

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

6:30 PM

Hope Town Office

View the meeting in its entirety at

https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, Wendy Pelletier, Mike Brown, and Bruce Haffner

Others Present:

- Beth Gindel, Cindy Della Pena, Wayne Breda, Sarah McBrian, Nancy Ford, Amy Powers, and Paul Smith

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Sarah asked to move up 2 items under Old Business: Award Cemetery Tree Bid, and Town Roads and Easement Policies. Dick motioned, Wendy 2nd.

Motion passed 5-0

- We also began using Roll Call for voting: Sarah will ask for yes votes, and each SB member replies by saying their last name, then repeat for No votes and Abstain votes.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- June 22, 2021: Mike made a motion to approve the June 22, 2021 minutes. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Bruce)

- June 24, 2021: Dick made a motion to approve the June 24, 2021 minutes. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 3-0-2 (Bruce & Mike)

Warrants 97, 99, 100, 101, 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6:

- Dick asked that we review and share information at the next meeting about how many signatures are needed from the School Board and/or finance committee on each warrant, as there were again few signatures. COVID exemptions permitting remote signatures will end with the State of Emergency on July 31; to be able to pay school warrants, the

required signatures must be on the documents before the Select Board meetings.

Approved 5-0

Old Business:

- Award Cemetery Tree Bid: Cliffside Tree bid selection. Moved by Dick, second by Mike. Short discussion with Beth, the Sexton. Cliffside bid at \$2000 per day x 5 days. Discussion of how long he thought it would take/ how many days. Board approved up to 6 days, but if they discover more days may be needed, they **MUST** contact the Select Board for approval before working beyond 6 days. Beth is to notify and get written approval from abutting neighbors (email is ok) for Cliffside to have permission to go on their land to complete the work. Dick reminded that we need a contract due to the total cost of the work, so Sam is to prepare a contract and get it signed by owner Dominic Fontaine prior to work commencing.

Motion passed 5-0

- Town Roads and Easement Policies- MMA: Discussion with Wayne Breda and Sarah McBrian about events leading up to the work done, i.e. digging the trench, laying the conduit, etc. They sent a letter to the Select Board with details of what they did, communications with Revision and the Town Office and so forth. The letter is to be entered into the record. Discussion concluded that town needs to set up a standard operating procedure to make sure things are done in sequence and correctly, as this first-of-its kind (for our town) circumstance has pointed out some things that should be improved. Dick strongly recommends that Town Attorney review/correct/advise before signing and granting the easement drafted by the Revision attorney, especially removing the clause about overhead wires crossing the road.

New Business:

- Election of Officers:
 - Chair: Wendy nominated Sarah Smith to be Chair, Dick seconded. Discussion from Bruce including email he sent to Sarah, which she forwarded to the entire Select Board. Sarah responded.

Motion passed 4-1-0 (Bruce)

- Vice Chair: Sarah nominated Dick Crabtree to be Vice Chair, Mike seconded.

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Dick)

- LED Conversion for Town Streetlights: Dick motioned; Mike seconded. We anticipate a cost reduction and CMP in the agreement says there will be timely replacement of lights if/as needed. The Select Board authorizes Samantha to sign the CMP agreement on behalf of the Town.

Motion passed 5-0

- Policy for Town Public Remote Meetings: The Board reviewed the new legislation from the State, a memorandum from the MMA / Maine Municipal Association, and a draft policy prepared by Samantha. Sarah suggested changes in wording and substance. Wendy Pelletier expressed concern about remote attendance becoming a permanent technological burden, citing difficulties experienced with audio at this meeting. *(Note from Sarah after the fact: It appears that in addition to changing the video link setting, one should also change the audio input selection, which we did not know despite a call to TownHallStreams as we did a test run on Monday before the meeting.)*

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- None

Bruce left the meeting at about 8:20 due to difficulties hearing the discussion.

Executive Session:

- Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(A)(1) Personnel Matter: At 8:45 pm, Dick moved that we suspend as the Select Board and enter Executive Session pursuant to M.R.S. §405 (6)(A)(1) to discuss personnel issues. Mike seconded.

Motion passed 4-0

- The Board exited Executive Session and adjourned at 9:17.

Adjournment:

- Dick made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. It was seconded by Mike and Wendy.

Motion passed 4-0

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