

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S  
MEETING  
Hope Board of  
Selectmen Tuesday,  
June 2, 2020 6:30 p.m.  
Via Zoom Conferencing**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

- Samantha Mank, Alexenia Payor, Langley Willauer, John Monroe, Clarence Keller, Ellie Goldberg, Bill Jones, Judith Jones, Dick Crabtree, Todd Snyder, Jessica Snyder, Mike Ames, Chris Pinchbeck, Lindsay Pinchbeck, Elsie Pinchbeck, Beth Gindel, Jake Esancy, and Jake Boyington

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Brian.

**Public Comment:**

- Elsie Pinchbeck has raised money by selling approximately 50 White Pine and Balsam Fir trees. Each tree was purchased and planted in Hope. Elsie would like to donate the proceeds to the Hope Chest. The Selectmen accepted her generous gift with many thanks.

**Minutes:**

- 5/12/20 Minutes: Sarah made a motion to accept the May 12, 2020 minutes with several changes. It was seconded by Thom.

**Motion passed 4-0**

**Town Administrator Report:**

- The paving contract for the State has been awarded. Warren Area Light Capital Paving will be doing the paving this Summer on Rt. 235. Still no word on when the paving will begin.
- The Town paving request for Gillette Rd. and Hope St. has been advertised. The deadline is June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- I had a conversation with Joe Connelly from NEMHS regarding a contract beyond 2021. In light of the efforts by other consortium Towns to have a municipal ambulance service, it is important to know if our current provider will be able to meet their contract without Camden or Rockport. Joe assured me that NEMHS would not leave Hope or Lincolnville without an ambulance service.
- The Budget Committee is planning on holding a hybrid (in-person and zoom) meeting tomorrow to hear presentations on Roads and Administration.

- Vern's flight has been delayed again. He is now expecting to be back in Maine on June 8<sup>th</sup> barring any unexpected changes.
- This year, June 30<sup>th</sup> falls on a Tuesday. The staff have never performed any of the end of year processes needed to move us into the new fiscal year. I would like to close the Town Office at noon that day in order to have plenty of time as well as to be able to make contact with any State or TRIO assistance.
- There are 13 outstanding 2019 real estate tax accounts totaling \$23,558.64 with liens that will go to automatic foreclosure on February 16, 2021 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 216 RE 2020 tax accounts totaling \$339,029.68. The second half of real estate taxes were due on April 30, 2020.

**New Business:**

- **Library Request to Begin Curbside Service:** Jill Lang made a proposal to start opening the library up by beginning with the curbside service on Friday's. Thom said that it looks like a sensible way to go and that he completely supports it.

Brian agreed that it looked like a good and sensible way to begin the re-opening of the library.

Sarah wanted to know how book returns were going to happen such as a basket for drop off's or something of the like. Judith said that they were going to have a drop off box for returns.

- **Proposed Change to Animal Control Ordinance:** The Selectmen cannot vote to adopt an ordinance change. The Selectmen are only voting on whether or not to include it on the Town Meeting Warrant and the voters then determine if it is adopted or not.

Brian says that this amendment looks a lot easier and possibly may even have a little more tooth for the Animal Control Officer. Thom made a motion to include this Ordinance Amendment on the Town Meeting Warrant. It was seconded by Sarah.

**Motion passed 4-0**

- **Proposed Changes to Rules & Regulations for Cemeteries:** Thom said that he was not sure why Morey Hill Cemetery is closed to new burials.

Brian said that he didn't think it was as there was a new site there just few years ago.

Sarah said she thought it was really more of a moratorium so that it would give the Sexton and other Cemetery Committee members time to be able to locate all of the grave sites and make sure that any unmarked graves could be properly marked.

Beth confirmed that there is moratorium on new grave sites at Morey Hill in order to get the actual location of the graves and to prevent mistakenly opening an occupied grave.

The Selectmen asked her to re-word article 6 and article 1 before they could approve the changes.

Beth noted that today was the first service for her in the Hope Grove Cemetery since she has been Sexton and noticed that they were brown tailed moths in the cemetery. She noted that there were none there last year but, definitely getting hit hard this year and wanted to know if this was something that the Town would be addressing. Brian said that it is unlikely the Town will be addressing it, in light of the Covid-19 situation and possible economic hardships people find themselves in.

- Town Meeting – Ballot or In-Person: Sarah wanted to know if Zoom is a viable option? Mike Ames said that it may be possible if everyone could use the raise hand features for voting. He said that he was just on a Zoom meeting with 90 people and it went fine. Brian expressed concerned about knowing whether or not each person voting was a registered voter of Hope or whether they stayed for the duration of the entire meeting or if someone else was voting in their place. There just seems to be too many legality issues for this.

Thom wanted to know how the people get the information about the content of what they're voting on.

Bill Jones said the Budget Committee only has one function and power, which is to recommend at a Town Meeting. To remove Town Meeting takes away any counterbalance in the budgeting process.

Sarah made a motion that the Town hold a Public Hearing approximately one week prior to the July 14<sup>th</sup> election and that voting in place of Town Meeting would be held by secret ballot for this year only. The motion was seconded by Thom.

**Motion failed 2-2 (Thom & Bruce)**

- Mid Coast Solid Waste Representatives for FY 2021: The Town Administrator explained that in July 2020 the Board of Selectmen will need to choose who the two representatives for Mid Coast Solid Waste representing the Town of Hope are going to be.  
Mike Brown is currently the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for MCSW, but he said that he is ready to be done. Wendy is the second representative. She did not take out nomination papers to be reelected to the seat on the Board of Selectmen. However, she said that she would like to remain as a representative for Mid Coast Solid Waste.  
Brian said that he thought this should wait until after the election to find out who the new Selectmen are going to be before choosing a representative to serve on the MCSW Board of Directors. He also wanted to make sure that the two current representatives would continue to serve until the new appointment are made.
- NEMHS Ambulance April 2020 Report: Brian said that again it seems that the ambulance service is continually meeting the standards that have been set forth in the contract. The Board excepted the April Report.

- Five Town CSD Budget Validation Warrant: The Board of Selectmen agreed to sign the warrant for the Five Town CSD Budget Validation Referendum.

### **Old Business:**

- Firetruck Purchase: Clarence provided the Selectmen with several pages of firetrucks that were for sale as a way to compare the going rate for fire trucks. Thom wanted to know if we were looking at “Chevys” or “Cadillacs”. Clarence said unless fire apparatus are built to the exact same specifications there is no way to compare one truck to another, it’s simply not apples to apples. Clarence went on to say that he believes the value of the truck is closer to \$160,000. Hope is getting a lesser price because Camden may still get some use from the truck since it will likely be used during a mutual aid call.

Thom wanted to know if with this deal, we could expect the truck to be in good shape and not need an emergency \$20,000 pump or some other large repair. Clarence said that there’s no guarantee, but it has passed the required spec test.

Bruce said that he has done some research and agrees that this is a good deal.

Brian said that he has also done some checking around and if this truck was on the open market, it definitely seems that it is underpriced. So, we are really getting a good deal. He also wondered if we should have a third-party inspection on it.

Thom suggested that if it’s been longer than six months since the last pump test that a third-party looking it over would be a good thing.

Bruce made a motion to buy the truck with whatever provisions Clarence wanted. Sarah made an amendment to the motion with the proviso the truck has a current successful pump test within the past six months, for the agreed price of \$120,000, she then seconded the motion.

### **Motion passed 4-0**

- Snowplowing Contract: The deadline for receiving the Request for Proposal for Winter Maintenance for Hope roads were collected on May 22, 2020. The Town Administrator read off the results of the three proposals that were received.

John Monroe said that he no longer a need to abstain from the conversation as he did in the past whereas Mr. Esancy had been one of his employees. The Road Commissioner did say the both contractors, Farley Inc. and Appleton Ridge Construction, are very capable contractors and are able to do the work well. But his recommendation is to go with Appleton Ridge Construction.

Brian wanted to know if Wayne’s Landscaping is a viable option. The Road Commissioner said that he had spoken a Selectman from a Town where Mr. Ely had previously provided contracted snowplowing and sanding. That selectman told John that Mr. Ely, as a contractor, is just not capable of doing the work. John went on to say that not only is he not capable, but he’s not qualified, and the Town was very specific about instructing John to not hire Wayne’s Landscaping.

Thom asked if Mr. Boyington did not list any equipment because he was going to purchase the equipment if he was awarded the contract. Mr. Boyington confirmed that was the case.

Thom also stated that going with a 5-year contract gives the appearance that we are not as a Town going to look at doing business in a different way. He went on to say that Bruce has done a lot of work and has talked with people who know about roads. We need to be able to look at other viable alternatives. Therefore, Thom would only be in favor of a one- or two-year contract.

John Monroe said that he didn't think the Town would be able to find a contractor who is willing to make a one- or two-year contract as it is a big investment. He said you [the Selectmen] had the chance to have a shorter contract but you've neglected to award it.

Thom went on to say that Farley's has several trucks including a 2016 vehicle so he would not have to buy new equipment. Again, John answered, "just because someone has a vehicle doesn't mean they aren't already committed to a different town or entity with that vehicle."

John Monroe went over the 3-year versus 5-year cost per mile of Mr. Boyington's proposal and stated that "if you go with a 3-year contract you're just throwing money out the window".

Bill Jones added a few things he really wanted to say:

- 1.) "You guys would make me not want to do work with the town of Hope;
- 2) You should not disqualify a bidder just because a different Town give them a bad reference;
- 3) I've looked at the work Bruce has put together and it looks impressive and I'm convinced it should be taken seriously;
- 4) The work has to be supervised, the Road Commissioner or the Selectmen will get calls complaining if the roads aren't plowed before the first snowflake, I'm very thankful we have John Monroe. Are you at Selectmen willing to back up John and support his decisions? and;
- 5) If you decide to go with the public works department, interest rates are really low if there was ever a time to make a big purchase, this is the time."

Sarah said that there was no way the Selectmen are able to make a decision to have our own public works dept. tonight or maybe even this year. We have exceeded the time to make a decision and we can't kick this can down the road anymore. We need to make a decision. Are we going to go for three years or five years, we just need to make a decision?

Much discussion followed.

Sarah made a motion to enter into discussions with Appleton Ridge Construction [Mr. Boyington] for the next 3 to 5 years. There was no second. Brian asked is there no one

else willing to make a motion?

Thom said he still wanted to know if Farley's is willing to have a 1 to 2-year contract.

Mike Ames spoke up and told the Selectmen that they were foolish and that they are an embarrassment for the Town of Hope. He went on to say that there is a contractor sitting right here listening to you. Pretty soon nobody is going to want to do work with you. I can't believe that none of you were willing to second Sarah's motion.

Again, there was much discussion.

Thom made a motion to enter into a contract with Appleton Ridge Construction for a three-year contract for the RFP amount with a 1yr. + 1yr. option the end of the contract; while simultaneously establishing a Roads Commission for the safety of Hope roads ahead. The motion was seconded by Sarah.

**Motion passed 3-1 (Bruce)**

#### **Board of Assessors:**

- Suspend as Board of Selectmen/Convene as Board of Assessors: Thom made a motion to suspend is the Board of Selectmen and to convene as the Board of Assessors at 9:51 p.m. It was seconded by Sarah.

**Motion passed 4-0**

- Review, Approve, and Sign 2020 Ratio Declaration & Reimbursement Application: Bruce made a motion to approve and sign the 2020 Ratio Declaration Reimbursement. It was seconded by Thom.

**Motion passed 4-0**

- Adjourn as Assessors/Reconvene as Board of Selectmen: Thom made a motion to adjourn as Assessors and to reconvene as the Board of Selectmen at 9:56 p.m. It was seconded by Sarah.

**Motion passed 4-0**

#### **Other Business:**

- John Monroe said the bid for winter sand had come in at \$13/yd and if the contractor, Lucas, puts it up then it would be \$14/yd. Sarah made a motion to purchase winter sand from Lucas at \$14/yd. It was seconded by Bruce.

**Motion passed 4-0**

#### **Warrants #'s 90, 91, and 92:**

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Sarah made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 90, 91, and 92. It was seconded by Thom.

**Motion passed 4-0**

#### **Adjournment:**

- Bruce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 p.m. It was seconded by Thom.

**Motion passed 4-0**