

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hope Board of Selectmen
Tuesday July 9, 2019
6:30PM
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Mary Tolles, David Hall, and Matt Winston

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Brian

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes 6/25/19:

- Thom made a motion to accept the 6/25/19 minutes. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 5-0

Administrator's Report:

- Last Friday, there was an "emergency" MCSW Board of Directors meeting. The reason this was an emergency meeting was because of the length of notice given to the public as well as the inability of the Board Chair to attend any meetings this week as he is out of Town. At that meeting, a majority of the Board voted to offer a contract to Tokunboh-Baridi Nkokhedi from Baltimore, Maryland, to be the new manager of MCSW. He should be here no later than August 25th.
- The landfill at MCSW has been on fire since at least Friday. There was some trouble with the Maine Water Company. After they found out that more than a million gallons had been poured onto the fire, they insisted on installing a separate new meter or they would have to shut off the water. The landfill portion of the facility has been temporarily closed until the fire has been put out. In addition, only debris that was sourced in the 4-towns may use the landfill temporarily as well. The Board of Directors will be fully briefed at the next meeting.
- I met with Stephen Cole from the Maine DOT to discuss upcoming projects in Hope. Currently, there are crews working on some ditching on Hatchet Mountain Rd. The plan is for the entire 7.1 miles of Rt. 235 (Hatchet Mountain and Buzzell Hill) to be paved.
- RKO Accounting came and met with Mary regarding the work they will be doing. It was a good meeting. Things will be firmed up once we know what the capabilities of the new

bookkeeper will be. Mary and I have discussed the probable hiring and training schedule for her replacement. Advertising will begin in late August or early September. We will conduct interviews in October. Depending on the capabilities of the person selected, training will begin no later than December 1st.

- The advertisement for the roofing bid has been published. I also included the gutter work in the specs. In addition, the request for paving bids have also been sent out. Deadline on paving is July 12th and for the roofing July 19th.
- I have looked into shed replacements for the one that is falling apart now. The plastic ones from Home Depot, Lowes, and Walmart are relatively the same price for the same size. A 7' X 7' is under \$500. Wooden ones begin at around \$1,200. Steel sheds are far less costly beginning at \$200 but, they also don't have the expected longevity of the others.
- We have not received the report we were expecting regarding the heat pumps. I called Bill and his recollection was that the report was going to get sent to Rick Bresnahan before given to the Selectmen. Rick is out of town and is not expected back until after the 15th.

New Business:

- **4th Qtr. Quarterly Report – Mary Tolles:** Mary presented the preliminary 4th quarter report to the Selectmen. She explained what each of the different parts of the report detailed about the Town's finances. In addition, she provided a budget to actual report for the Roads Budget.
- ~~Rent Town Office Space for Sweet Tree Arts School Lindsay Pinchbeck:~~
- **HFGPA Request for 3rd Party Insurance Waiver – David Hall:** David said that the HFGPA has tried to have the annual meeting at the Fire Station but was told that the Building Use policy is for all municipal buildings. He is before the Selectmen to request a waiver for the 3rd party insurance required by the policy in order for non-town affiliated organizations to use town owned space. He had heard that the Sno-Riders did not have to obtain insurance for their annual meeting. David contended that the Hobbs and Fish Ponds Association provides a much greater service to the Town than the snowmobile club. David explained the various services such as water testing and beaver removal. Brian agreed that the HFGPA provides valuable services to the Town and those living on the pond. However, the policy is based on the model provided by MMA which in part states that town affiliated is determined by the control of the money. Many Towns have a warrant article giving the funds collected from snowmobile registrations to the local snowmobile club for the maintenance of the snowmobile trails. The state sets the snowmobile fees. The Town collects and disburses the fees. This makes it town-

affiliated. There was considerable additional discussion. David said that he now has a better understanding of the policy and how it works. He withdrew the request.

- Fee Increase Request for CD&D - MCSW: The Mid-Coast Solid Waste Board of Director's voted to increase landfill fees for construction and demolition debris from \$100/ton to \$140/ton. The following is an excerpt from a letter written by the Chair of the Board of Director's, Owen Casas:

“This request is justified as follows: A fee increase should slow down the rate of CDD fill up so that our best management plan can be formulated. That plan will incorporate additional thought on the fee schedule as well as policies that support a best management practice specific to our unique circumstances. While we know that the increase seems like a shock, the rate per ton simply brings us in line with surrounding CDD rates, with our current rate being low comparatively. We also feel that the increase will not have overly adverse effects on the average municipal taxpayer, whose tax dollars go towards funding operations on landfill management... and basically everything else we do. We acknowledge that this change will affect certain commercial haulers, however we commit to keeping their needs in mind as we move forward. I want to stress that this request is currently being viewed as a stop-gap measure, intended to give the Corp, and our new manager, time enough to evaluate our situation. Shifts in the industry, the rate of fill up and usable space in the landfill, funding sources and mechanisms, actions of surrounding communities and many more factors play into this equation. It is the hope of the MCSWC BoD that we craft a plan that meets with our fiduciary responsibilities to the taxpayers, environmental stewardship posture and the long-term sustainability of our facility.”

Thom made a motion that the Town of Hope, Board of Selectmen, put forth the fee increase request of the Mid Coast Solid Waste Corporation approved at their June 26th, 2019 meeting. That fee increase being for construction and demolition debris added to the facility landfill and going from a rate of \$100 per ton of material to \$140 per ton of material. It was seconded by Sarah. Brian commented that it makes sense to slow down the filling of the landfill since there isn't a plan B in place right now.

Motion passed 5-0

- Speed Radar Report Alford Lake Road: Deputy Matt Elwell from the Knox County Sheriff's Department, forwarded some detailed reports garnered by have the speed radar sign on Alford Lake Rd. The Selectmen agreed that the results were surprising as it didn't appear that there was a large amount of speeding in that area. Brian commented that it is surprising how controlled the speed limits were. For the vehicles that were speeding, most slowed immediately once their speed was displayed on the radar. The report is available at the Town Office. Brian will share the results with the Alford Lake Camp.
- EMS Review Committee Appointment: Since the EMS Contract has been signed, Dick is no longer on the committee. There are not any term limits or expirations to serving on this committee. Thom stated that he is really interested in finding a way to bring some kind of senior housing to Hope but, in the meantime or until/unless that takes up his time,

he would be willing to serve on the EMS Review Committee. Sarah made a motion to appoint Thom to the EMS Review Committee. It was seconded by Bruce.

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Thom)

- Accept Contract for Assessing Services: Sarah made a motion to accept the contract from Fort Halifax Appraisals represented by C. Vernon Ziegler from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 in the annual amount of \$14,100 - \$470/day. Vern will act in the capacity of Assessors' Agent. It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 5-0

- Annual Appointments: Thom made a motion that on behalf of the Town of Hope he would like to commend the following people for their excellent service and to appoint them to the following positions beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020: Samantha Mank as the Town Administrator, Treasurer, Code Enforcement Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector, and General Assistance Administrator; Chelsea Summers as the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Elections Warden; Mary Tolles as the Town Bookkeeper, and Registrar of Voters; Vern Ziegler as the Assessor's Agent; Clarence Keller as the Fire Chief and Addressing Officer; Michael Mank as the Emergency Management Agency Director; Heidi Blood as the Animal Control Officer; and Beth Gindel as the Sexton. All people serving in deputy positions will be appointed in accordance with 30-A M.R.S. §2603 & 21-A M.R.S. §102. It was seconded by Bruce.

Motion passed 5-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Suspend as Board of Selectmen/Convene as Board of Assessors':

- Wendy made a motion to suspend as the Board of Selectmen and the convene as the Board of Assessors' at 9:10PM. It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 5-0

- Supplemental Tax Assessment for Withdrawal from Farmland: Wendy made a motion to assess a supplemental tax for a farmland withdrawal penalty in the amount of \$2,411.82 to Richard and Amanda Houldsworth located at map 16 lot 32. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjourn as Board of Assessors'/Reconvene as Board of Selectmen:

- Sarah made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors' and to reconvene as the Board of Selectmen at 9:18PM. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

Executive Session: Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(1) – Hope Chest:

- Sarah made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(1) for the purpose of discussing the Hope Chest at 9:19PM. It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 5-0

- Thom made a motion to exit executive session at 9:33PM. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

- Discussion in executive session led to decision using \$200 from Hope Chest.

Review & Sign Warrants #'s 92, 93, 1, 2, 3, & 4:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Sarah made a motion to approve and sign warrant #'s 92, 93, 1, 2, 3 and 4. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Wendy made a motion to adjourn at 9:40PM. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 5-0