

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

6:30 PM

Hope Town Office/Zoom

View the meeting in its entirety at

https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith (*via Zoom*), Brian Powers Jr., Thom Ingraham, Bruce Haffner, and Amy Gertner

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, David Herrick, Amy Powers, Chris Sewall, Elizabeth Tibbets, Ellie Goldberg, Paul Smith, Mary Ireland, Dick Crabtree, David Hall, Patti Bosken, Juanita Hunt, Olivia Powers, Margaret Morse, Bill Jones, Chris Pinchbeck, Lindsay Pinchbeck, Nancy Ford, Entwife, Maine Media Workshop, and iPhone

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Sarah at 6:31 PM.

Minutes:

- 10/6/20: Amy made a motion to approve and accept the October 6, 2020 minutes. It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 5-0

- 10/13/20: Thom made a motion to approve and accept the October 13, 2020 minutes. It was seconded by Amy.

Motion passed 5-0

Public Comment:

- Thom made a quick announcement for the members of the Select Board to be sure to check the news tomorrow for a major announcement regarding the school and surrounding Towns from Lincolnville Telephone. He reiterated that it is “big news”.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Everyday and everything has been about the election.
- The ballot drop box was delivered and Brian installed it yesterday.
- The second DS200 ballot counting machine arrived. There is a possibility that we may even be able to keep it.
- There have been 679 absentee ballots requested and 550 have been returned. 19 ballots

from overseas have also been requested.

- On October 15th there were 1,292 registered voters in Hope, today there are 1,307 registered voters.
- There will be an election/ballot clerk training tomorrow. Chelsea will be leading that training session.

New Business:

- Resignations/Vacancies:
 - Planning Board – John Fallows: John Fallows submitted a letter of resignation from the Planning Board. Amy made a motion to accept John’s resignation. It was seconded by Thom with thanks.
Motion passed 5-0
 - Additional Committee Vacancies:
 - Planning Board
 - Appeals Board
 - Cemetery Committee
- Appointments:
 - Planning Board: Thom made a motion to appoint Marie Berry to the Planning Board to serve a 5-year term in a vacancy that was unfilled in July. The motion was seconded by Amy.
Motion Passed 5-0
 - Recreation Committee: Thom made a motion to appoint Marie Berry to the Recreation Committee. It was seconded by Amy.
Motion passed 5-0
 - Cemetery Committee: Amy made a motion to appoint Mary Berry to the Cemetery Committee. It was seconded by Thom.
Motion passed 5-0
 - Roads Advisory Committee: The Select Board reviewed a list of names for people to serve on the Roads Advisory Committee: Bruce Haffner, John Monroe, Doug Merrill, Patrick McGrath, Todd Snyder, Bill Pearse Jr., Rick Bresnahan. Additional names to consider include Ed Crowley, Chris Pinchbeck, James Guerra, and Rick Catalano volunteered although he is not a Hope resident. Bruce wanted to remove Mike Ames from the list because he recorded Bruce without his knowledge and Bruce doesn’t want to work with someone who does that.

Thom said that since there is a problem with the list, that the matter should be tabled until the next meeting in order to see if something can get worked out.

Brian said it has been the practice in the past to not discourage people who are willing to serve.

Thom said that he would be willing to have a conversation with Mike Ames to see if Bruce and Mike would be able to work together.

Bruce said that Ellie Goldberg would also like to be on the Roads Committee as well.

The matter was tabled until the November 10th meeting.

- Interim Town Clerk – David Herrick: The Town Administrator introduced David Herrick to the Select Board. David responded to an article in the Village Soup asking for former or retired clerks who are able to help, to contact the Town Office. David answered that request. Thom thanked David for coming forward. Brian asked if David would consider being a substitute for any possible future staffing needs. David said, yes. Bruce made a to confirm David’s position as the Interim Town Clerk and to appoint him as the Election Warden for the November 3rd election. It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 5-0

- Election Clerk/Ballot Clerks: The Town Administration provided the Select Board with a list of twenty-nine (29) people who had come forward to help with the election. Thom made a motion to approve and appoint the entire slate of people as election/ballot clerks. It was seconded by Amy.

Motion passed 5-0

- North East Mobile Health (Ambulance) September Report: The Select Board reviewed the September report and offered a “thank-you” and “great-job” to the Towns ambulance provider.
- FY 2021 Proposed Knox County Budget: Reviewed the proposed budget

Board of Assessors:

- Suspend as the Select Board and Convene as Board of Assessors: Bruce made a motion to suspend as the Select Board and to convene as the Board of Assessors. It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 5-0

- Tree Growth Withdrawal Penalty – Jeff Lord & Nancy Dowling: Thom made a motion to approve the Tree Growth Withdrawal Penalty in the amount of \$4,960. It was seconded by Amy.

Motion passed 5-0

- Farmland Withdrawal Penalty – Gwen Brodis: Amy made a motion to approve the Farmland Withdrawal Penalty in the amount of \$389.59. It was seconded by Thom.
Motion passed 5-0
- Adjourn as the Board of Assessors and Reconvene as the Select Board: Thom made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and to reconvene as the Select Board. It was seconded by Amy.
Motion passed 5-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- Thom asked about the timeframe for the trees in True Park being removed. The Town Administrator will check to see where the Town is on their schedule.
- Thom also wanted to follow up about having the South Hope Fire Station upstairs door installed.
- Thom asked there was any update on the Covid-19 virus being in Hope.
- Thom made a motion that all members of the Select Board have access to Maria Fox's report to keep at the Town Office. Thom wants Bill Kelly to show the Board the report commissioned by the Select Board which the Chair of the Select Board has in hand why we have to be in the same room with him in order to see it. Thom said that it is a good practice to have read the material before the meeting with the attorney. Amy seconded the motion. There was additional discussion.

Bruce called for a vote on the motion.

Thom wanted to know the legal basis for the Select Board not getting to read the report until later. The motion was amended: Maria Fox's report, commissioned by the Hope Select Board be made available to the Select Board or provide a legal basis for why we cannot have access to our report, and we will give him until noon on Thursday October 29th. The report will not leave the building. The amended motion was seconded by Amy. There was additional discussion and chats on the Zoom.

Motion passed 3-2 (*Sarah & Brian*)

Warrants:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Thom made a motion to approve and sign Warrant #'s 33, 34, and 35, 30, and 31. It was seconded by Bruce.

Motion passed 4-0-1 (*Sarah*)

Adjournment:

- Thom made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 PM. It was seconded by Amy.

Motion passed 5-0