

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, May 23, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, and Mike Brown

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank and Rick Bresnahan

Call to Order:

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

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Dick made a motion to approve the agenda as written. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 3-0

Public Comment:

- Rick noted that one year ago, he and other department heads had voiced concerns and dissatisfaction with how the mowing of the various town facilities were being handled. He thought it only appropriate to return a year later to express what a good job the new mowing contractor is doing so far.

Rick also wanted to remind the Select Board about the 25th Anniversary Celebration of True Park. The celebration will take place on Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Minutes:

- May 9, 2023: Dick made a motion to approve the 5/9/23 minutes. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 3-0
- May 16, 2023: Dick made a motion to approve the 5/16/23 minutes. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 3-0

Warrants 86, 87, 88, & 89:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Dick made a motion to approve and sign warrants 86, 87, 88, and 89. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

- 2023 Personal Property Taxes 36 M.R.S. 105 §760-A “Minor or Burdensome Amount” of \$3,648.87: Dick made a motion to write off the 2023 personal property taxes in the amount

of \$3,648.87. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 3-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- I attended an ambulance meeting with NEMHS and the managers/administrator from the other three towns. NEMHS explained that Pen Bay Medical Center has contracted with North Star ambulance service to handle their transfers. This has effectively reduced the revenue to NEMHS by approximately \$600,000/year. The Town has a contract with NEMHS for one more year before the Towns will likely be asked to make up the difference of the lost revenue in order for NEMHS to be able to maintain a base of operation locally.
- A Public Hearing to hear from residents regarding the proposed amendment to the Shoreland Zone Ordinance and Official Zoning Map, as well as the mining ordinance moratorium has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m. Certified letters have been sent to property owners who may be directly impacted. First class postage letters were sent to all property owners within the shoreland zone.
- Dr. Wang and his student will be in town on Friday, May 26th, to begin the ground penetrating radar survey of Morey Hill Cemetery. They are expected to begin at 11:30 a.m.
- The Town has received the full payment of \$33,133.35 from the DEP for the small community septic program. The project is almost concluded. Waiting for visible grass to grow on top of the disposal field area before submitting the final photos and making the last 10% of the payments to the contractor.
- There were no additional responses from the joint school committees for a meeting. I did have a Zoom interview with the HES financial team as information gathering for the subcommittee meeting which is scheduled for tomorrow evening at HES at 6:00 p.m.
- FEMA teams will be in Knox County and eight other additional counties after Memorial Day to begin a preliminary damage assessment of high value CAT-C damage, which is mostly roads and bridges. This assessment is the best way to determine if the damage dollar amounts meet the threshold for a presidential declaration.
- There were 2 new building permits and 2 plumbing permits issued since the 5/10/23 Select Board meeting:
 - Bruce Linthicum 419 Camden Rd. Expanding 2nd Story
 - Santa Wolanczyk 444 Camden Rd. Change of Use
- There are 6 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$22,638.80. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.

- There are 117 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$186,161.70.
- There have been pre-payments totaling \$9,414.77 for the 2024 RE taxes.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the Select Board meeting on 5/9/23.

Executive Session:

- Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 6(A)(1) - Discussion or consideration of the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation or dismissal of an individual or group of public officials, appointees or employees of the body or agency: Dick made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to the above cited statute at 7:29 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 3-0

- Dick made a motion to exit executive session at 8:03 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 3-0

Adjournment:

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 3-0