

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, April 26, 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, Mike Brown, and Bruce Haffner (*Zoom*)

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:

- Wendy made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- April 12, 2022: Dick made a motion to approve the 4/12/22 minutes. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

Warrants 75, 76, 77, & 78:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Wendy made a motion to approve, and sign warrants 75, 76, 77, and 78. It was seconded by Dick. Bruce wanted to know the make, model, and year of the truck that the Road Commissioner is getting paid by the Town to use. Mike replied that John bought it a couple of years ago and although he was unsure of the year, it is a Ford 550.
Motion passed 5-0

New Business:

- Approve funding for Broadband Workshop – Melissa Hall: Wendy made a motion to approve paying for the Broadband Workshop for Melissa Hall who is the Chair of the Hope Broadband Committee. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0
- Accept Resignation of Deputy Town Clerk – Jennifer Daigle: Dick made a motion to accept Jen's resignation with regret. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 5-0

- Approve & Sign Warrant for Special Town Meeting for HES Budget: Dick made a motion to approve and sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant for the school budget. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 5-0

- Treasurer’s Disbursement Warrants for Employee Wages & Benefits Policy: Mike made a motion to approve the policy as written. It was seconded by Bruce. Dick said that state law permits the policy as is. However, he would prefer to have a minimum of two signatures. Either way he will vote to approve it. No amendments were made to the policy.

Motion passed 5-0

- Treasurer’s Disbursement Warrants for Payment of State Fees Policy: Dick made a motion to approve the policy as written. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 5-0

- Municipal Officer’s Policy on Disbursement of Municipal Education Costs: Wendy made a motion to table approving this policy. It was seconded by Mike. Dick said he would like to have the issues surrounding electronic signatures, and the School Committee and Select Board having clarity on their roles and responsibilities. It is not appropriate to hand it over to the Treasurer without first having some resolution. Bruce wondered about setting a pre-approved amount to ensure everyone gets paid.

Motion passed 5-0

- Annual Town Meeting Warrant Approval: The Select Board reviewed the warrant for the Town Meeting. The Town Administrator was authorized to send it to the Town Attorney for his review.
- Roads Advisory Committee, Final Report – Preliminary Discussion: Sarah thanked everyone who was involved for the time they invested in the Roads Advisory Committee. She believes some of the questions the Select Board asked the committee to investigate were not thoroughly answered. Perhaps the Select Board asked too much from this group of volunteers. She would like this item to be on the next agenda and to invite the members of the Roads Advisory Committee and the Road Commissioner to be a part of the discussion based on the final report.

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- The accountant has been working on finishing everything so that the audit can finally get completed. She has been reconciling the schools accounts and has a difference of \$260. She is trying to figure out where the difference is coming from. Hopefully will be able to have the auditor called to finish by next week.
- Since the seats for Select Board race is contested this year, Clarence has agreed to hold a Candidate’s Night for the 3 people who are running. Since voting can begin as early as Friday, May 12th, the event can be held on Thursday, May 11th at the Fire Station.
- The first report for ARPA spending is due on April 30th. So far, the site to make the report has

been very difficult. Several towns have contacted the help desk for assistance. Hope has also requested assistance in making sure we can file our report on time.

- The Town Report will go to the printer on Friday, May 20th, the day after the special town meeting. Jenn has done a very good job and getting most of it prepared before her last day. There are only a very few items left before it is complete.
- Matthew has been away for the past week and half, and I have been filling in with the code enforcement duties in his absence.
- A site walk of the Highfield Rd, property with attorneys, engineers, and DEP has been scheduled for May 10th. The deadline to comply with the NOV is May 14th.
- There have been 5 building permits and 2 plumbing permits issued since the last Select Board meeting:
 - Donald Pendleton - Serenity Lane – add apt. unit to existing bldg.
 - Donna Gronos - 96 Luce Lane - shed
 - Jeff Clark - 791 Camden Rd. – demolition of deck & add stairs
 - Carrie Connors – 17 Bumblebee Lane – 2-story SFD
 - Carrie Connors – 17 Bumblebee Lane – accessory structure
- There are 14 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$30,220.57. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 433 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$625,266.24. The second half of taxes are due on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.
- There have been pre-payments on 21 accounts for 2023 RE taxes totaling \$5,722.99.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the last Select Board meeting on April 12, 2022.

Executive Session: Pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §841(2) Hardship or Poverty Abatement:

- Mike made a motion to enter executive session at 7:30 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 5-0
- Bruce had to leave the meeting.
- The Select Board exited executive session at 7:49 p.m.
- Dick made a motion to approve an abatement in the amount of \$8,088.32. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 4-0

Adjournment:

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 4-0

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