

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, July 11, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Charlie Weidman, Wayne Luce, and Michael Schultz

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, and Joe Tassi

Call to Order:

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

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Charlie made a motion to approve the agenda as written. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Michael)

Public Comment:

- Joe Tassi wanted to briefly discuss about how he wanted to go about encouraging Hope residents to attend and vote at the upcoming Town Meeting. Specifically, he may send out post cards at his own expense as a way to promote participation. He is particularly interested in supporting the mining moratorium.

Minutes:

- June 27, 2023: Charlie made a motion to approve the 6/27/23 minutes. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Michael)
- July 5, 2023: Charlie made a motion to approve the 7/5/23 minutes. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Michael)

Warrants 101, 102, 1, 2, & 3:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Charlie made a motion to approve and sign warrants 101, 102, 1, 2, and 3. It was seconded by Wayne. Michael raised concerns about “rubber stamping” the warrants, especially those from the school. The audit revealed that there were overages in the school department even though the Superintendent certified that there weren’t any. He is apprehensive about signing warrants until the lack of financial oversight for the school has been remedied. He said he didn’t have time to thoroughly review the municipal warrants.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Michael)

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator's Report:

- A digital copy of the Town's FY 2022 audit has finally been received. Hard copies are being sent this week. The auditor, Bill Brewer, is scheduled to attend the August 8th Select Board meeting to discuss the audits for both the school and the Town. He will be ready to answer any of your questions regarding the audit.
- Tax Commitment for FY2024 has been scheduled for the August 8th Select Board meeting.
- Interviews for the Deputy Clerk position have been scheduled and will take place next week.
- On July 7th, there was an official Presidential Disaster Declaration for the May Day Storm. This is very good news. The Road Commissioner said that the repair work is 99% completed. This will make the FEMA process much easier to complete this time. Hopeful to have at least a 96% reimbursement.
- The Town Report has been completed and sent to the printer. The hard copies will be picked up on Monday from Hermon. A digital copy is also on the website.
- There were 0 new building permits and plumbing permits since the 6/27/23 Select Board meeting.
- There are 5 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$20,205.52. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 74 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$123,674.26.
- There have been pre-payments totaling \$16,199.72 for the 2024 RE taxes.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the Select Board meeting on 6/27/23.

Adjournment:

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Michael)