

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Hope Town Office

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Charlie Weidman (*arrived later*), Mike Brown, Michael Schultz, and Wayne Luce

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Sarah.

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

The agenda was approved as written by consent.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- August 22, 2023: Mike made a motion to approve the August 22, 2023 minutes as written. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 3-0-1 (*Mike*)

Warrants 16, 17, & 18:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Mike made a motion to approve and sign warrants 16, 17, and 18. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

New Business:

- FY 2023 Carry Forward, Administration - \$25,000: Mike made a motion to carry forward \$25,000 from the FY23 Administration Cost Center. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

- Create New Reserve Account for Vacation/Sick Time End of Employment Payouts: Michael made a motion to create a Reserve Account for administration payroll vacation and/sick time pay outs in accordance with the Town's Personnel Policy and to fund it using the \$25,000 from the carry forward from the previous vote. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

- Utilize \$40,650 from FY23 Public Works, Roads Budget for FY23 FEMA Reimbursement Difference for Emergency Road Repairs from Halloween Storm: Micheal made a motion to

utilize the remaining funds from the FY23 Public Works Cost Center, Roads Budget for the unplanned maintenance road repair that was not fully reimbursed by FEMA. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion passed 4-0

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator's Report:

- The Road Commissioner and I met with a team from FEMA for the Recovery Scoping Meeting from the May Day (2023) Storm. There is still quite a bit of paperwork to submit and a few additional meetings. However, since all of the work has already been completed and there are no pending projects with this particular disaster declaration, we are hopeful that it won't take as long to finish the process and receive the necessary reimbursement.
- John began the work on High St. today including replacing the large culvert. The street is expected to be closed throughout the week. Notices have been posted on the website and Facebook pages. Clarence has notified emergency provider personnel as well.
- Knox County signed a contract with Waldo County for dispatch services. As a result, every municipality within the county made the dispatch payment, including Hope.
- The CEO, Town Attorney, and I have developed some finalized terms for the Consent Agreement with Mr. Kelly. The Restoration Plan is acceptable to both parties and the DEP is working on some final permitting issues. Depending on our attorney's schedule, he will attend an executive session to review the document and terms with the Select Board.
- The Town Clerk is away on vacation for the next couple of weeks. It is our understanding that she will be getting married this Friday. Congratulations! In the meantime, Sarah, our new Deputy Town Clerk, has been handling the counter and clerk responsibilities very well.
- The Planning Board held a workshop regarding the metallic mining ordinance information last Thursday. They will be holding an Affordable Housing workshop this Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in order to begin developments of amendments to the Land Use Ordinance. The State has given municipalities a deadline of June 30, 2024 to update the ordinances.
- I am planning on taking 2½ to 3 weeks of vacation time during the second half of October.
- I have reached out to the Town's plowing contractor so that he can have a pre-winter preparedness meeting with the Select Board. We have yet to set a specific date but he said late October or the beginning of November would work best for him.
- There were 2 new building permits and 2 plumbing permits since the 8/22/23 Select Board meeting:
 - Francis Tax 135 Beaver Lodge Rd. Veg. clearing in the SZ
 - Chad Howard 8 Morton Ln. Stair access to shore & extension of deck

- There are 4 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$19,258.63. Unpaid 2022 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 27, 2024, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 23 RE accounts for 2023, totaling \$47,535.64. Unpaid 2023 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 11, 2025, if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 1,128 RE accounts for 2024, totaling \$3,218,183.89. The first half of the 2024 taxes are due on Tuesday, October 3rd.
- The cash has not been out of balance since the Select Board meeting on 8/22/23.

Adjournment:

- Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 5-0