

## MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

6:30 PM

Hope Town Office

*View the meeting in its entirety at*

[https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope\\_me](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me)

### Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, Wendy Pelletier, and Bruce Haffner

### Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Matthew Deane, John Monroe, Bill Kelly, and Paul Smith (*Zoom*)

### Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Sarah at 6:33 p.m.

### Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

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

### Public Comment:

- None

### Minutes:

- February 22, 2022: Dick made a motion to approve the 2/22/22 minutes. Bruce made amendments regarding his discussion about winter maintenance for municipal buildings. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 4-0**

### Warrants 65, 66, & 67:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Wendy made a motion to approve, and sign warrants 65, 66, and 67. Sarah noticed that Tidewater considers calls to Rockland to be long distance. She asked the Town Administrator to find out if there were different options available to the Town regarding long distance calling within the state. It was seconded by Dick.  
**Motion passed 4-0**

### New Business:

- Review, rescind, or update current mask policy: The U.S. CDC and the Maine CDC have lifted the mask mandate in most public places including schools. In response to this new guidance, Dick made a motion to rescind the Town of Hope Mask Policy. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 4-0**
- MCSW update – Wendy Pelletier: Wendy updated the Select Board regarding turnover at the Mid Coast Solid Waste facility. The manager is on paid leave at the moment. The Board of Directors

will meet on March 23, 2022 and determine how to proceed. David St. Laurent will be acting as the interim manager.

- Roads Update – John Monroe:
  - All States provided the additional weigh slips for the 70 tons of asphalt that they did not previously bill the town for. While they were reconciling the slips, they also discovered that they should have credited 8 tons to the town but hadn't yet. John believes that all of the slips match up and that All States is owed the money even though they have been very unprofessional in the way they have conducted business with the town. He will call and get an accurate invoice so that it can be paid on the next warrant. The Select Board instructed the Town Administrator to include a letter with the check expressing that the lack of accountability is unacceptable.
  - Right now, the storm damage costs are approx. \$107,000 in unplanned maintenance and repair. The Select Board may want to determine if a special town meeting is needed. State law only allows the roads budget to be overspent by 15% without needing a special town meeting to have the voters approve the additional money. The Town Administrator will review the expense reports to find out if the Select Board needs to act soon.

#### **Old Business:**

- Winter Maintenance of Municipal Buildings – Bruce Haffner: Bruce provided an update stating Clarence is not interested in having the snowplow truck or excavator added into his department or budget. Therefore, he reviewed the roads budget and compared the costs that are charged by the Road Commissioner to the cost of the town purchasing the vehicles and has determined that it could save upwards of \$40,000 a year.

Sarah said the Roads Advisory Committee had determined that a municipal public works was not cost effective, and that the topic had been thoroughly discussed. Bruce disagreed.

Dick said that Bruce had not presented any factual numbers and that he would need to see a detailed business plan in order to consider this any further. Bruce agreed that he had not provided concrete numbers up to this point. He said he would put a serious proposal together for the Select Board to consider.

#### **Other Business:**

- None

#### **Town Administrator Report:**

- The CEO issued 2 building permits and no plumbing permits during the past two weeks.
  - Stacy Whitely - 0 Island Ln — to remove trees in the shoreland zone.
  - Carly Wight – 17 Becki Ln - after-the-fact permit for change of use converting a shed in to an SFD.
- I met with Butch from NEMHS and the managers/administrators from Camden, Lincolnville, and Rockport. Both Camden and Rockport said that they were still years away from being able to launch a regional ambulance service with Rockland. Both towns are still very interested in a regional service and would also like to find a way that the EMS service would also encompass municipal fire services as well.
- Nomination papers are available. There are several positions coming up for election including: 2 Select Board, 4 Budget Committee, 1 HES, and 1 CSD. Papers are due back no later than 4:30 pm. on April 15, 2022.

- I attended the ARPA training last week. The final rule has given the towns much more broad usage of the funds. I will go into more detail during the workshop tomorrow evening.
- We are working on preparing the 2022 Town Report. Jenn is going to need a photo of the Select Board. If everyone can be here and be photo ready for the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, I'll plan to take the group picture then. Also be thinking about who you would like to dedicate the Town Report to this year. There is still time before you have to make a decision.
- There are 17 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$38,026.68. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 958 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$1,467,268.90. 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 February 22, 2022.

#### **Executive Session:**

- Wendy made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to the below citations at 7:26 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.

##### **Motion passed 4-0**

- 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(E): Consultation with Town Attorney
- 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(C): Disposition of Tax Acquired Property – 188 Gillette Rd
- Bruce left the meeting.
- Dick made a motion to exit executive session at 8:38 p.m. It was seconded by Wendy.

##### **Motion passed 3-0**

#### **Adjournment:**

- Wendy made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.

##### **Motion passed 3-0**

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