

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING

Hope Select Board

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

6:30 PM

Hope Town Office

View the meeting in its entirety at

https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hope_me

Board Members Present:

- Sarah Ann Smith, Dick Crabtree, Wendy Pelletier, and Bruce Haffner (via Zoom)

Others Present:

- Samantha Mank, Rick Catalano, Mike Catalano, and Paul Smith

Call to Order:

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

Agenda Adjustments/Approval:

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

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- August 10, 2021: Wendy made a motion to approve the 8/10/21 minutes. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 4-0
- August 24, 2021: Wendy made a motion to approve the 8/10/21 minutes. It was seconded by Dick.
Motion passed 4-0

Warrants 18, 19, 21, & 22:

- The Select Board reviewed the warrants. Dick made a motion to approve, and sign warrants 18, 19, 21, and 22. It was seconded by Wendy.
Motion passed 4-0

Assessors:

- Suspend as Select Board and Convene as Board of Assessors: Wendy made a motion to suspend as the Select Board and to convene as the Board of Assessors. It was seconded by Bruce.
Motion passed 4-0
- Abatement for Sweet Tree Arts – 293 Ludwig Rd. (\$5,252.81): The Assessors reviewed the abatement request from the Assessors' Agent, Vern Ziegler. Dick made a motion to

approve the abatement for Sweet Tree Arts in the amount of \$5,252.81 due to improperly assessed taxes. It was seconded by Bruce.

Motion passed 4-0

- Tree Growth Withdrawal Penalty, Rick & Cindy Catalano – 22 Heritage Lane (\$1,560.00): The Assessors reviewed the penalty request from the Assessors' Agent, Vern Ziegler. Dick made a motion to assess a penalty of \$1,560.00 for removing property from tree growth to Rick and Cindy Catalano. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 4-0

- Adjourn as Board of Assessors and Reconvene as Select Board: Dick made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and to reconvene as the Select Board. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 4-0

New Business:

- Planning Board Resignation – Mark Dierckes: Dick made a motion to accept the resignation of Mark Dierckes from the Planning Board. It was seconded by Wendy.

Motion passed 4-0

Old Business:

- Easement for Wayne Breda & Sarah McBrian and Revision Energy 56 Blueberry Hill Rd: Mr. Breda and Ms. McBrian sent a letter to the Select Board stating they still want to be granted an easement. The Town Attorney has advised the Select Board to offer a license agreement. Since the road in question is a Town public way, the Select Board does not have the authority to grant such an easement. This issue would have to be approved by the voters at Town Meeting. A company such as Revision Energy knows that written approval is required prior to digging up a town road. Dick made a motion to deny the request for an easement but would still offer the license agreement. It was seconded by Wendy. If motion passes, the Town Administrator will send them a letter.

Motion passed 4-0

- Request for funding to have Town Attorney draft a Consent Agreement for Shoreland Zone & Land Use Violations – Douglas Kelly: After some discussion, this item was tabled in order for the Town Administrator to provide additional information to the Select Board.

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator Report:

- Road Commissioner, John Monroe, is out of town for a couple of weeks. He said that he believes his people will be able to handle anything that comes up until his return. He also mentioned that there was a very large beaver dam on Ludwig Rd. He worked approx. 6 hours to get the culvert unplugged and was able to get the backed up water draining.

- Harbor Digital noticed that there were a couple of Towns that use Office 365 that didn't have the antivirus protection on the emails including attachments and links. It will cost \$288 a year to have it added onto all of the Town email accounts.
- I was able to get a short extension from the County regarding requesting ARPA funds. That extension ended today. I was able to start working on the application. Sarah suggested seeing if it were possible to get assistance with the sand/salt shed roof.
- If we are not selected to receive assistance from the County, there is the possibility of another stimulus package that could potentially help with the sand/salt shed. On August 10th, the Senate passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The House will consider the bill by September 27th. This \$1-trillion bill would provide roughly \$550 billion of additional spending for roads, bridges, public transit, electric vehicle charging, and broadband internet. This means Maine could receive about \$1.3 billion in core federal highway and bridge program funding through FY 2026.
- The State has finally started releasing the ARPA money to the Towns. I have created the Town's account and submitted all of the required items. The first half of the funds can be released once all of the documentation has been accepted, reviewed, and approved.
- The first half of RE 2022 real estate taxes are due on September 30th.
- There are 10 real estate 2020 accounts totaling \$29,792.61. Unpaid 2020 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 10, 2022 if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 34 RE accounts for 2021, totaling \$71,003.43. Unpaid 2021 real estate taxes will automatically foreclose on February 3, 2023 if the accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 1,079 RE accounts for 2022, totaling \$2,784,419.50. The taxes were committed on July 27, 2021. The first half is due on September 30, 2021.

Adjournment:

- Wendy made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. It was seconded by Dick.

Motion passed 4-0

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