

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, March 22, 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, Wendy Pelletier, and Mike Brown

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank and Paul Smith (*Zoom*)

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Sarah at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Dick made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 4-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- March 8, 2022: Dick made a motion to approve the 3/8/22 minutes with minor typo corrections. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Mike)
- March 10, 2022: Dick made a motion to approve the 3/10/22 minutes as written. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Mike)

Warrants 68, 69, 70, & 71:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Wendy made a motion to approve, and sign warrants 68, 69, 70 and 71. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0

Old Business:

- Blueberry Hill Solar Trench Easement: The Select Board reviewed the documentation that was submitted by Mr. Breda and Ms. McBrian regarding the solar trench easement at 56 Blueberry Hill Rd. The Select Board determined that all of the requested documentation had been received. Therefore, Wendy made a motion to accept the materials as submitted and to forward them to the Town Attorney so that he may draft a simple easement to go on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0

New Business:

- February 2022 NEMHS Activity Report: The Select Board reviewed the ambulance report submitted by North East Mobile Health Services. It was approved and accepted by unanimous consent.
- FY 2023 ARPA Expenditures: The Town Administrator submitted an updated proposal of uses for the Town ARPA funds.

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- On March 15th the President signed a major disaster declaration allowing the Town to receive reimbursement from FEMA and MEMA for the storm damage to the roads last Halloween. I am working with John to get the required paperwork uploaded into the FEMA portal. FEMA will reimburse 75%, MEMA will reimburse 15%, then there is an additional 4% for administrative cost. The town will be responsible for the remaining 8% of costs. I will be attending the first applicant briefing next Tuesday, March 29th.
- Reviewed the phone billing with Lincolnville Telephone. There are certain area exchanges that are considered local. All of those exchanges are either in Hope, Lincolnville or Camden, everything else is considered long distance, including calls to cell phones. There aren't any other bundling or long-distance packages available. We do get 1,000 minutes on the -4199 line. However, they did allow that from now on, calls from both phone lines could be charged against the 1,000 minutes. This will essentially eliminate in-state charges.
- I met with Charlotte Gray and Benjamin Kuhaneck from the EPA for the five-year review of the former Union Chemical Super Fund Site. They will continue to conduct testing every two years. There is a Well Advisory Commission that will send out letters to residents if there is ever a concern with ground water contaminating their wells. There is a note in the property jacket alerting the CEO/LPI not to issue any permits without consulting with the EPA first. This is to prevent any permits from being issued which could cause damage to the barrier cap.
- In reviewing the roads budget with the Road Commissioner and Bookkeeper, it does not look like a Special Town Meeting will be needed.
- There aren't any updates regarding the tax acquired property.
- The accountant did work on the journal entries needed in order to complete the audit over the weekend. I don't have an exact update on when we can expect it to be completed. Tina tried to contact Paula for more information but hasn't received a response yet.
- The CEO issued 3 building permits and 1 internal plumbing permit since the last Select Board meeting:
 - Linda & Griffin Leshner – 268 Lermond Lane – addition to a deck.
 - Jonatan Eno – 31 Winning Way – accessory structure.
 - Colin Wheatley - 0 Barrett Hill Rd. – SFD.
- There are 16 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$34,908.42. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 921 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$1,410,611.69. 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 March 8, 2022.

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

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