

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen & Assessors'
Tuesday, July 10, 2018
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, John Monroe, Clarence Keller, and Dianne Helprin

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Brian.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Mike made a motion to accept the 6/26/2018 minutes. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- The Town Administrator invited Superintendent of Schools, Dianne Helprin to discuss some potential budgetary issues. Dianne discussed with the Selectmen the process for obtaining additional funds, if needed, to cover the costs of additional special accommodations for some students. The Town does not qualify for the Special Education Hardship Adjustment. Samantha will check with MMA Legal Services about the matter.
- Taxes will be ready for commitment on July 24th.
- As of today, \$18,943.67 have been paid pre-paid over 48 different real estate accounts for 2019.
- As of today, there are 83 outstanding 2018 real estate tax accounts totaling \$129,283.57
- As of today, there are still 18 outstanding 2017 real estate tax accounts totaling \$37,581.88 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent.

New Business:

- Road Commissioner Update – John Monroe:
 - The Road Commissioner presented the selectmen with quotes for winter roads. Dick made a motion to accept and approve the bid for sand from Lucas Construction at a cost of \$11.75/ton. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0
 - The Road Commissioner presented the Selectmen with quotes for winter roads salt. Sarah made a motion to accept and approve the bid for salt from New England Salt Co. at a cost of \$49.75/yard. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

- The Road Commissioner reported at the last Selectmen's meeting that the culvert on Robbins Road by Rankins had a beaver dam in it. Now the beaver dam has plugged the culvert. John has been in touch with the game warden. Dan Dixon, a beaver trapper, will be removing the beavers tomorrow. The cost to have the beavers removed is approximately \$200. John asked the Selectmen if they would approve the expense. Dick said that he understands why the Town would have to pay since it is town property. All of the Selectmen agreed to have the beavers removed at the town's expense.
- NEMHS Ambulance Contract Extension: There were some problems with the ambulance contract as written. Originally, the Towns were considering adopting amendments to correct the issues. However, Butch, NEMHS CEO, was too uncomfortable with the contract language and penalties and opted to not sign any of the contracts. He proposed a 60-day extension of the old contract at the new contract price in order to make the contract work for all of the parties involved. Sarah made a motion to approve and sign the extension. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
- Application for EMA Director – Michael Mank: The Selectmen asked the Fire Chief, Clarence Keller, if he felt that this candidate could do the job and if is recommending him. Clarence said that Michael has been apart of HFD for about 2 years. During that time, Michael has been active in trying to recruit new member to the fire department. He also has some law enforcement experience which will help with the paperwork aspect of the position. Clarence said that he was making the recommendation. Mike made a motion to appoint Michael Mank to the position of EMA Director for 1year. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 5-0
 - Clarence would like the Selectmen to consider an amendment to the EMA Ordinance to include a Deputy EMA Director – of which he would like to be appointed. He thinks it would provide some continuity of the emergency management for the town. The Selectmen would like to see how the newly appointed director works out and what his thoughts on the ordinance change is before making any changes.
- Fire Chief Report & Update - Clarence Keller:
 - Bulk E-Mail: Clarence wanted to know if there was any policy or rules governing the use of the bulk email system. He would from time to time send out emails regarding the Fire Department. The Selectmen said that it was a good idea and that they would encourage it.
 - Online Burn Permits: Residents have not been able to obtain online burn permits for a while. Clarence went to Augusta to testify. The online burn permit legislation was vetoed by the Governor. He thinks the veto has been overturned or is going to be, he will verify. If the veto has been overturned, then online burn permits will be available to town residents once again.
 - Approximately 2 years ago at the Town Meeting the Fire Department was awarded the Shape Award. The designation was good for 2-years. On June 14th, the HFD had a safety visit and was found to have zero hazards and all documentation was done. The new designation is good for the next 4 years. One of the benefits of be recognized as a Shape Town, is that the Department of Labor will not come for any surprise inspections. Samantha will let MMA know that the HFD has been given the Shape Award.
 - In May, Clarence submitted an application for the Safety Enhancement Grant to replace couplings on the fire hoses as a result of an injury to one of the HFD fire

fighters during a structure fire in Appleton. The HFD has been awarded \$2,000 toward the \$3,300 total cost.

- Clarence also submitted a grant to the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation for turn-out gear. The HFD was awarded \$20,000. This money will be applied in the 5-year plan for FD.

Old Business:

- None

Suspend as Selectmen/Call to Order as Board of Assessors':

- Sarah made a motion to Suspend as the Board of Selectmen and to convene as the Board of Assessors' at 8:22PM. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

- Vern removed the following properties from the Tree Growth status. Therefore, a supplemental tax bills will need to be sent in order to pay the penalty for removing the properties. The land owner will have 30 days to pay the supplemental bill before interest starts accruing. If the bill is not paid within 60 days, the Town will place a lien on the property for nonpayment of taxes. Vern stated that the Town should require proof of income from each property that is in a special designation such as tree growth or farmland each year in order to stay current with what is actually happening with the properties as well as to make sure the properties are being used correctly if the landowners are benefitting from a reduction in taxes.

- Supplemental Tax Assessments for Farmland Withdrawal – Map 7 Lot 21 Bruce Melanson & Leslie Robinson: Mike made a motion to approve and sign the new supplemental tax assessment for property located at map 7 lot 21 owned by Bruce Melanson and Leslie Robinson. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

- Supplemental Tax Assessments for Farmland Withdrawal – Map7 Lot 22 Carolie Larnier Heirs c/o Leslie Robinson: Mike made a motion to approve and sign the new supplemental tax assessment for property located at map 7 lot 22 owned by Carolie Larnier Heirs c/o Leslie Robinson. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjourn as Assessors'/Convene as Board of Selectmen:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors' and to reconvene as the Board of Selectmen at 8:48PM. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

Other Business:

- Mike said that the street light by his house was still out. Samantha will contact CMP about this again.
- Brian wants to make sure that the portable toilets at True Park are cleaned more often during Soccer Camp.

Review and Sign Warrants:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s

96, 1, 2, and 3. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 9:06 PM. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0