

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

**Hope Select Board
Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

**6:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office**

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Mike Brown, Michael Schultz, and Wayne Luce

Others Present:

- Chelsea Summers and Vern Zeigler (by phone)

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Mike made a motion to approve the agenda as written. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 4-0

Public Comment:

- None

Board of Assessors:

- Suspend as Select Board/Convene as Assessors: Mike made a motion to suspend as the Select Board and to convene as the Board of Assessors at 6:36 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 4-0
- Abatement Application Extension for Lynn Thomas update: As of the time of the meeting, Assessors' Agent Vern Zeigler explained via phone that the Town had not received a signed extension form back from the applicant and that the extension had expired at the time of the meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding further options, including the appeals process and the Board taking its own initiative to contact the applicant. No further action was taken.
- Suspend as Assessors/Reconvene as Select Board: Wayne made a motion to suspend as the Board of Assessors and reconvene as the Select Board at 6:40 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0

Warrants 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, & 32:

- Mike made a motion to approve warrants 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 4-0

New Business:

- Appointment of Election Clerks: A list of nominations for Election Clerks was presented to the Board. Michael had a procedural inquiry about the list and Chelsea explained that all

individuals listed were trained and experienced in their duties and were to be compensated. Mike then made a motion to appoint the list of Election Clerks as received and it was seconded by Michael.

Motion passed 4-0

- Review of HES Quarter 1 Financials: The Board looked over the HES Q1 General Fund Activity report given by the SU#69 Central Office. As an addition, Chelsea read aloud the Budget and Finance portion of the Superintendent's Report for October 2023. A brief discussion was held about the improved collaboration and communication between the Town Office and SU#69 Central Office staff as well as the upcoming meeting between the two offices on November 8th.

Old Business:

- Hope's Edge Farm Conservation Update: The Board was presented with a letter from the Director of Land for Maine's Future Program stating that Hope's Edge Farm was selected as a finalist for funding under the State's Working Farmland and Access Protection Program. Sarah asked about writing an additional letter of support for the program's upcoming decision meeting in her capacity as a Hope citizen.

Other Business:

- None

Deputy Town Administrator's Report:

- The Office received a communication addressed to the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Union describing the findings and conclusions of the complaints against the Animal Control Officer. Michael S. has collaborated with the Deputy Clerk to draft an updated contract. Other towns use a structure that includes compensation through payroll, a job description with expectations, and an annual performance review. Currently, Hope stands alone in contracting with the ACO. The subject of how Hope plans to structure the position of the ACO going forward will be an item for the Board to review at the November 14th meeting.
- The Office staff is looking forward to a meeting with SU#69 Central Office on November 8th. The purpose of this meeting is to ask and answer questions related to operational efficiencies, reiterate the expectations regarding the receipt of reports necessary to conduct Town business, and to obtain a mutual commitment of unity and transparency surrounding shared goals going forward. The outcomes of this meeting will be described in the November 14th Administrator's Report. At this time, Lincolnville Town Administrator, David Kinney, and Appleton Select Board Chair, Lori Costigan, have not responded formally to any request for a joint meeting.
- The FEMA related invoices for the May Day storm have been compiled and the damage inventory documents will be signed today, October 24th, with a follow up meeting scheduled after Samantha returns from vacation.
- The Town Office front door lock and handle has been replaced after failing earlier this month.
- The kitchen repair is underway with the new tile installed and grouted this past weekend. The ceiling still needs attention. The office reached out to the contractor last Friday (10/24)

and left a message asking for an updated timeline. Once the work is completed, the insurance claim will be closed.

- There will be an executive session planned for November 14th Select Board meeting with the Town Attorney regarding the Highfield Road Consent Agreement.
- In September, Bill Pearse Jr. addressed the Board regarding LD 2003, and the potential impacts this legislation could have on the Town. Because of the serious nature of these changes, the Board agreed to fund 4 hours of meeting time between the Town Attorney and the Planning Board. Currently, there are 7.5 months to prepare any ordinance changes that will be put before Hope voters. These matters as well as the preliminary creation of a timeline of activities will be addressed at the December 5th Planning Board meeting.
- The MMA training for newly elected officials will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, November 28th from 4:00-7:30pm. Board members Michael S, Charlie, and Wayne have all been signed up for this training. Consequently, the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting time will need to be adjusted for the sake of a quorum.
- There is a Mid Coast Solid Waste Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, October 25th at 6:30 in the French Conference room at Camden Town Hall (Sarah and Mike B.).
- There is an EMS Performance Committee meeting on Thursday, October 26th at 6:00pm at the Lincolnville Town Office (Charlie and Wayne).
- Wendy will be returning to the Town Office in her capacity as custodian the weekend of October 28th, barring any complications.
- The Town was “let go” by its current trash removal service due to truck driver availability. A message was left with Wayne Heal’s Trash Removal company and Mr. Heal will reach out after his return from vacation.
- There were 2 new building permits and 0 plumbing permits since the 10/10/23 Select Board meeting:
 - Anna Queen 44 Soaring Eagle Dr SFW
 - Connie Magivney 298 Camden Rd Mobile Home
- There are 4 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$19,339.37. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 18 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$40,202.44. Unpaid 2023 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 11, 2025, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 995 RE accounts for 2024, totaling \$1,688,686.30. The first half of the 2024 taxes were due on Tuesday, October 3rd. The second half is due on April 30, 2024.

Adjournment:

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. It was seconded Michael.
Motion passed 4-0