

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**Hope Select Board**

**Tuesday, June 22, 2021**

**5:00 PM**

**Via Zoom/Hope Elementary School**

*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., Dick Crabtree, and Wendy Pelletier

**Others Present:**

- Samantha Mank, Melissa Hall, Barbara Bentley, and Nancy Ford

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by Sarah.

**Agenda Adjustments/Approval:**

- Sarah asked to have Melissa Hall added to discuss broadband internet under Old Business. Dick made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. It was seconded by Wendy.

**Motion passed 4-0**

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Minutes:**

- June 8, 2021: Brian made a motion to approve the June 8, 2021 minutes with minor typo corrections. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 4-0**

**Warrants 92, 93, 94, & 95:**

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Brian made a motion to approve warrant #'s 92, 93, 94, and 95. It was seconded by Wendy.

**Motion passed 4-0**

**New Business:**

- Award Paving Bid: The Select Board reviewed the submitted bids for paving. Brian made a motion to award the 2021 paving bid to All States for \$72.45 per ton with tack included. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 4-0**

- Application for Committee Service – Cemetery, Regina Martin: The Select Board

reviewed the application submitted by Regina Martin. Dick made a motion to appoint Regina Martin to the Cemetery Committee for a 3-year term. It was seconded by Brian.  
**Motion passed 4-0**

- Easement for Wayne Breda & Revision Energy 56 Blueberry Hill Rd: The Town Administrator/CEO recommended not approving or signing this easement as it appears that the work had already been completed prior to the easement being granted. The Town does not have any kind of policy outlining the specifications that a resident would need to follow in order to be granted an easement. At this point, there is no way to know how deep the cable is or if it is encased or exposed. The Town could be responsible for any damage done to the cable if an after-the-fact easement is signed without more information. Dick pointed out that the actual easement language is also inadequate and would not have been able to be approved even if the resident had waited. Sarah will contact MMA legal about the matter. This item was tabled until the next Select Board meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

- Award Cemetery Tree Removal Bid: The Town Administrator gave a report regarding the references of one of the bidders. The Select Board noticed that the bids were considerably higher than the proposed budgeted amount. The Select Board unanimously decided to make an amendment at this evening's Town Meeting to add \$4,000 to the cemetery budget for the purpose of tree removal. There was also discussion surrounding a contract or at minimum a work agreement with the contractor. The Select Board would like to speak with the Sexton prior to awarding the bid. This item was tabled.
- Broadband Internet – Melissa Hall: Melissa spoke briefly about the rollout of the Hope/Appleton ConnectME expansion project that is set to begin accepting applications on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Only applications received on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible. There will be a “kick-off” meeting during the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July to discuss the details of the expansion including where to expand. Both, the Hope and Appleton Select Boards are being asked to attend and be a part of the rollout.

#### **Other Business:**

- None

#### **Town Administrator Report:**

- The FY2020 audit began today. The associates have been conducting an onsite audit. The plan is to schedule the FY 21 audit in September.
- I spoke with Matt Weaver from the First Wealth Management regarding the status of the Town's investments and the details surrounding those investments over the past 18 months. I have included a copy of the report. Matt will be attending the August 24<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting to discuss the report and to answer any questions you may have about the investments.

- I will be meeting with a representative from CMP next week, regarding converting the 9 sodium streetlights to LED.
- Knox County Commissioner, Sharyn Pohlman will be attending the July 27<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting to discuss options for using the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money. I suggest holding at least one workshop prior to meeting with her to ensure the Select Board has thoroughly considered all possibilities and opportunities.
- There are 14 real estate 2020 accounts totaling \$32,155.53. Unpaid 2020 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 10, 2022 if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 140 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$228,240.17.
- There have been pre-payments on 54 accounts for the 2022 real estate taxes totaling \$18,031.18.

**Adjournment:**

- Brian made a motion to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. It was seconded by Wendy.  
**Motion passed 4-0**

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