

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING
Hope Select Board
July 9, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Charlie Weidman, Wayne Luce and Crystal Robinson

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Charlie made a motion to approve the agenda as written. It was seconded by Crystal.
Motion passed 4-0

Public Comment:

- Crystal asked to speak as a resident of Hope. She wanted to know if the Road Commissioner could cut back the trees and or brush at the corner of Hatchet Mountain, Buzzell Hill, and Gurney Hill Roads because it is very overgrown and difficult to see if there is any oncoming traffic. The Select Board explained that Rt. 235 is a state road and told her to call MDOT and let them know that she thinks it is a dangerous corner.

Minutes:

June 25, 2024: Charlie made a motion to approve the 6/25/24 minutes with one spelling correction. It was seconded by Crystal.

Motion passed 3-0-1 (Wayne)

Warrants 1, 2, 3, & 100:

- Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the Treasurers and Payroll warrants 1, 2, 3, and 100., It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 4-0

New Business:

- Election of Officers:
 - Chair: Charlie made a motion to nominate Sarah to serve as the Chair of the Select Board for the ensuing year. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0-1 (Sarah)
 - Vice Chair: Wayne made a motion to nominate Charlie to serve as the Vice Chair of the Select Board for the ensuing year. It was seconded by Sarah.
Motion passed 4-0

- Committee Service Application, Planning Board – Robert Hall Jr: Charlie made a motion to appoint Robert Hall Jr. to a five -year term ending on June 30, 2029 on the Planning Board. It was seconded by Crystal.

Motion passed 4-0

- Approve & Sign North East Mobile Health Ambulance Contract Amendment: Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the 2024-25 contract amendment for North East Mobile Health. It was seconded by Wayne. The Select discussed various options for ambulance service amid the 122% increase. The options ranged from completely eliminating ambulance service for Hope to approving the amendment and trying to negotiate with neighboring towns once their EMS services have been established.

Motion passed 4-0

- HES School Committee Letter: The School Committee sent a letter to the Select Board asking to proceed with the budget process and to jointly ask the auditor to perform the FY2023 audit. The Select Board agreed to proceed with budget meetings but did not want to move ahead with the audit until all of the ESSER funds had been invoiced. Charlie made a motion to begin the FY2025 budget process as soon as schedules permit. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- The Road Commissioner and I met with the Town’s new FEMA representative last week. The previous FEMA agent did not upload or give any of the Town’s information to the incoming agent. Fortunately, I had copies of all submitted documentation as was able to provide the new agent with all of the missing information. The Town has 5 projects for the May Day 2023 storm. We are expecting a reimbursement of 90% totaling \$213,773.94. One of the projects has finally been obligated in the amount of \$30,088.56.
- There were 4 building permits and 2 plumbing permits issued since the 6/25/24 Select Board meeting:

○ Jeffrey Walker	40 Church St	Demo (After-the-fact)
○ Dan Ford	267 Camden Rd	Garage w/SFD
○ Micaela Mojello	159 Crabtree Rd	Greenhouse
○ Duane Wright	566 Howe Hill Rd	Garage
- There are 78 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2024, totaling \$143,584.57. Unpaid 2024 real estate taxes will automatically be foreclosed on February 20, 2026, if those accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 13 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2023, totaling \$30,813.19. Unpaid 2023 real estate taxes will automatically be foreclosed 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 Crystal.

Motion Passed 4-0