

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, Charlie Weidman, Mike Brown, and Michael Schultz

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Beth Gindel, Cynthia Della Penna, James Della Penna, and Jack Foley

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Dick made a motion to approve the agenda as written. It was seconded Michael.
Motion passed 4-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- January 10, 2023: Dick made a motion to approve the 1/10/23 minutes. It was seconded by Michael.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Mike)
- January 18, 2023: Dick made a motion to approve the 1/10/23 minutes. It was seconded by Michael.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Mike)

Warrants 50, 51, 52, & 53:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Michael made a motion to approve and sign warrants 50, 51, 52, and 53. It was seconded by Mike .
Motion passed 4-0

Old Business:

- Ground Penetrating Radar for Cemeteries – Cindy Della Penna: Cindy presented the Select Board with a proposal from Dr. Wang and Dr. Sebold from the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) to perfume ground penetrating services for the town. The cost will be far less and the product is more in line with what the Cemetery Committee and Select Board had originally envisioned. After a thorough discussion of the proposal, Dick made a motion which supersedes the January 10th vote, to secure the services of Dr's Wang and Sebold for a sum up to \$3,000 to be paid for using ARPA funds and placed on the warrant for the March 2nd Special Town Meeting. These funds cover the cost of meals, mileage, student stipends,

and donations to the labs of each of the Professors/Doctors. It was seconded Charlie.

Motion passed 5-0

New Business:

- Safety & Security at Town Office: The Town Administrator discussed a variety of measures that could be put in place for the safety and security of the town office and the staff in the event of unforeseen circumstances. The purpose of the discussion was to have a plan in place should situations arise that could escalate or warrant interventions.

- Resignation, Planning Board – Blaine Richardson: Dick made a motion to accept the resignation of Blaine Richardson from the Planning Board. It was seconded by Charlie.

Motion passed 5-0

- Committee Service Application, Planning Board – Joseph Curl: Dick made a motion to appoint Joseph Curl to the Planning Board for a 5-year term expiring 6/30/27. It was seconded by Charlie.

Motion passed 5-0

- Recommendation for Amendment to Planning Board Ordinance – Planning Board: The Select agreed to place the Planning Board Amendment on the warrant for the March 2nd Special Town Meeting, by unanimous consent.
- Recommendation for Moratorium on Medium- Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Facilities Ordinance – Planning Board: The Select agreed to place the Solar Moratorium on the warrant for the March 2nd Special Town Meeting, by unanimous consent.

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- I received a call from Bill Brewer’s office today giving a status update for the annual audit. The auditors were sending someone to the Central Office in Lincolnville to pick up the documents needed in order to complete Hope’s audit. They were contacted by the S.U. finance office indicating the material was not ready but made assurances that everything would be available by the end of this week.
- The Budget Committee has scheduled a meeting for tomorrow evening to discuss the error on the Hope Elementary School Special Town Meeting Warrant from May 2022. This is an easily corrected error as it will not have any financial impact on Hope taxpayers. In addition, they will discuss reducing the number of members on the Budget Committee from seven to five.
- The Board of Appeals is scheduled to begin hearings regarding both Notice of Violations issued to Doug Kelly beginning on Tuesday, February 14th. That is also the same day as the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting. The Select Board will meet in the smaller conference room.
- I spoke with Don Katnik again regarding chapter 1000 of the mandatory shoreland zone requirements for resource protection. He and I had the same assessment regarding the language. As a double layer of fact finding, I have also reached out to Colin Clarke of the DEP. He handles the shoreland zone NRPA part of things for our area. Once I get a

definitive answer from him about required resource protection boundaries, I will have the proposed official zoning map made. This could also impact the language used to amend the Shoreland Zone Ordinance.

- There was 1 new building permit and 0 plumbing permits issued since the 1/10/23 Select Board meeting:
 - Holly Grenert Loon Lane Bridge
- There are 2 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$4,108.92. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 9 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$24,387.63. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 978 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$1,520,890.63. The second half is due on May 2, 2023.
- There have pre-payments totaling \$438.39 for the 2024 RE taxes.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the Select Board meeting on 1/10/23.

Executive Session:

- Charlie made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A)(1) – personnel matters at 7:58 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
- Charlie made a motion to exit executive session at 8:48 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0
- Action as Result of Executive Session: After completing the annual performance evaluation, the Select Board agreed to renew the employment contract with Town Administrator, Samantha Mank. The contract was signed by all parties present.

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 5-0