

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING
Hope Select Board
May 28, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Charlie Weidman, Wayne Luce and Mike Brown

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Matthew Deane, Zachary Herrick, Beth Gindel, Brad Dodge, Alfred Luce, Sharon Harris, and Kyle Laurita

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Charlie made a motion to take agenda items out of order based on those in attendance. Minutes will still appear in order of the agenda. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- May 14, 2024: Charlie made a motion to approve the 5/14/24 minutes as written. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 3-0-1 (Mike)

Warrants 89, 90, & 91:

- Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the Treasurers and Payroll warrants 89, 90, and 91. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

Board of Assessors:

- Suspend as Select Board/Convene as Board of Assessors: Sarah made a motion to suspend as the Select Board and to convene as the Board of Assessors at 6:42 p.m. It was seconded by Charlie.

Motion passed 4-0

- 2024 Certified Ratio Declaration: Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the 2024 Certified Ratio Declaration. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

- Adjourn as Board of Assessors/Reconvene as Select Board: Charlie made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and reconvene as the Select Board at 6:44 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

New Business:

- Presentation Boston Post Cane Certificate to Alfred Luce: Wayne presented his father, Alfred Luce, with the Boston Post Cane and certificate in honor of being the oldest resident in the Town of Hope. He made brief remarks regarding his father’s many accomplishments. Kyle Laurita from the Courier, (Village Soup) was present and took photos.
- Resignation, Code Enforcement Officer – Matthew Deane: Sarah made a motion to accept the resignation of Matthew Deane as the Code Enforcement Officer with thanks for his service to the Town, and to appoint him as a Deputy Code Enforcement Officer & Deputy Plumbing Inspector. It was seconded by Charlie. **Motion passed 4-0**
- Appointment, Code Enforcement Officer – Zachary Herrick: Charlie made a motion to appoint Zachary Herrick as the Hope Code Enforcement Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

- Update from Sexton – Beth Gindel: Beth shared that a resident had been given permission by the Select Board to place two headstones at Morey Hill Cemetery once the GPR project had been completed. The resident is now requesting to place three headstones. The Select Board decided to not allow an additional headstone as Morey Hill was officially closed in 2022. However, the resident can either purchase a third plot and transfer the other two plots to Hope Grove Cemetery where all three plots would be together, or the Town will issue a total refund.

The Sexton and Cemetery Committee have been getting complaints regarding the white dowels that have been placed throughout Morey Hill Cemetery, claiming they are unsightly, and the complainant wants the cemetery restored to its original historic state. The Cemetery Committee has been in contact with a New Hampshire company to purchase plot pin markers to replace the dowels. The plot pins are closer to the ground and when placed properly can be mowed over without damage to the equipment. Unfortunately, the company from which the purchase was to be made experienced a fire in the factory and has gone out of business. The cost per pin was \$3.75. Utilizing a different company, the cost has increased to \$6.85 per pin. The increased cost exceeds the cemetery budget.

In the meantime, if complaints persist and the timeline seems unsatisfactory, the Select Board is willing to speak with the complainant.

Charlie made a motion to utilize up to \$750 in ARPA funds for the purchase and shipping of plot pins for the Morey Hill Cemetery. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

- Assessors Agent 2024-2025 Contract – RJD Appraisals: Vern’s official retirement from the Town of Hope is June 30th. Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the 2024 contract for

assessing services with RJD Appraisals at a rate of \$690/per day. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

- Community Resiliency Program, Gabrian McPhail, Resilient Communities, L3C: The Town Administrator had a meeting with Gabe regarding the Community Resiliency Program. Some of the main take aways are that it does not cost the Town any money to enroll. There are several items relating to climate change that may be beneficial to Hope. Enrollment in this program opens the door to other grant opportunities that can help with costs associated with roads, public works, storm mitigation, emergency hazard plans. If we were to apply for a matching grant in the future, in some instances enrollment in this program could lower the required match or give access to closed grants. Gabe is willing to be the Town's Service Provider, which basically means she will be our step-by-step guide through the process and do the grant writing on the Town's behalf. There are some enrollment requirements. 1) Complete two self-assessments, 2) Hold a public workshop to review the self-assessments results and prioritize the projects, 3) Adopt a municipal resolution with specific required language. 4) Submit the results, the Service Provider will help. Charlie made a motion to have the Town Administrator contact Gabe McPhail so that the Town can move forward with the enrollment process in the Community Resiliency Program utilizing Ms. McPhail as the Town's service Provider. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

Old Business:

- Charlie gave an update on the progress for the flagpole island in South Hope. The volunteers hope the entire project will be completed by the 4th of July.

Other Business:

None

Town Administrator Report:

- A Public Hearing has been scheduled for June 10, 2024 regarding the amendments to the Shoreland Zone Ordinance. This will take place at the Hope Town Office.
- Brad Dodge came to fix the electrical issue in the basement. The problem is more extensive than thought. Brad will explain the issue to the Select Board.
- Spoke with the School Union 69 Superintendent regarding updates in invoicing the ESSER III grants. They are stuck in a performance review at the moment. She said that the Central Office staff are working through the report and should be ready to submit it within the next couple of days. Once that has been approved, she expects to be back on track with only one additional invoice to be submitted and approved. After that, we can schedule the FY23 audit.
- I have arranged to meet with some additional IT providers. At least two meetings will take place next Tuesday, June 4th.
- The Town's FEMA case has been transferred to a new case agent. I spoke with her last Wednesday. She had just taken over the case that day. I explained that we all submitted all of the

required documentation and were ready for reimbursement. She was going to schedule the remaining meetings to finish up the Town's case.

- The Appeal Hearing that was originally scheduled for tonight has been postponed until June 25th.
- There were 4 building permits and 1 plumbing permit issued since the 5/14/24 Select Board meeting:
 - Carrie Conners 17 Bumblebee Ln. Accessory Structure
 - Ronald Smith 66 Viewpoint Dr. Accessory Structure
 - Alyssa Jones 333 Buzzell Hill Addition
 - Douglas Kellough 147 High St. Accessory Structure
- There are 102 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2024, totaling \$170,430.92.
- There are 14 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2023, totaling \$33,008.78. Unpaid 2023 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 11, 2025, if the accounts are not paid in full.

Adjournment:

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion Passed 4-0