motion the voters' approval of the school budget. At the Board's next meeting, the Selectmen will need to set a time for the special meeting to approve the warrant.

The Planning Board approved the site plan amendment application for the construction of the pre-K building at Hope Elementary School. Aside from the issues related to the septic system which are attributed to inflow of groundwater into the school's leach field, there were few concerns raised by the Planning Board. One neighbor to the school, Leon Wallace, raised the issue of water flow from the school down to his property. Approximately 10 years ago, Wallace raised similar concerns to the Board of Selectmen and School Committee. The school installed a French drain shortly thereafter to reduce the amount of water heading down hill and instead move the water into the ditch line along Highfield Road. Representatives from the School Committee agreed that any storm water coming from the parking lot will need to be diverted, not only away from Mr. Wallace's property but also from the new leach field. The Planning Board agreed allow any amendments to the septic system to not fall under the site plan application process, but rather through the approval process of the new septic system, which will be installed this summer, pending voter approval.

V. FY 2017 Municipal Budget

a. Public Safety

Chris Pinchbeck spoke of the importance of thanking the volunteer firefighters for their efforts and rewarding them financially. Pinchbeck said that even a 2% increase in the volunteer stipends would only amount to \$20 per volunteer, but every little bit does help. Jon indicated that the Budget Committee has recommended that the Town conduct a study of methods to enhance retention of current volunteers and attracting new volunteers. Jon contacted Neil Courtney, who is currently assisting the Hope Volunteer Fire Department Inc. on their efforts to revise all their operational policies and manuals, regarding his interest in offering his services for this study. Courtney agreed he would be willing to work on the Town's behalf and provided a verbal quote of \$2200 to complete the study.

Chris Pinchbeck made a motion to approve \$95,900 for Public Safety by providing a 2% stipend increase for the volunteers and increase by \$175 for the generator maintenance. Wendy Pelletier seconded. **Motion passed 4-1 (Powers opposed)**

b. Capital Reserve

The Board discussed the recommendations of the Budget Committee to combine the municipal building repair reserves into one line and reduce the total combined amount to \$5000, reduce the amount to put into the Fire Truck Replacement reserve to \$10,000, and to reduce the amount in the Fire Department Equipment reserve to \$7500 to take into account the funds already in the reserve which could reduce the amount needed over the five-year period to meet all needs of the five-year capital plan.

Chris Pinchbeck made a motion to set the South Hope Fire Station reserve at \$0, the Fire Truck Replacement reserve at \$15,000, the Fire Department Equipment Reserve at

\$7500, and the Municipal Buildings Reserve at \$5000. David Bosken seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Chris Pinchbeck made a motion to set Municipal Buildings Reserve at \$10,000 for a total of Capital Reserve department at \$63,000. David Bosken seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

c. Administration

Wendy Pelletier made a motion to approve \$150,810 for Administration by removing the amount for Deferred Compensation. Jim Annis seconded. **Motion passed 3-2 (Pinchbeck and Bosken opposed).**

d. General Administration

Wendy Pelletier made a motion to approve \$43,899 for General Administration but investigate the use of the Union Chamber of Commerce's bulk mail permit. Jim Annis seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

e. Animal Control

Wendy Pelletier made a motion to approve \$5,536 for Animal Control. Jim Annis seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

f. Ambulance

Chris Pinchbeck made a motion to approve \$8,100 for Ambulance and contract with North East Mobile Health Service to provide ambulance services to the entire Town of Hope. Jim Annis seconded. **Motion passed 4-1 (Pelletier opposed).**

g. Municipal Building

Chris Pinchbeck made a motion to approve \$10,342 for Municipal Building. Jim Annis seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

h. Recreation Department

Chris Pinchbeck made a motion to approve \$5,765 for Recreation. Jim Annis seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

i. Street Lights

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$1,615 for Street Lights. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

j. Roads

The Board discussed the value of utilizing chip sealing on the Town's roads and which road would be the best place to start with the process. The Board agreed that Seacoast Road would be a better candidate for the first use of chip seal than Jones Hill Road because it is currently in better condition and requiring of little to no shim asphalt.

Jim Annis made a motion to set the Paving Bid at \$68,000 by chipsealing Seacoast Road, the Repair and Maintenance - Ongoing at \$67,000, Supplies – sand and salt at \$36,700 for a department total of \$325,790. Wendy Pelletier seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

k. Sanitation

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$51,501 for Sanitation. Chris Pinchbeck seconded.
Motion passed 5-0.

l. Professional Services

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$24,800 for Professional Services. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

m. General Assistance

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$2,000 for General Assistance. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

n. Cemeteries

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$7,202 for Cemeteries. Chris Pinchbeck seconded.
Motion passed 5-0.

o. Revenue – Excise Tax

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$275,000 for Excise Tax. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

p. Revenue – Cemetery Maintenance

Chris Pinchbeck made a motion to approve \$1,000 for Cemetery Maintenance. Jim Annis seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

q. Revenue – Highway Block Grant

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$30,000 for Highway Block Grant. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

r. Revenue – State Revenue Sharing

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$0 for State Revenue Sharing. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

s. Revenue – GA Reimbursement

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$1,400 for GA Reimbursement. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

t. Revenue – Grant Income

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$750 for Grant Income. Chris Pinchbeck seconded.
Motion passed 5-0.

u. Revenue – Unassigned Fund Balance

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$100,000 for Unassigned Fund Balance. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

v. Revenue – Abatements & Overlay

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$25,000 for Abatements & Overlay. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

w. Revenue – Other Revenue

Jim Annis made a motion to approve \$50,000 for Other Revenue. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VI. New Business

a. Municipal Solid Waste Post-2018 Discussion

The Board discussed the recommendation made by the Midcoast Solid Waste Corporation Board of Directors to the four communities it represents to contract with ecomaine for disposal of solid waste following the expiration of the current solid waste contract with MRC/PERC. The Board weighed the pros and cons of the MRC/Fiberight and ecomaine options that are before the Town of Hope to consider. The Lincolnville and Camden Boards of Selectmen have already endorsed the ecomaine proposal, and the Rockport SelectBoard is set to discuss their recommendation next week. Jon stated that if the Town of Hope chose a different vendor for accepting solid waste, it would likely require Hope to withdraw from Midcoast Solid Waste and either create its own transfer station or join another pre-existing transfer station organization, like Tri-County in Union. Jon also reminded the Board that when the Selectmen last looked at the option of withdrawing from MCSWC and joining with Tri-County, the annual cost sanitation costs to taxpayers would increase by 50%. Brian Powers stated that he had conducted research on Fiberight's Iowa facility and on other plants of the like. Brian stated that while a number of plants similar to what is proposed by Fiberight in Maine are in operation in Europe, the vast majority of waste disposal plants in Europe are waste to energy plants like ecomaine. Jim Annis said that while he did not support the ecomaine vote as a member of the MCSWC Board of Directors, he will support the ecomaine option as a Selectman in Hope because the dissolution of MCSWC is not in the best interests of Hope. Jim Annis stated that he had a number of discussions with MSCWC Board chairman Art Durity following the meeting with the four boards of selectmen and raised the concern with the length of the agreement with ecomaine stipulated in the motion approved by the MCSWC board. Subsequently, ecomaine has agreed to support a contract with MCSWC that lasts 20 years, but also contains the mutual option to leave the agreement just prior to the conclusion of every five-year benchmark in the contract.

Jim Annis made a motion to agree support the MCSWC recommendation of contracting with ecomaine to dispose of municipal solid waste for 20 years with the inclusion of the mutual ability to opt out of the agreement every five years in the agreement. **Motion passed 4-1 (Pinchbeck opposed)**

b. Approval of Warrant

Jim Annis made a motion to approve Warrants 72-77. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

c. Budget Committee Ordinance

Chris Pinchbeck made a motion to direct place an article on the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant to amend the Budget Committee ordinance to reduce the number of members on the committee from 9 to 7. seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Wendy Pelletier made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Selectmen and convene as the Board of Assessors. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VII. Board of Assessors

a. Farmland Withdrawal Penalty – Carolie Larner Heirs

Jim Annis made a motion to grant a Farmland Withdrawal Penalty to the Carolie Larner Heirs in the amount \$3398.25. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Wendy Pelletier made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and convene as the Board of Selectmen. Chris Pinchbeck seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VIII. Future Agenda Items

IX. Adjournment

Jim Annis moved to adjourn at 10:40 pm. David Bosken seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**