

## MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

6:30 PM

Via Zoom

*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, Brian Powers Jr., Bruce Haffner, Dick Crabtree, and Wendy Pelletier

### **Others Present:**

- Samantha Mank, Rick Bresnahan, Michelle Fong, Jim Guerra, Amy Powers, John Monroe, Paul Smith, Sandie Sabaka, Nancy Ford, Chris Pinchbeck, Molly Luce, Melissa Hall, Elizabeth Drury-Creighton, Heidi Blood, and Lindsay Pinchbeck

### **Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Sarah.

### **Agenda Adjustments/Approval:**

- Brian made a motion to approve the agenda as written. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

### **Public Comment:**

- Paul Smith commented on language used at previous Select Board meeting and what was written in the Village Soup. Reiterated purpose for the upcoming recall election for Mr. Haffner and Ms. Goldberg.
- Amy Powers made a comment as it is last opportunity prior to June 8<sup>th</sup> election. Reiterated events, behaviors, and reasons for upcoming recall election for Mr. Haffner and Ms. Goldberg.
- Molly Luce commented that recall effort is not personal but also reiterated events, behaviors, and reasoning for the upcoming recall election for Mr. Haffner and Ms. Goldberg.

### **Minutes:**

- May 11, 2021: Dick made a motion to approve the May 11, 2021 minutes as written. He also stated that the minutes need to include certain required material but do not need to be a transcript of the meeting. The meeting is available to be viewed by anyone wanting more detail. It was seconded by Brian who also said he agreed with Dick. The other Select Board members also agreed to have shorter minutes.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

### **Warrants 86, 87, & 88:**

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Brian made a motion to approve warrant #'s 86, 87, and 88. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 5-0**

### **New Business:**

- Report from Roads Advisory Committee (RAC) – Rick Bresnahan: Rick presented a report from the Roads Advisory Committee (*located on Town website May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting documents*). He said that the Roads Committee consists of individuals who really care about the Town. He also believes the Committee is in a really good position to resume meetings in the Fall. The goal has been to have continuity with the changing of Road Commissioners and the Select Board. The RAC is suggesting having a standard policy for the roads and the materials that are used. The RAC recommends keeping the current elected Road Commissioner model used by the Town. The RAC is not recommending pursuing a Public Works Department due to the costs and complexity of it. Bruce did not provide numbers for the RAC to review. The RAC did not do a cost analysis and choose to not research the matter any further since the Town already has a snowplowing contract for the next four years.

There was much discussion regarding the research and analysis needed to determine the feasibility of a public works department. Roads are the Town's greatest asset.

- 2021 Personal Property Taxes – 36 M.R.S. 105§760-A “Minor or Burdensome Amount” of \$4,079.81: Brian made a motion to remove all 2021 personal property taxes from the Town books in the amount of \$4,079.81 pursuant to 36 M.R.S. 105 §760-A, Minor and Burdensome Amount. It was seconded by Wendy.

**Motion passed 5-0**

### **Old Business:**

- Follow-up Appeal for Dog Warning – Heidi Blood: Heidi explained the procedures she followed to give Ms. Hatch the barking dog warning. Ms. Hatch's COVID restrictions prevented in person contact, and a neighbor contacted her from the dog's residence, therefore she felt confident it was the right dog and owner. The Select Board discussed ways to make situations similar to this less confusing in the future. Heidi will implement those suggestions.
- Award Quote for Tree Removal in Cemetery: The Select Board is not sure that “Home Advisors” is a suitable place to obtain a reference for work. This item will be tabled until a later date.
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Stimulus Money Discussion: Melissa Hall asked to have a preemptive discussion with the Select Board about not giving all of the Town's ARPA money to the Mid Coast Broadband Association. She encouraged the Select Board to take time to explore various options.

**Assessors:**

- Suspend as Select Board & Convene as Board of Assessors: Brian made a motion to suspend as the Select Board and to convene as the Board of Assessors at 8:13pm. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- 2021 Ratio Declaration & Reimbursement: Dick made a motion to approve and sign the 2021 Ration Declaration. It was seconded by Brian.

**Motion passed 5-0**

- Adjourn as Assessors & reconvene as Select Board: Dick made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and to reconvene as the Select Board at 8:20pm. It was seconded by Brian.

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Other Business:**

- Dick asked if there was any guidance regarding how to count votes for the June 8<sup>th</sup> recall election. Sarah said that she was waiting to hear back from the Town Attorney but would forward the information to the rest of the Board once she receives it.

**Town Administrator Report:**

- The digital format of the Town Report is available on the Town website. It was sent to the printers already and it is expected to be available in hard copy late next week or the beginning of the following week.
- The Town and the School are now completely ready for the audit. Just waiting for the actual date. When I last spoke with the auditor, he thought the team would come in person. We should be getting the exact date of the audit sometime this week.
- The accountant is working on getting the quarterly reports caught up and sent to us as soon as possible.
- The 3-month staff evaluations have been completed. I will schedule an executive session for the next meeting to give you those personnel updates.
- Late Monday, the U.S. Treasury Department issued additional guidance regarding the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. MMA will provide a webinar for municipal officials on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have included a hand with some helpful links to sign up for any of the upcoming sessions regarding the use of this money.
- There are 14 real estate 2020 accounts totaling \$32,254.33. Unpaid 2020 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 10, 2022 if the accounts are not paid in full. This remains unchanged from two weeks ago.

- There are 170 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$267,498.78. This is a change of 27 accounts & \$34,693.81 from two weeks ago.
- There have been pre-payments on 50 accounts for the 2022 real estate taxes totaling \$15,501.66. This affects 7 additional accounts and changes by \$528.66 from two weeks ago.

**Adjournment:**

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. It was seconded by Brian.  
**Motion passed 5-0**

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