

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING & WORKSHOP
Hope Select Board
September 24, 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, John Monroe, Clarence Keller, Sarah Chapman, Terry Crabtree, Joe Tassi, Joe Curll, and Gabrian McPhail

Public Hearing:

- 2024-25 General Assistance Ordinance amendment for maximum allowable assistance: Sarah opened the public hearing pursuant to 22 M.R.S. §4305 at 5:30.
- The public hearing was closed at 5:35 p.m.

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:35 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

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- September 10, 2024: Charlie made a motion to approve the 9/10/24 minutes with minor edits. It was seconded by Crystal.
Motion passed 4-0

Warrants 21, 22, & 23:

- Charlie made a motion to approve and sign the Treasurers and Payroll warrants 21, 22, and 23. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

- Adoption of 2024-25 General Assistance Maximums: Crystal expressed concerns about the potential of Town being required to support individuals who aren't residents of Hope. In addition, she wanted to know what precautions the Town can take should Hope get an unexpected influx of people and/or families who are undocumented. She doesn't want to sign a document that could put the Town at a financial or resource risk. There were some ongoing discussions regarding options however, ultimately, there were too many "what ifs" to address at this time, and the Select Board decided to handle any situation that arises on a case-by-case

basis. Charlie made a motion to adopt the 2024-2025 maximum levels of general assistance, appendices A thru H and recovery residences, for Knox County. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion passed 4-0

- FY 2024 Carry Forwards:

- ARPA Funds - \$62,149.11: Charlie made a motion to carry \$62,149.11 of ARPA funds forward from FY2024 to FY2025. It was seconded by Crystal.

Motion passed 4-0

- Professional Services, Assessing - \$2,101: Charlie made a motion **to** carry \$2,101 from the Professional Services for Assessing forward from FY2024 to FY2025. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 4-0

- Scope of Work & Service Agreement w/ Resilient Communities- Gabrian McPhail: **motion** to approve the Scope of Work and Service Agreement with Resilient Communities, Gabriel, McPhail, for \$4000 from September 24, 2024 until December 31, 2024 and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement. It was seconded by Sarah.

Motion passed 3-1 (Crystal)

- Appoint a Resilient Communities Task Force Committee: Charlie made a motion to a point John Monroe, Clarence Keller, Joe Curll, Charlie Weidman, Joe Tassi, Sarah Chapman, Terry Crabtree, and Samantha Mank to the Resilient Communities Task Force Committee. This committee assignment will expire on December 31, 2024. It was seconded by Wayne.

Motion passed 3-0-1 (Crystal)

Old Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Town Administrator's Report:

- Property owner on Highfield Rd says he has completed all of the required work as stipulated in the Consent Agreement. The CEO and I will be meeting with Asa Peats next week to inspect the work and confirm compliance with the Consent Agreement plans. The deadline for completion is November 14th.
- The ACO is working with the state's Animal Welfare Department regarding a person prohibited by court order from owning or boarding animals on Blueberry Ln.
- I will be meeting with Leticia van Vuuren from Knox County EMA next week regarding GIS services.
- I will be attending a municipal roundtable meeting in Warren next week hosted by the Office of Cannabis Policy.
- The roads plowing bid for 2025-2028 with potential for 2 separate one year extensions until 2023 is currently being advertised. The bid deadline is October 4th.

- Gusco is still waiting for certain component parts for the new server. It is unknown when they will be available.
- We have started the process for creating the new Town website. The plan is to also change the domain to .gov when the new site goes live. The exact timeline is still unknown.
- The Fire & EMS Report for 2024 has been released and given to the towns in Knox County as well as Lincolnville, and Waldoboro. The report gives a synopsis of both fire and ambulance services within the county and offers recommendations to enhance those services.
- Hope’s Town Report has won first place in the MMA Town Report Contest. Congratulations to Sarah Chapman for to her work on creating this year’s report.
- There were 9 building permits, and 6 plumbing permits issued since the 9/10/24 Select Board meeting.
 - Chris Robinson 83 Gurney Hill Rd Decks
 - Alvena Buckingham 25 Laughing Waters Ln Timber Harvesting
 - Jim Denman 18 White Hart Ln SFD & Garage
 - Chris Feener 34 Sacoia Ridge Way SFD w/ Deck
 - Randy Goderre 7 Lakeview Ln Tree Cutting in SZ
 - Don Pendleton 356 Main St Addition
 - Mazie Cox 127 Payson Path Tree Cutting in SZ
 - Johanna Stinson 13 Laughing Waters Ln Tree Cutting in SZ
 - Liisa Yaskoski 119 Gurney Hill Rd Accessory Structure
- There are 1,093 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2025, totaling \$3,162,969.50. The first half of taxes is due on October 1, 2024.
- There are 27 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2024, totaling \$49,079.19. Unpaid 2024 real estate taxes will automatically be foreclosed on February 20, 2026, if those accounts are not paid in full.
- There are 8 RE accounts with remaining balances for FY2023, totaling \$24,046.07. 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 6:01 p.m. It was seconded by Wayne.
Motion Passed 4-0

Workshop:

- Resilient Communities Partnership – Gabrian McPhail: Began at 6:01p.m., ended at 7:30 p.m.