

## MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board  
Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
6:30 p.m.  
Hope Town Office

### Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, Charlie Weidman, Mike Brown, and Michael Schultz

### Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Chelsea Summers, and Dan Smiley

### Call to Order:

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

### Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Sarah said she would like to add the town office roof discussion to the old business section of the agenda. Charlie made her request a motion. It was seconded by Mike.

**Motion passed 5-0**

### Public Comment:

- None

### Minutes:

- April 11, 2023: Dick made a motion to approve the 4/11/23 minutes. It was seconded by Charlie.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- April 18, 2023: Charlie made a motion to approve the 4/18/23 minutes. It was seconded by Michael.

**Motion passed 3-0-2 (Sarah & Mike)**

### Warrants 76, 77, 78, & 79:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Charlie made a motion to approve and sign warrants 76, 77, 78, and 79. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 5-0**

### New Business:

- Reappointment to Cemetery Committee – Mary Berry: The Select Board reviewed the application submitted by Ms. Berry expressing interest in serving another term on the Cemetery Committee. Dick made a motion to reappoint Mary Berry to the Cemetery Committee for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2026. It was seconded by Charlie.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- Recommendation for Metallic Mining Activities Ordinance Moratorium – Planning Board: The Select Board reviewed the moratorium ordinance submitted by the Planning Board to be included on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. Dick made a motion to include the mining moratorium ordinance on the Town Meeting Warrant once it has been reviewed and approved by the town’s attorney. It was seconded by Charlie.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- Mowing Bids: The Select Board reviewed the mowing bids. The bids were all substantially more expensive than the former contract was. The Town Administrator was instructed to find out if the low bidder has the ability to fulfill the contract and has the equipment necessary to do the work. Dick made a motion to award the mowing contract to Fuller’s Landscaping in the amount of \$17,160 for the 2023 mowing season as long as the Town Administrator continues to find the bid acceptable to the Select Board after the questions have been answered. It was seconded by Charlie.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- FY 2023-24 Municipal Budget Final Vote: The auditor is going to have a meeting with his staff to determine if all of the information has been submitted by the Central Office in order to establish whether or not the school’s audit could be worked on. If everything has been received, then we could have the completed audit in approximately 30 days, which would be around May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Special Town Meeting for the school’s budget was tentatively going to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The HES School Committee is also requesting funds for a new roof but, without the audit, we can’t know how much money needs to be borrowed, if any, which will impact the mil rate for taxes. The audit also gives the amount of money is in the undesignated fund which is used to help reduce the tax burden each year. With the cost of everything already so high, the Select Board wants to keep taxes from unnecessarily rising. There simply is just not enough information to vote on a final budget at this time. Charlie made a motion to not vote on a final FY2023-24 municipal budget at this time. In addition, the Select Board will not call a Special Town Meeting for the Hope Elementary School Budget approval nor will they call for the Annual Town Meeting until the annual audit has been completed. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Old Business:**

- Town Office Roof: Sarah made a motion to award the contract the Bleamaster Roofing LLC to replace the entire existing roof with a metal roof including lifetime vent boots, snowguards above entryways, and positive references using existing ARPA funds in the amount of \$44,240.50. It was seconded by Charlie. Dick said he was not in favor of using the ARPA funds for anything other than reducing the tax burden. Mike said it is sad to invest in a metal roof that will outlast the building it is meant to cover.

**Motion failed 2-3** (*Dick, Mike, & Michael*)

Charlie made a motion to award the bid to Bleamaster Roofing LLC to replace the existing roof on the NW side of the building (side facing the Hope General Store) with asphalt shingles, ice & water shield over the entire surface, and install vent boots, ridge cap, ridge

vent, appropriate flashing, and to install heat tapes to avoid ice dams during the winter as long as it is the same scope of work as the highlighted section outlined for the bid and not just a “patch” for a leaking roof. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 4-1 (Mike)**

**Other Business:**

- None

**Town Administrator Report:**

- Did a well check involving Knox S.O. on the Gillette Rd. property. The deputy found the resident on site and doing well.
- The 2023 ARPA report to the treasury Department has been made. This report is required annually. The town must have all funds obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026.
- The files from the 2014 digital mapping update were located and have been forwarded to CAI-Tech. We could have the proposed map proof by the end of this week.
- The County is having the 2015 fire study updated to include a fire and EMS collaborative study that reviews regionalization. The information on these studies is included in your meeting packets.
- Matthew and I will be meeting with Gartley & Dorsky, DEP, and other representatives will be meeting at the property on Highfield Rd. for the new delineation as requested by the DEP on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The delay has been, in part, due to the snow-covered ground.
- There was 1 new building permits and 2 plumbing permits issued since the 4/11/23 Select Board meeting:
  - Donald & Sharon Spear            25 Lincolnville Rd.            Mobile Home
- There are 8 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$24,174.27. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 464 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$586,741.55. The second half is due on May 2, 2023.
- There have been pre-payments totaling \$3,908.55 for the 2024 RE taxes.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the Select Board meeting on 4/11/23.

**Adjournment:**

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.

**Motion passed 5-0**