

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen & Assessors'
Tuesday, July 24, 2018
6:30 PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Mary Tolles, Vern Ziegler, John Monroe, Jennifer Work, John Work, and Harold Mosher

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:3 PM by Brian.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- Dick made a motion to accept the 7/10/2018 minutes. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0

Administrator's Report:

- There are still complaints being received regarding the mowing. Especially regarding the cemeteries and True Park.
- Heating Oil prices have still not been locked in. The County has not provided any bids yet either. The last contact with Chris Seavey from Maritime Energy was on July 17th. At that time, #2 heating oil was costing \$2.44/gal. The budget estimate was at 2.30/gal. If we were to lock in now we will over spend that budget line by \$77.00. There is no indication if the cost will go down if we wait. It could just as likely go up.
- Propane prices have still not been locked in. The County has not provided any bids yet either. The last contact with Chris Seavey from Maritime Energy was on July 17th. At that time, propane was costing \$1.599/gal. The budget estimate for the Town Office was \$2.00/gal while the estimate for the Hope Corner Fire Station was \$1.80/gal. If we were to lock in at that price we will under spend our budget line by \$632 for the Town Office and \$251 for the Hope Corner Fire Station.
- The Town of Hope has completed all of the meetings and paperwork required by FEMA for the reimbursement of money spent during the last October storm. We are eligible to receive 75% of the total back. In addition, we are eligible to be reimbursed for some administrative costs. That is 75% of the 4% of the total money spent. According to Ray Sisk, the reimbursement portion from MEMA will begin once FEMA's portion has been completed. The Town could be eligible for reimbursements of an additional 15% of the total costs. In case anyone is wondering... the actual total cost was \$8,130.54.

- I contacted MMA legal services about the special education funding. MMA indicated that they really aren't very knowledgeable in matters dealing with schools.
- The Town Office staff continues to excel. I have included an email from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles regarding our BMV Agent and trainer regarding their exceptional work.
- As of July 23rd, there were 67 outstanding 2018 real estate tax accounts totaling \$112,475.86
- As of July 23rd, there were still 18 outstanding 2017 real estate tax accounts totaling \$37,297.15 with liens that will automatically foreclose in January 2019 if the accounts remain delinquent.

New Business:

- Quarterly Financial Report – Mary Tolles: Mary presented the preliminary 4th quarter report. It is only a preliminary report because all of the information from the school hasn't been received yet. There were fewer 30-day notices sent this year. It could be because the letters were sent out a little later this year which allowed for more time to make tax payments. The Selectmen noticed that one of the School's expense lines was over spent by \$10,578. The Selectmen want to know why and how this could happen since the School Board signs off on each warrant stating that there have not been any overages.
- FY-18 Budgetary Carry-Over's:
 - Roads – The Road Commissioner asked to have a budgetary carry-over from last years budget to complete some paving and culvert work. Dick made a motion to approve a carry-over from the FY 2018 paving line of \$14,000 for paving and \$9,000 from the FY 2018 culvert work line for the culvert work. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0
 - Administration – The Town Administrator asked to have a budgetary carry-over from last years budget to cover the unexpected cost of training a new Town Clerk. Wendy made a motion to approve a carry-over from the FY 2018 administration line of \$1,800 for administration. It was seconded by Dick. **Motion passed 4-0**
- Road Paving Bids - John Monroe: The Town received 7 bids for paving a portion of Alford Lake Rd and Hackleburnham Rd. The 3 lowest bids came from F.C. Work & Sons, Inc. for \$63.75/ton + \$200 1/10th mile of tack; Hagar Enterprises, Inc. for \$64.25/ton + \$275 1/10th mile of tack; and The Lane Construction Company for \$69.40/ton + \$255 1/10th mile of tack. All 3 of these companies come in under the budgeted amount. The Road Commissioner said that we have had some trouble in the past with smaller companies not having the appropriate equipment to do the actual job well. However, John does feel that F.C. Work & Sons will be able to get the job done. Dick said that the Town wants to do business with a company that can make a reasonable profit while at the same time providing a good product.

Dick asked, “Is that what we can expect?” Mr. Work stated that is absolutely what the Town will receive. His goal is to make and build good relationships. They have been in the paving business for 50 years. All of their equipment is road class and all of the workers including flaggers are not sub-contracted but are in-house employees. There is also a large crack on Hackleburnham Rd that will require some extra attention in order to be fixed the right way. After some discussion, Dick made a motion to award the FY 2019 paving bid to F.C. Work & Sons, Inc. for \$63.75/ton & \$200/ 1/10th mile of tack and to not exceed the paving budget. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 4-0

- Signs for Town Office: The Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with a quote from adventure Advertising for signage at the Town office. Samantha explained that residents who come to the Town Office routinely are confused about where the actual entrance to the Town Office is as there is only a sign for the Hope Library posted on the parking lot side of the building. Samantha is proposing having a sign very similar to the Hope Library sign installed above the porch of the Town Office and to have another much smaller sign next to the door. Both signs can be made and installed for a total of \$311. The Selectmen asked about the “Wi-Fi Hotspot” sign that has been affixed to the building under the Hope Library sign. The Town Administrator told the Selectmen that David Hall had asked to put it up. The Selectmen would like to speak with a representative from the Library regarding the sign as well as potential internet access issues. Dick made a motion to add signage to the Town Office for \$311 because of the ongoing confusion of people coming to the Town Office and often going to the wrong door. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

- Union Chemical Update: The Town received a notice that the former Union Chemical property from the Maine DEP stating the State was seeking to have Union Chemical deleted as a Superfund Site.

Old Business:

- None

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

- Wendy made a motion to suspend as the Board of Selectmen and to convene as the Board of Assessors’ at 6:40PM. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 4-0

- Fiscal Year 2019 Tax Commitment – Vern Ziegler: Vern presented the 2018 Municipal Tax Rate Calculation Tax Assessment Warrant to the Board of Assessors’. He gave the Assessors’ two different mil rate options. The first was a mil rate of 16.1 and the other was a mil rate of 16.2. Vern also pointed out that 82% of the taxes is for the school while 7% is for the county. The actual municipal portion of the taxes is approx. 11%. Dick made a motion to accept the 16.1 mil rate and to sign the FY 2019 tax commitments paper. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 4-0

Adjourn as Assessors'/Convene as Board of Selectmen:

- Mike made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors' at 6:55PM and to reconvene as the Board of Selectmen. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 4-0

Other Business:

- None

Executive Session:

- Mike made a motion to enter Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6) (A) (1) for a personnel Matter at 8:47PM. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 4-0
- Dick made a motion to exit Executive session at 9:30PM. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 4-0

Review and Sign Warrants:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 4, 5, and 6. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 4-0

Adjournment:

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 9:33PM. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 4-0

Disclaimer: Many of the agenda items were taken out of order to accommodate those in attendance