

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

6:30 PM

Hope Town Office

View the meeting in its entirety at

https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, Wendy Pelletier, Mike Brown, and Bruce Haffner (*via Zoom*)

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, John Monroe, Paul Smith and Juanita Hunt.

Call to Order:

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

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- The agenda was approved by consensus.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- October 26, 2021: Dick made a motion to approve the 10/26/21 minutes but asked to include a few more clarifying statements and to add some context regarding what and why the Select Board is asking the Roads Advisory Committee to review the items. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Sarah)

Warrants 35, 36, & 37:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve, and sign warrants 35, 36, and 37. It was seconded by Bruce.

Motion passed 5-0

New Business:

- Roads Report/Update – John Monroe: John reported that there was quite a bit of damage throughout the Town from the October 31st storm. There are washouts, broken pavement, damaged culverts, and many other issues. The night of the storm the fire department was out assisting. John said that Clarence and the Fire Department did an amazing job, and he wouldn't have been able to handle all of it with them. Their help is appreciated very much.
John's initial estimate is around \$150,000 worth of damage. He and Clarence met with eleven representatives from FEMA earlier today to review the damage. At this point there has not been a storm disaster declaration so it is unknown if there will be any state or federal assistance for the repairs or cleanup. Without assistance, the Town will have to pay for all of the repairs.
- First Quarter Financial Report: The Town Administrator presented the first quarter financial

report. Everything looks good and is on track with the budget. There were no incidents or outliers to report.

Old Business:

- Update Letter to County Commissioners – ARPA Funds: The Town Administrator gave an update regarding a meeting between municipalities and the County Administrator. During the meeting, Andy said that he was not going to speak about the ARPA funds because attorneys were now involved, and it would be inappropriate for him to comment.

The County Commissioners also read a prepared letter at a meeting held on Nov. 9th stating the ARPA funds will be handled through the regular budget process. The Commissioners said they have received many emails, letters and calls regarding ARPA and that they have heard everyone, and they are listening and responding. Furthermore, if there were any actions that were not legal, they never intended to violate the law.

The Town Administrator recommends not sending a letter to the County Commissioners at this time. Select Board agreed to not send a letter at this time as well.

- Update Doug Kelly Shoreland Zone Violations: Mr. Kelly has retained Kristin Collins to assist with negotiations with the Town. She sent an email stating she would like a week or two to become more familiar with the situation before proceeding any further.
- Update Roads Advisory Committee: The Roads Advisory Committee met on November 1st. Rick divided the committee into subcommittees in order to have various teams gathering the requested information from the Select Board. They declined to do the roads inventory as it will be very time intensive work.

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- The election was last week. Everything went smoothly. Higher than expected voter turnout. There were 676 ballots cast out of 1,321 registered voters in Hope. That a 51% voter participation. Reporting at the end of the day was delayed for some reason, so Hope's results weren't listed until the following morning.
- There was an issue over the weekend involving some town residents and a dog. At one point a resident wrote to me asking for mediation between them and the ACO. The situation was finally resolved but not before involving other neighbors, two deputies, PAWS, ACO, and me. I did speak to the ACO about the situation and how to handle things better in the future should an incident like this happen again.
- I issued two building permits since the last Select Board meeting.
 - #2664 to Roger & Juanita Hunt on 11/3/21. 983 Hatchet Mountain Rd. 06-001 for a deck and ramp.
 - #2665 to LANS Trust (Dan Smiley) on 11/3/2. 0 Hatchet Mountain Rd (across the street from 795 Hatchet Mountain Rd) 10-037 for shoreline stabilization approved by the Planning Board.

- RJD is still in town completing inspections and getting all of the up-to-date sketches entered into TRIO. They will be here for at least the rest of the week. They are planning on working in Hope on Thursday as well.
- There are 10 real estate 2020 accounts totaling \$29,792.61. Unpaid 2020 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 10, 2022, if the accounts are not paid in full. This remains unchanged since the 9/14/21 Select Board meeting.
- There are 21 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$41,953.08. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 985 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$1,568,770.35. The second half of taxes is due on Tuesday, May 3, 2021.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the last Select Board meeting on October 26, 2021.

Adjournment:

- Wendy made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

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