

## MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

6:30 PM

Hope Town Office

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[https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope\\_me](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me)

### Board Members Present:

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

### Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, John Monroe, Douglas Kelly, Sarah McBrian, and Amy Powers

### Call to Order:

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

### Public Hearing: Proposed Remote Participation Policy

### Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

- Sarah made requested the Remote Participation Policy to the next item on the agenda. Wendy made a motion to amend the agenda to include the vote on the Remote Participation Policy to the next item on the agenda. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 4-0-1** *(Bruce)*

### Remote Participation Policy:

- Dick made a motion to adopt the Remote Participation Policy as proposed. It was seconded by Mike.

**Motion passed 4-0-1** *(Bruce)*

### Public Comment:

- None

### Minutes:

- July 27, 2021: Wendy made a motion to approve the 7/27/21 minutes. It was seconded by Dick.

**Motion passed 4-0-1** *(Bruce)*

### Old Business:

- Easement for Wayne Breda & Revision Energy 56 Blueberry Hill Rd: The Select Board shared with Ms. McBrian the options as described by the Town Attorney. The Select Board could issue a Revocable License Agreement that would remain in effective unless

or until the property changed ownership. The second option is to move forward with an easement. However, the Select Board can not authorize the easement, it would have to be approved by the voters during a Town Meeting. In addition, the conduit line that was installed would need to be inspected as it was installed, and a surveyor would need to provide a sketch of the exact location of the installation. The Town Attorney further stated that the statute of frauds requires that all contracts related to obtaining legal rights in real estate must be in writing and that Revision Energy should have known this, as should have the property owners before the work commenced under a public right of way.

The Select Board tabled this item to allow Ms. McBrian to decide how she and Mr. Breda would like to move forward.

#### **New Business:**

- Consent Agreement Discussion for Shoreland Zone & Land Use Violations – Douglas Kelly: The Town Administrator asked the Select Board to approve funds to engage the Town Attorney to write a Consent Agreement for the Town and Douglas Kelly. After much discussion, the Select Board decided to table this item to await additional information. Mr. Kelly will contact Gartley & Dorsky within 60 days.
- Abatement on Property Tax Interest Request – Linda Stewart: Ms. Stewart asked the Select Board to abate the interest on her real estate taxes because she didn't receive a reminder that her taxes were due and because there has been some family hardship over the past year. Dick made a motion to deny the request for a lack of sufficient justification. Ms. Stewart can go through the proper avenues to apply for a hardship abatement. It was seconded by Mike.

**Motion passed 4-0-1** *(Bruce)*

#### **Other Business:**

- None

#### **Warrants 10, 11, & 12:**

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve, and sign warrants 10, 11, & 12. It was seconded by Wendy.

**Motion passed 4-0-1** *(Bruce)*

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

- FY 2022 Tax bills were mailed out last week. The Library Board & staff folded and stuffed all of the envelopes.
- The last day to pay the 2021 real estate taxes before the properties are liened is August 28, 2021. The liens for the FY 2021 real estate taxes will be filed at the Registry of Deeds on September 3, 2021.

- The Town has been able to use a speed radar for the past couple of weeks. I had it placed in the locations that I have received the most speeding complaints about. It was set up on Alford Lake Rd. for a week and is currently on Seacoast Rd. I would like to get it onto Barnestown Rd. for the remainder of the time. The state was doing work on Barnestown Rd, so it wasn't able to be moved. Our time technically expired on Sunday, but it hasn't been picked up yet.
- The Hope/Appleton Broadband Expansion roll out meeting was held on July 29<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was basically about Alan reviewing the information sheet. Not much was discussed about the actual roll-out. The next meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
- The State has delayed the distribution of the ARPA funds for the second time until September.
- I have received one resume for the Deputy Clerk position.
- I received a resume for the Clerk position as a result of the article printed in the Village Soup by Dan Dunkle. I interviewed the applicant and have extended an offer of employment. The applicant has prior municipal experience and should be able to transition into working at Hope quite easily. The first day is expected to be on August 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a brief overlap time with Chelsea. I will present for confirmation at the next Select Board meeting August 24, 2021.
- Tina and Jen Connors are working on the FY 21 audit. Jen will be onsite Thursday and Friday this week. The audit is schedule for October 21, 2021.
- There are 12 real estate 2020 accounts totaling \$31,147.95. Unpaid 2020 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 10, 2022 if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 72 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$149,183.40. Liens will be files on September 3, 2021 for unpaid balances.
- There are 1212 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$3,343,359.45. The taxes were committed on July 27, 2021. The first half is due on September 30, 2021.

**Adjournment:**

- Mike made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.  
**Motion passed 4-0-1** *(Bruce)*

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