

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, November 10, 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, Brian Powers Jr., Thom Ingraham, Bruce Haffner, and Amy Gertner
(via Zoom)

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Paul Smith, Margaret Morse, Amy Powers, Dick Crabtree, Bill Jones, Judith Jones, Everett Smith, and Hunt

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Brian made a motion to approve the agenda without any adjustments. It was seconded by Thom.
Motion passed 5-0

Public Comment:

- Thom thanked all of the people who worked at the polls for the November 3rd election. He said he wanted to recognize David Herrick for his great work. There were several people who worked at least 12-hours.
- Thom gave a “shout-out” to Hope Elementary School and Camden Hills Regional School for their extraordinary efforts to keep everyone safe.
- Sarah recognized and thanked Samantha for the work in getting a grant to cover election expenses and the Town will be able to use it which could have long-term benefits.

Minutes:

- 10/27/20: Thom made a motion to approve the October 27, 2020 minutes. It was seconded by Bruce.
Motion passed 5-0
- 11/5/20: Thom made a motion to approve the November 5, 2020 minutes. It was seconded by Brian.
Motion passed 5-0
- **11/9/20:** Thom made a motion to approve the November 9, 2020 minutes. It was seconded by Brian.

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Bruce)

Town Administrator Report:

- Reminder that the Town Office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Veteran's Day
- The November 3rd election ran fairly smoothly. There were 1,343 registered voters in Hope. 511 Democrat, 269 Unenrolled, 52 Green Independent, and 411 Republican. There were 808 absentee ballots requested and 808 were issued. 790 ballots were returned prior to election day. The remainder were either returned on election day or not returned. There were 20 UOCAVA absentee ballots requested and 20 were issued. 17 were returned.
- There were many poll workers who came and gave their time. Some actually spent the entire day. We are grateful for those who participated as it made for a smooth and productive day.
- In April, I handed out the EMS project that is being spear headed by the Towns of Camden and Rockport. Mr. McGinnis is once again reaching out to find out if Hope wants to participate. I've handed the document out to you again this evening.
- There have been a couple of applicants send resumes for the vacancies. I am going to re-advertise and broaden the search.
- There are 7 outstanding 2019 RE accounts totaling \$12,913.85 with liens that will go to automatic foreclosure on February 16, 2021 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 25 outstanding 2020 RE accounts totaling \$47,946.47 with liens that will to automatic foreclosure on February 10, 2022 if accounts remain unpaid.
- There are 1021 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$1,623,510.89. The second half of taxes are due on April 30, 2021.

New Business:

- Broadband Update: Thom gave an update regarding the status of the Broadband Internet Grant project. The project is being funded by the CARES Act money which are COVID-19 "relief" funds. Eligible households can have the broadband service hooked up, installed, and receive internet service without any charge for six months. To be eligible, there must be a student or teacher living in the household within the grant covered communities and have either no internet service or are underserved with slower internet speeds. So far, 125 families have been identified as eligible and 61 of those households have signed up.

Eventually, the access to fiber optic internet will be offered to the remainder of households in Hope. The Hope Broadband Committee is assisting with location other possible eligible households that may have college students or homeschooled students. The Broadband Committee will still be working on moving forward making sure every household (and future house sites) will have access to high speed internet. Once the location of all of the

lines have been determined, the Committee will have a better idea on how to proceed.

- **EMS Development Project:** In April, Camden and Rockport were planning on a 4-town community wide informational seminar to discuss ambulance service needs and wants with the residents. Everything was put on hold because of Covid-19. The ambulance contract for all four towns expires on June 30, 2021. Camden and Rockport are researching and promoting the idea of a municipally owned ambulance service that would be overseen by Rockland and have ambulances housed in Camden and Rockport. The last estimate was incomplete but still had a price tag of \$1.6 million dollars. There are two informational zoom meetings planned for the town representatives to attend in order to determine how to proceed in regard to ambulance coverage for all four towns. The EMS Representatives for Hope are Sarah Ann Smith and Thom Ingraham.

Old Business:

- **Appointments to the Roads Advisory Committee:** Thom spoke with Mike Ames about serving on the RAC Committee with Bruce. Mike said that he respects the work that Bruce has already done. Mike also said that he would like to serve on the RAC Committee on a “as-needed” basis. He would offer his assistance and expertise on items that he is knowledgeable about.

Brian noted that Mike knows a lot about plowing roads. Mike was employed by a company that was contracted to provide winter maintenance to Hope’s roads for many years. Bruce responded to Brian’s comment by stating “You wouldn’t know it by his input so far”. However, Bruce did agree that he would be able to work with Mike on the RAC Committee.

Thom said that he would like to also serve on the RAC Committee. He would step down from the Broadband Committee in order to have more time for the Roads Advisory Committee. Amy said she would be interested in replacing Thom on the Broadband Committee.

Brian stated that the Roads Advisory Committee is to bring information to the Select Board. This will likely be done via the ex-officio members. Since the Committee is charged with researching and bring their findings back to the Select Board, there is no issue with more than one Select Board member serving on the committee. There is already recent precedence as two Select Board members served on the Solar Committee and Broadband Committee.

Brian made a motion to appoint the following people to the Roads Advisory Committee:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.) Bruce Haffner – Ex-officio | 6.) Todd Snyder |
| 2.) Thom Ingraham – Ex-officio | 7.) Bill Pearse Jr. |
| 3.) John Monroe – Ex-officio | 8.) Mike Ames |
| 4.) Doug Merrill | 9.) Rick Bresnahan |
| 5.) Patrick McGrath | 10.) Ed Crowley |

11.) Chris Pinchbeck

12.) Jim Guerra

It was seconded by Thom.

Motion passed 5-0

13.) Ellie Goldberg

Other Business:

- **MCSW Update:** Brian gave a brief update on what has been happening at Mid Coast Solid Waste. There was the sudden and tragic unexpected death of Dave Barrows from Lincolnville. Out of respect, it was appropriate to postpone the meeting following his passing. The current manager seems to have a very good handle on the facility and its operation. Although the facility itself is quite busy, the need for the Board of Director's to meet monthly has slowed significantly. The Executive Board no longer is required to attend meetings regularly. The Board of Director's are now meeting every other month (bi-monthly).
- **I Voted Stickers:** Sarah has designed "I voted stickers" for the Town of Hope. These would be purchased using any unexpended money for the election from the Covid grant. The Select Board agreed.

Warrants: 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40:

- The Selectmen reviewed the warrants. Bruce made a motion to approve warrant #'s 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40. However, only warrants 36, 38, 39, and 40 will be signed. Sarah noted that warrant #37 did not have the required signatures from the School Committee. Therefore warrant #37 will not be signed by the Select Board until properly signed by the School Committee. It was seconded by Brian. In addition, warrants that do not have the required numbers of signatures shall not be accepted by the Town until the School Committee has properly signed the school warrants.

Motion passed 5-0

Adjournment:

- Brian made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM. It was seconded by Bruce.

Motion passed 5-0