

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

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, Mike Brown, Wendy Pelletier (*Zoom*), and Bruce Haffner (*Zoom*)

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Beth Gindel, Clarence Keller, and Paul Smith (*Zoom*)

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Sarah at 6:32 p.m.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Dick made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Bruce.

Motion passed 5-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- January 25, 2022: Mike made a motion to approve the 1/25/22 minutes as presented. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

Warrants 58, 59, & 60:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve, and sign warrants 58, 59, and 60. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 5-0

New Business:

- Applications for Appointment to Cemetery Committee:
 - Cynthia Della Penna: The Select Board reviewed the application for committee service for reappointment to the Cemetery Committee. Dick made motion to re-appoint Cynthia Della Penna to the Cemetery Committee for a 3-year term expiring on June 30, 2025. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0
 - Carrie Ann Mase: The Select Board reviewed the application for committee service for an appointment to the Cemetery Committee. Dick made motion appoint Carrie Ann Mase to the Cemetery Committee for the remainder of a 3-year term expiring on June 30, 2023.

It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

- Dottie Wright: The Select Board reviewed the application for committee service for an appointment to the Cemetery Committee. Dick made motion appoint Dottie Wright to the Cemetery Committee for a 3-year term expiring on June 30, 2025. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

- Fire Dept. 5-Year Capital Equipment Procurement Plan - Clarence Keller: Clarence presented the Select Board with three projects that he would like to have funded with the fire department equipment purchase reserve account.

The first one is for personal protective equipment (PPE). He noted that it cost approximately \$2,500 to outfit a firefighter. Over time the gear can get damaged, or the material degrades, or the industry standards change requiring certain items to be updated. The plan calls for replacing two sets of gear each year which will complete the replacement of 10 sets over the course of the 5-year plan. The total cost would be \$25,000.

The second is for the replacement of pagers. These units have a life span of about fifteen years. The pagers currently being used by the fire department are models that came out in 2005 and were purchased from 2006-2011, making them 12 to 15 years old. The FD has 25 units that are considered obsolete and are no longer supported by Motorola. The cost of each pager is estimated to be \$450 per unit. The plan calls for replacing all 25 units over the next five years. The total cost would be \$12,500.

The third project is for mobile and portable radio replacement. The fire department is using a radio network that is approximately 15-20 years old. The radios are using analog technology. The future radio traffic will eventually be digital only which will make the current radios obsolete and nonfunctioning. At some point, the FCC will direct the usage of analog equipment to cease. In order to prevent Hope from being without communications equipment, Clarence is proposing replacing the eight mobile radios which cost approximately \$1,200 each and the ten portable radios which cost approximately \$800 each over the next five years. The total cost would be \$17,600.

The total cost for all three projects is estimated to be \$53,850. There is \$8,000 remaining in the previous 5-year plan reserve account, bringing the total to \$45,850. Spreading the total cost over five years would require an annual cost of \$9,170. The last plan which was approved in 2016 was \$8,500 per year.

Dick wanted to know if the costs of any or all of the projects could be paid for with ARPA funds. The Town Administrator will research this and report back to the Select Board during the ARPA funding workshop. The Select Board tabled this item.

Old Business:

- EMS – Ambulance Update – Dick Crabtree: During the quarterly EMS meeting, Butch indicated that the cost of the new contract would be increasing. The four towns will be meeting with Butch to begin negotiating a new contract. At this point it is unknown if Camden or Rockport will be

continuing with NEMHS or if they will be starting a new regional service with Rockland. NEMHS has signaled in the past that they will still find a way to make sure Hope and Lincolnville still have an ambulance service.

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- We were not able to meet the goal of having budget books available today. As long as everything goes as planned tomorrow, digital copies will be available by the end of the day. The plan is to also be able to print the budget books as well. However, we have been having difficulties with the temporary copier.
- NEC 1099's were due to be uploaded to the IRS portal no later than January 31st. The Bookkeeper began uploading the 1099's on January 17th. At one point it looked like the portal would accept the upload, but the IRS site crashed. As of today, the IRS is noting that our file has not yet been processed. The Bookkeeper is not sure if this means they have been accepted and are waiting to be processed or if they haven't been accepted.
- The CEO issued two building permits since Jan. 25th. The first was for an accessory structure on Gurney Hill Rd. The second was to remove dead trees within the shoreland zone off of Colonel Lane.
 - Chris Robinson, 31 Gurney Hill Rd., 05/006, Accessory Structure.
 - Johanna Stinson, 13 Laughing Waters Ln., 06/056, Remove dead trees in SZ.
- Automatic foreclosure for the 2020 property taxes is on Thursday. As of today, there is only one property with an outstanding balance. The party has been contacted and notified. The certified letter had not been picked up. It is not known what the property owner intends to do.
- The final rule for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was approved. MMA sent out the most recent guidance in January. The new guidance has some changes that give municipalities much broader ways the money can be used. It is still highly recommended that the expenditures go through the approval process of the legislative body (Town Meeting) before spending any. Although ARPA money will not be a part of the budget, I will be presenting the proposal to the Budget Committee once the Select Board has had an opportunity to review it. The first report is due in April. Our report will be brief as we will have no expenditures. We have until 2024 to obligate the funds.
- Matt and I had a conference call with Kristen Collins and Cameron Ferrante from Preti Flaherty this afternoon regarding the consent agreement for Doug Kelly. At this point, they are not willing to agree to any violations. However, they are willing to enter into an interim agreement until the Spring, when more work can be done. They have also stated that their client would be willing to pay for the Town's legal fees. They will be drafting a draft Interim Consent Agreement and will send to the Town next week. Once that agreement has been received, I would like to contact the Town Attorney and give him the details and have him review the document and give any additional input.
- There is 1 RE account for 2020, totaling \$2,581.10. Unpaid 2020 real estate taxes will

automatically foreclose on February 10, 2022, if this account is not paid in full.

- There are 18 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$38,348.11. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 968 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$1,492,944.88. The second half of taxes are due on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the last Select Board meeting on January 25, 2022.

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0-1 (*Wendy's audio quit working*)

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