

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING
Hope Select Board
August 27, 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, Ellery Bane, and Gordon Page

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:31 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

Board of Assessors:

- Suspend as Select Board/Convene as Board of Assessors: Charlie made a motion to suspend as the Select Board and convene as the Board of Assessors at 5:32 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 4-0
- FY25 Tax Commitment: Charlie made a motion to set the FY 2025 mil rate at 19.30 and sign the Certificate of Assessment, Assessors Certification of Assessment, Municipal Tax Assessment warrant, and Certificate of Commitment. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 4-0
- Adjourn as Board of Assessors/Reconvene as Select Board: Charlie made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and reconvene as the Select Board at 5:43 p.m. It was seconded by Crystal.
Motion passed 4-0

Public Comment:

- Gordon Page wanted to introduce himself and announce that he is running as an unenrolled independent candidate for region 3 of the Knox County Commissioners. He served on the Owls Head Select Board and as interim County Administrator. He would appreciate votes from Hope residents.

Minutes:

- August 13, 2024: Charlie made a motion to approve the 8/13/24 minutes as written. It was seconded by Crystal.
Motion passed 4-0

Warrants 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16:

- Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the Treasurers and Payroll warrants 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 4-0

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- Crystal asked if there could be a time of brainstorming as a Town to help promote healthy families. She is concerned that unhealthy lifestyles will bankrupt Hope residents. After some discussion, the Select Board authorized Crystal to do some preliminary fact finding and research on how the Town can help make children and families healthier.
- Charlie asked if the Town should actually seek to leave School Union 69 and attempt to assimilate into the Camden or Union school districts as a way of reducing the budget. No action was taken.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Gusco has been working on the laptops to make sure everyone can access their documents and other necessary items.
- Maine Municipal Association offers risk reduction grants up to \$3,000 for municipalities that participate in the property and casualty insurance pool. I would like to apply for a grant that meets the programs criteria.
- Pam filed the FY 2024 tax liens on Tuesday, August 20th.
- The validation referendum for the HES budget was held on Tuesday, August 20th. The budget passed 93-52.
- I received an email from Patrick Polky, the Knox County Sheriff. He gave an update regarding the County's day-to-day management while the County Administrator's position remains in limbo.
- Shani and I did not meet with the School Union 69 Finance Team as planned. The meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 4th. We will be reviewing the FY24 fourth quarter financials. In addition, we will be discussing processes for FY25 and access to the school's new software. We will develop a realistic plan to ensure the FY24 audit can happen in a timely manner and hopefully not delay the annual town meeting again.
- Mid Coast Solid Waste Board of Directors have a meeting tomorrow evening, August 28th at the Camden Town Office, French Conference Room at 6:30 p.m.
- North East Ambulance has not set a date yet regarding meeting in lieu of the Performance Review Committee. The last invitation was declined by Rockport, and Camden didn't respond.
- There were 2 building permits, and 3 plumbing permits issued since the 7/13/24 Select Board meeting.
 - Tom Catalano 24 Heritage Ln Single Family Dwelling
 - Rick Catalano 22 Heritage Ln Convert garage to living space
- There are 37 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2024, totaling \$69,794.99. Unpaid 2024 real estate taxes will automatically be foreclosed on February 20, 2026, if those accounts are not paid in full.

- There are 11 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2023, totaling \$28,719.81. Unpaid 2023 real estate taxes will automatically be foreclosed on February 1, 2025, if those accounts are not paid in full.

Adjournment:

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion Passed 4-0