

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Friday, February 26, 2021

4:00 PM

Via Zoom

View the meeting in its entirety at

https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Thom Ingraham, and Amy Gertner

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM by Sarah.

New Business:

- Review, Approve, & Sign School Payroll Warrant # 66: Warrant #66 is the school's payroll warrant for the teachers and the spending support staff. Sarah briefly explained the process for approving all school warrants. In a school union, the Town holds all of the money for the school. In order, to release funds for the schools use, the school creates a warrant and the superintendent and members of the School Committee must sign it stating they have reviewed the expenditures and they approve noting that they are only spending money that was approved by the voters and that there are no overages. Once the School Committee signs, it then is given to the Select Board to make sure each warrant contains the requisite number of signatures, then the Select Board will sign authorizing the release of money. In this instance, none of the School Committee had signed the warrant so it was illegal for the Select Board to sign or release the money.

The Town Administrator explained the difficult position the Select Board is put in when the School Committee doesn't sign their warrants.

It is not legal to not fund the payroll for teachers and staff who have already worked the hours. It is also not legal to release the money without proper signatures. By not releasing the money, the Town runs the risk of having insufficient funds – not the school but, the Town. The Select Board has to decide which situation is in the best interest of the Town. Of course, the best solution is the have a working system that allows the School Committee time to sign warrants prior to be given to the Select Board.

Thom made a motion to approve and sign Warrant # 66. It was seconded by Amy.

Motion passed 3-0

- Accept Resignation of Select Board Member, Amy Gertner: Sarah said that it is with great regret that she received Amy's resignation effective two weeks from today. Sarah said that she is really sorry to see Amy go. Sarah told Amy that she was a smart woman, with a voice of calm and reason. She went on to say that when the things that are pressing in her life right now ease up, Amy would make a great addition to any board or committee in town.
- Thom made a motion to accept Amy's resignation with regret. It was seconded by Amy.
Motion passed 3-0

Adjournment:

- Thom made a motion to adjourn at 4:13 PM. It was seconded by Amy.
Motion passed 3-0

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