

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, October 11, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Cameron Ferrante, William Leppanen, Nancy Leppanen, Dan Katnik, Keel Kemper, and Paul Smith (*Zoom*)

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Dick made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. It was seconded Charlie.
Motion passed 5-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- September 27, 2022: Charlie made a motion to approve the 9/27/22 minutes with a punctuation edit. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Warrants 23, 24, & 25:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Charlie made a motion to approve and sign warrants 23, 24, and 25. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

New Business:

- Planning Board Findings of Fact - Amendment to Official Zoning Map Ordinance: The Planning Board submitted their Findings of Fact to the Select Board regarding a letter from William Leppanen's attorney, Cameron Ferrante. The Leppanen's, Mr. Ferrante, and representatives from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) attended this meeting to refute the Planning Board findings and to offer clarity where there may have been misunderstandings. Don Katnik explained the Great Pond Rule and the Cove Rule. He stated that these rules were enacted in order to separate specific areas from the entirety of the water body. Otherwise, every property on Lermond Pond would've been in Resource Protection (RP) without these exclusion rules. Unfortunately, it seems that there was a mistake in the boundary mapping by IF&W in which Mr. Leppanen's property was included in the Resource Protection District when it should have never been included in the first place.

IF&W would like to keep as much habitat as possible in protected areas, and the Town has the authority to do so. However, in this case, the inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat (IWWH) boundaries do not encompass Mr. Leppanen's property, and they (IF&W) do not oppose its removal from the RP district. Don also indicated that Hope's Shoreland Zone Ordinance is written in such a way that makes knowing the exact boundaries for RP and IWWH difficult to determine. He suggested a rewrite that would clarify the location of the boundaries. The Select Board asked Mr. Ferrante to provide the map with the old and new IWWH boundaries that included a boundary location of Mr. Leppanen's property. They also asked IF&W to review the other properties in the RP district to ensure there were not any additional "mapping mistakes". Once this information has been submitted to the Select Board, it will be placed on the agenda again and they will determine whether or not to include it on the next Town Meeting Warrant.

- Adoption of 2023 General Assistance Appendices: Dick made a motion to adopt the 2022-23 General Assistance maximums as recommended by the state. It was seconded by Charlie.

Motion passed 5-0

- Efficiency Maine, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: The Select Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having town owned chargers for electric vehicles. It was determined that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages at this time. Therefore, the Select Board opted to not pursue the Efficiency Maine Grant for electric vehicle charging stations.
- Recording & Livestreaming Public Meetings: The Select Board reviewed the reports that are generated each month from Town Hall Streams to determine if the public was utilizing this resource and to determine if the cost of \$250/month was a good use of taxpayer money. On average, approx. three to five minutes of viewing each month. Charlie made a motion to stop the livestream and recording service but, will seek to purchase the camera and continue the Zoom option for an additional six months and reconsider the use of Zoom at that time. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- Pam was out of the office most of last week and is also away for required elections training until Thursday of this week. I worked the front counter in her absence last week. Chelsea is filling in this week.
- Absentee ballots were available beginning October 4th. 107 ballots have been issued with 2 overseas ballots for a total of 109. 21 ballots have been returned so far.
- The election is on November 8th, which is also the same night as a Select Board meeting. I am planning on having the Town Office open for business that day. However, I am the Registrar of Voters and will not be able to attend that meeting. I will make arrangements with Clarence for the Select Board to meet at the Hope

Corner Fire Station that evening.

- Two bids were received for the septic system installation at 4 Shore Rd. The bids have been submitted to the DEP for their review. Once I have received a response from the DEP, it will be placed on the Select Board agenda for you to officially award the bid.
- During the October 5th Planning Board meeting, it was voted to change their regularly scheduled meeting from the first Wednesday of the month to the first Tuesday of each month beginning in November.
- There have been 110 property tax stabilization applications submitted to the town office as of 4:30 today.
- There were 4 new building permits and 1 plumbing permit issued since the last Select Board meeting:
 - Daniel Dickson 295 Main St. Accessory Structure
 - Sharon Reed 107 Loon Ln. Tree Removal in SZ
 - Ryan Littler 18 Morton Rd. Shoreline Stabilization
 - Craig Weider 27 Ludwig Rd. Accessory Structure
- There are 5 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$19,958.95. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 14 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$32,115.07. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 1,004 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$1,633,825.08. The first payment was due on September 30, 2022.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the last Select Board meeting on 9/27/22.

Executive Session:

- Dick made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(A)(1) to discuss a personnel matter at 8:21 p.m. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 5-0
- Dick made a motion to exit executive session at 9:19 p.m. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0