

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

*View the meeting in its entirety at
https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me*

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, Mike Brown, and Charlie Weidman

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank

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 presented. It was seconded Mike.
Motion passed 4-0

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- July 26, 2022: Dick made a motion to approve the 7/26/22 minutes. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 4-0

Warrants 9, 10, & 11:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrants 9, 10, and 11. It was seconded by Charlie.
Motion passed 4-0

New Business:

- BYOB Permit Liquor License for Pine Tree Retreats: The Select Board reviewed the application submitted by Pine Tree Retreats. Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the one-day BYOB liquor license application. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0
- DEP Small Community Grant Program Service Contract – 4 Shore Rd: The Select Board reviewed the contract submitted by the DEP for the septic replacement grant for property located at 4 Shore Rd. Dick made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to move forward with the grant and sign all required documentation.
Motion passed 4-0

Old Business:

- Use of Electronic Signatures on Disbursement Warrants: The School Committee requested to be allowed to use electronic signatures when signing the disbursement warrants. MMA advised the Town that the provision for using electronic signatures expired when the state of emergency ended and that there was no legal authority to continue the practice. The Select Board asked the School Committee to have their attorney provide a written legal opinion that does grant the municipality the authority to accept electronic signatures on disbursement warrants. The MMA opinion and the opinion of the school's attorney did not agree with each other. Bill Kelly, the Town's attorney was asked to give his legal opinion on the matter. He states that he agrees with the MMA legal opinion. Although, there is not a perfectly clear legal answer, which is common in municipal law, what is clear is that requiring original signatures eliminates all ambiguities. The Select Board decided to not make any changes at this time.
- Rules and Guidelines for True Park: The Town Administrator provided approved minutes from 1996 and 1997 in which the Recreation Committee was established and rules and guidelines for the use of True Park were adopted. Upon review of the documents, the Select Board decided to table this item until the winter at which time they will define the roles and responsibilities of the Recreation Committee and update the rules and guidelines as needed.

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- The application for the property tax stabilization is now available on the town website and the town office during regular business hours. There is information on the town website including a list of frequently asked questions to help residents understand the program as it is currently written.
- Matthew and I will be meeting with the Town Attorney and 2 representatives from the DEP to review reports and surveys of the violation area on Highfield Rd. on Friday.
- The Planning Board approved recommending removing Mr. Leppanen's property from resource protection. They are working on finalizing the Findings of Fact in order to refer the matter to the Select Board. Once the referral has been made, the Select Board will have to determine how to proceed which may include holding a Special Town Meeting.
- There were 4 building permits and 1 plumbing permit issued since the last Select Board meeting.
 - Amanda Simko – 25 Beaver Lodge Rd – Home Occupation (online coffee bean sales)
 - Jon Gallagher – 32 Hackleburnham Rd – Accessory Structure
 - John Wesowicz – 70 Annis Ln – Renovations & Redistribution of structure space
 - Bruce Steele – 165 Alford Lake Rd – Mobile Home w/deck
- There are 7 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$21,859.28. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 24 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$46,364.57. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.

- There are 1,174 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$3,286,445.48. The first payment is due on September 30, 2022.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the last Select Board meeting on 7/26/22.

Adjournment:

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. It was seconded by Mike.
Motion passed 4-0

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