

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, June 28, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

*View the meeting in its entirety at
https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me*

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, Mike Brown, and Charles Weidman

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Heidi Blood, Rick Bresnahan, Kitty Stevens, Blaine Richardson, and Juanita Hunt (*Zoom*)

Call to Order:

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

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Dick made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 4-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- June 14, 2022: Dick made a motion to approve the 6/14/22 minutes. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 4-0

Warrants 93, 94, 95, & 96:

- The Select Board reviewed, approved, and signed warrants 93, 94, 95, and 96.

New Business:

- Election of Officers:
 - Chair: Charlie made a motion to nominate Sarah as the Chair. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Sarah)
 - Vice Chair: Charlie made a motion to nominate Dick as the Vice Chair. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Dick)
- Select Board Committee Representatives:
 - Mid Coast Solid Waste Board of Directors: Mike will replace Wendy on MCSW Board for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2025.

- EMS Review Committee: Charlie will replace Sarah on the Ambulance Committee.
- Broadband Committee: Although Michael Schultz was not present, the Select Board is proposing that he replace Sarah on the Broadband Committee.
- Formal Dissolution of Ad Hoc Committees: Charlie made a motion to formally dissolve the Roads Advisory Committee and the Solar Committee. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 4-0

- 2022-2023 Contract for Assessing Services – C. Vernon Ziegler: Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the contract for assessing services with Vern Ziegler for the 2022-23 fiscal year in the amount of \$15,000. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

- 2022-2023 Contract for Animal Control Services – Heidi Blood: Dick made a motion to approve and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract for animal control services with Heidi Blood for the 2022-23 fiscal year in the amount of \$5,345. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

- 2022-2023 Annual Appointments: Charlie made a motion to approve and appoint the slate of annual appointments for positions held by Samantha Mank, Pamela Smith, Catrina Murray, Hillary Hancox, Matthew Deane, Clarence Keller, Beth Gindel, Vern Ziegler, Heidi Blood, and deputy positions for the 2022-23 fiscal year. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

Old Business:

- Meet w/ Mowing Contractor Regarding Complaints – Kitty Stevens: There have been additional complaint since the May 24th Select Board meeting. Specifically, gravestones had been knocked over, metal markers in the ground had been broken, and the riding mower was moving to fast. There were also complaints regarding the grounds at True Park including dumping the mowed clippings at the edge of the park and mowing the grass so short that it is turning brown. Kitty addressed the complaints with the Select Board and apologized. She said that she cares about her work and said the tall grass has been due in large part to the rain which also has prevented her from having a consistent mowing schedule. Rick Bresnahan expressed embarrassment over the condition of the park and conveyed that the other departments are feeling the same way. He asked that she come to Hope at a minimum of once a week to check on the status of the grounds. The Select Board made some suggestions to help Kitty do a better job for the remainder of this contract. Sarah indicated that a more detailed contract would be drafted for the next season of mowing.
- Discussion two prior years abatements for 17 Easy Lane – Vern Ziegler: Vern discussed the difference between errors in assessment and errors in valuation. Errors in assessment include things regarding the physical data of the property such as ownership, location, and size. Errors in valuation are when all of the details of the property are correctly assessed but an incorrect value has been placed on them. In the case of 17 Easy Lane, all of the physical data of the property was correct. However, the value placed on the resource protection area of the property was the same as that of property that was not in resource protection. Therefore, this property is only entitled to an abatement for one year and not three years.

- Assessments in Resource Protection & Stream Protection Districts – Vern Ziegler: The Town Administrator provided Vern with a list of properties in Hope that appear to be within a Stream Protection (SP) or a Resource Protection (RP) district to determine if there may be other property owners who may have incorrect valuations on their property. It appears that there are not additional properties that would be entitled to an abatement because of SP or RP frontages.
- Revaluation Proposal, Implementation, and Contract w/ RJD Appraisal – Vern Ziegler: Vern reviewed the contract for the revaluation with the Select Board. Currently, RJD has been contracted to conduct inspections over a period of three years and make adjustments to the property cards to reflect the findings of those inspections. The cost is \$11,335 for each year totaling \$34,000. The total cost of implementing the revaluation is \$86,250 resulting in a total cost of \$120,250 for the revaluation. That is an average cost of \$96.63 per parcel. The last town-wide revaluation was completed in 2006 at a cost of \$110.32 per parcel. By spreading this work out over the four years, the town will be spending \$13.60 less per parcel than the cost paid 19 years earlier. Dick made a motion assuming the assertions made to us are consistent with the language of the contract which we are going to read, we will come in and sign it. It was seconded by Charlie.

Motion passed 4-0

- Municipal Officers Policy on Disbursement of Municipal Education Costs: The School Committee and Superintendent have reviewed the policy and would like the Select Board to approve it. Dick made a motion to approve the Municipal Officers Policy on Disbursement of Municipal Education Costs. It was seconded Charlie.

Motion passed 4-0

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- The paving contract with All States has been signed. The contractor has been referred to the Road Commissioner regarding beginning the work.
- The Road Commissioner met with FEMA again today regarding some additional mitigation assistance particularly on Morey Hill Rd. We are still working through the process and getting all of the necessary documentation filed. There will be another group of field inspectors coming to review the work that has not been done yet. There may be a change in the damage amount as the costs for materials have significantly changed since the storm occurred.
- Cameron Ferrante, the attorney for William Leppanen submitted a follow up email regarding some documentation from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This will be an agenda item for the July 6th Planning Board meeting.
- There have been 2 building permits and 2 plumbing permits issued since the last Select Board meeting:
 - Wayne Yaskoski - 119 Gurney Hill Rd. – Dock
 - Kathryn Dewaard – 771 Church St. – Home Occupation
- The 2021 audit has finally been completed. I've been given an electronic copy and posted it to the town

website. Hard copies are being mailed and should arrive in about a week.

- The second tranche of the ARPA money has been received.
- The 45-30 day lien notices were mailed on June 21st. These are just the notices and not the actual liens. Liens will be filed the end of July.
- Planning on committing the 2023 real estate taxes on July 26th.
- Just a reminder that the Town Office will be closed to the public on Thursday, June 30th for the year-end close out.
- I would like to take Friday, July 1st as a vacation day.
- There are 8 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$24,856.96. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 81 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$132,368.58.
- There have been pre-payments on 38 accounts for 2023 RE taxes totaling \$14,766.19.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the last Select Board meeting on 6/14/22.

Executive Session:

- Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(A)(1) Personnel Matter: Mike made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to the cited statute at 8:01 p.m. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 4-0
- The Select Board exited executive session at 8:19 p.m.

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 4-0

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