

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

January 23, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Hope Elementary School

Board Members Present:

- Charlie Weidman, Wayne Luce, and Mike Brown

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, and Chelsea Summers

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Charlie.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Mike made a motion to approve the agenda as written. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- January 9, 2024: Wayne made a motion to approve the 1/9/24 minutes with a minor edit. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 3-0

Warrants 57, 58, 59, & 60:

- Mike made a motion to approve warrants 57, 58, 59, and 60. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

- Award 2023-2024 Paving Bids: Wayne made a motion to award the 2023 – 2024 paving contracts to All States for \$94.68/ton plus \$470 for 1/10 mile of tack. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 3-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- The Select Board discussed the heat at the Hope Corner Fire Station. Wayne made a motion to eliminate the thermostat policy as he felt it was micromanaging the Fire Chief. Mike said he would only be comfortable with changing the policy as long as there was at least some kind of parameter to be followed. Wayne amended the motion to the thermostat at the Hope Corner Fire Station shall be set by the Fire Chief provided that

the thermostat temperature is not set higher than 70° for more than 24 hours at a time. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 3-0

Town Administrator Report:

- The property tax stabilization fund does have enough money to cover 100% of the costs to all of the Towns. The State allotted \$15 million. However, the actual reimbursement requests total \$26.5 million. Due to the shortfall in funding, Maine Revenue Services is in the process of issuing partial payments to each municipality that submitted a claim for reimbursement, and they will initially receive 56% of the amount requested. To cover the shortfall, Maine Revenue Services is requesting an additional \$15,000,000 in the supplemental budget bill, with the expectation that, once approved by the Legislature, the balance of the reimbursement payments would be made later this spring. The Town of Hope is expecting a total of \$30,640.91. We received \$17,158.91 today.
- The Town has received the entrance permit from the state and an address from Clarence for the property on Rt. 17. More research is being done regarding different options and costs for sand/salt sheds.
- I have applied to receive a speed radar sign from MDOT. There is no cost to the Town. However, I will be required to attend a speed radar sign training that is provided by the State. The sign does not come with a trailer.
- The Animal Control Officer is asking if each of the Towns she covers is able to purchase a medium-sized live trap. The cost is approximately \$75/each. So far, Northport and Lincolnville have confirmed their purchases.
- The Town and School have been working on preparing for the FY2023 audit. The accountant was at the Town Office last week working with Chelsea on finalizing journal entries and reconciliation. The tentative date for the audit is January 31st.
- The Central Office is still working on submitting the invoices for the ESSR fund reimbursements from 2022. The Town received \$29,463.07 today.
- Matt and I are still working on a significant Land Use/Shoreland Zone violation. The Town Attorney has already been consulted as this is a repeat violation that has already been to the Planning Board and Appeals Board. This particular case may not be able to be settled out of court.
- There were 4 new building permits and 3 plumbing permits since the 12/19/23 Select Board meeting.

○ Adam Scott	269 Crabtree Rd.	Solar Array
○ Mark Merrifield	0 Main St.	Accessory Structure
○ Wesley Benham	270 Camden St	SFD w/ Deck
○ Susan Wootten	40 Hatchet Mountain Rd.	2-Story Deck

- There are 2 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$4,025.03. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 16 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$35,468.59. Unpaid 2023 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 11, 2025, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 985 RE accounts for 2024, totaling \$1,610,683.22. The second half is due on April 30, 2024.

Adjournment:

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion Passed 3-0