

## MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board  
Tuesday, May 10, 2022  
6:30 PM  
Hope Town Office

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[https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope\\_me](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 6:33 p.m.

### Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Dick 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 79, 80, & 81:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Dick made a motion to approve, and sign warrants 79, 80, and 81. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

### New Business:

- Renew Liquor License for Pushaw's Trading Post – Susan Pushaw: Dick made a motion to approve the renewal of the liquor license for Pushaw's trading Post. It was seconded by Mike.  
**Motion passed 5-0**
- Quit Claim Deed – Richard Riefe, 188 Gillette Rd: Mike made a motion to sign a municipal quit claim deed for the tax acquired property located at 188 Gillette Rd, returning it to the previous property owner. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 5-0**
- Approve and Sign Town Meeting Warrant: Dick made a motion to approve and sign the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. It was seconded by Mike.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- Winter Maintenance Contract Extension or Bid: Dick made a motion to extend the winter maintenance contract with Todd's Lawn and Landscaping for the 2022-2023 season. It was seconded by Wendy. Bruce wanted to know why this was being extended and not put out bid. The other select board members explained that the bids would most likely come in higher than just 5% and Todd could also bid higher as well. In addition, Todd does great work and extending the contract is best for the town.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- Roads Advisory Committee, Final Report: Sarah expressed appreciation to all of the volunteers who gave their time and effort over the past year on the Roads Advisory Committee. She wondered if the Select Board had asked them to do more than they were able to do, as the main tasks the committee was asked to do remained uncompleted.

The Select Board discussed hiring a consultant to make recommendations for public road work in Hope. The time may come when there is not a qualified Road Commissioner available to be elected in the Town of Hope. The Town Administrator will ask MMA for assistance in finding an appropriate consultant.

**Old Business:**

- None

**Other Business:**

- None

**Town Administrator Report:**

- The auditors were in Hope and at the Central Office today to finish the FY21 audit.
- Planning on having a meeting with superintendent's finance people, Tina, and the accountant to try and firm up on how to move forward without the school relying on the accountant and to provide the town with monthly reconciliations. Kate thought that the school's bookkeeper was finally caught up and that next year's audit season would be much smoother.
- Conducted interviews for the interim bookkeeper position. I have extended an offer of temporary employee to one of the applicants.
- Participated in the site walk for the violations on Lermond Pond today. It did not go as well as I had hoped. I was in contact with the Town Attorney afterward who is recommending that I seek authority from the Select Board authorize commencing an 80 K land use enforcement action if the problems in the notice of violation are not fixed within the timeframe given by the code enforcement officer. That deadline is Saturday, May 14, 2022.
- The first report for ARPA spending was due on April 30<sup>th</sup>. We have attempted contact several times. We also have email confirmations from the ARPA help desk issuing a "ticket number" Apparently, several other towns are experiencing the same thing.
- The EMS Review Committee meeting that was scheduled for Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, has been

postponed. A new date has not been determined yet.

- The Fire Department has been awarded the SHAPE Award by the Department of Labor. The plaque is hanging in the Town Office lobby for the next couple of weeks so that the townspeople can see it.
- There have been 2 building permits and 5 plumbing permits issued since the last Select Board meeting:
  - Mark Merrifield - 0 Main St. – 1-story SFD
  - Shawn Dishop – 21 Martzville Rd. – Accessory Structure (garage)
- There are 9 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$25,109.27. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 136 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$197,688.80. The second half of taxes were due last Tuesday, May 3, 2022.
- There have been pre-payments on 30 accounts for 2023 RE taxes totaling \$11,245.54.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the last Select Board meeting on April 26, 2022.

**Adjournment:**

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

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