

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING
Hope Select Board
October 8, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Charlie Weidman, and Wayne Luce

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, John Monroe, and Brad Dodge

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

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

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- September 24, 2024: Charlie made a motion to approve the 9/24/24 minutes as written. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0

Warrants 24, 25, 26, 27, & 28:

- Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the Treasurers and Payroll warrants 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0

Board of Assessors:

- Suspend as Select Board/Convene as Board of Assessors: Charlie made a motion to suspend as the Select Board and convene as the Board of Assessors at 5:33 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0
- Abatement for Patrick Gordon & Heather Reed, Map 26 Lot 046-02 - \$70.45: Charlie made a motion to grant an abatement to Patrick Gordon and Heather Reed for the FY2025 tax year on the parcel located on map 26 lot 046-02 in the amount of \$70.45. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0
- Supplemental Tax Assessment for James Joy, Map 26 Lot 046 - \$69.48: Charlie made a motion to issue a supplemental tax bill to James Joy for the FY2025 tax year on the parcel located on

map 26 lot 046 in the amount of \$69.48. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 3-0

- Adjourn as Board of Assessors/Reconvene as Select Board: Charlie made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and to reconvene as the Select Board at 5:35 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

- FY 24 3rd & 4th Quarters, and FY25 1st Quarter Financial Reports: The Town Administrator presented the final reports for FY 24 as well as the first quarter financial report for FY25. The Town is still waiting for the FY23 audit, so it is important to note that these are unaudited numbers but are as accurate as we have records for at this time. There are no surprises in any of the reports. Expenses are averaging at or below 25% for most line items.

- 2025-2028 Snowplowing Bid Award: The Select Board reviewed the single bid that was submitted by Farley, Inc. The total cost for a three-year contract is \$1,959,925.01. After considerable discussion, Wayne made a motion to reject all bids and not award this 2025-2028 Winter Maintenance/ Snowplowing Contract. It was seconded by Charlie.

Motion passed 3-0

- Approve Fire Department Credit Card Expenditure: Charlie made a motion to authorize Clarence to use the Town's credit card to make this purchase for 100 I'm a Fire Safe Kid Backpacks. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 3-0

- Approve & Sign Municipal Warrant and Notice of Election: The Select Board reviewed the Municipal Warrant and notice of Election. Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the November 5th Municipal Warrant and Notice of Election. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 3-0

- Resignation from Planning Board – David Hall: David Hall submitted his resignation from the Planning Board as he is moving from the community after 44 years. His term expires June 30, 2025. Charlie made a motion to accept the resignation of David Hall from the Planning Board effective immediately, with thanks for his service to the Town. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 3-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator's Report:

- Pam attending a meeting regarding the required timeframe for upgrading to TRIO Web. Our Assessors Agent has requested that the Town delay until the revaluation and 2026 tax

commitment has been completed. If the annual Town Meeting is held in a timely manner, the reval. & tax commitment could be completed by August 1, 2025. TRIO is offering some promotional rates if Town's sign a contract now.

- The laptops have all been encrypted with a BitLocker key. The issue is the version that came pre-installed. The Select Board may want to consider upgrades during the budget cycle.
- The CEO and I met with Asa Peats and Doug Kelly at the property to verify work was complete and done according to the consent agreement restoration plan. Unfortunately, several of the trees that had been planted did not survive the replanting and caused a reduction in the percentage of required plantings. 80% of the plantings on the restoration plan must survive for a period of five years. Currently, it is a 70%. Asa will work with Doug to get additional plantings in before the November 14th deadline. Otherwise, the restoration work looks good.
- Absentee ballots were available on October 4th. To date, there have been 177 ballots requested. The last day to request an absentee ballot is October 31st.
- I will be away for vacation time from October 18th thru October 25th.
- There were 4 building permits, and 2 plumbing permits issued since the 9/24/24 Select Board meeting:
 - Matthew Doudera 23 Lupine Ln SFD above garage
 - Chris & Lori Van Dusen 137 Payson Path Excavation
 - Chris & Lori Van Dusen 137 Payson Path Deck
 - Karen Methlie 114 Luce Ln Demo & Deck Replacement
- There are 1,023 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2025, totaling \$2,014,437.25. The first half of taxes was due on October 1, 2024. The second half is due on April 30, 2025.
- There are 25 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2024, totaling \$46,271.53. Unpaid 2024 real estate taxes will automatically be foreclosed on February 20, 2026, if those accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 8 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2023, totaling \$24,080.90. Unpaid 2023 real estate taxes will automatically be foreclosed on February 1, 2025, if those accounts are not paid in full.

Adjournment:

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 6:07 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion Passed 3-0