

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007
HOPE TOWN OFFICE
6:30 P.M.**

Note: These minutes may not be considered an official public record until such time as they are read and accepted by the Board of Selectmen.

Board Members Present: James Annis, Barbara Bentley, Tim Pearse

Board Members Absent: Eric Campbell, Ray Sisk

Others Present: Jon Duke, Vern Zeigler, Andrew Stewart, Matthew Brennan

I. Call the Meeting to Order

James Annis called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Barbara Bentley made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Tim Pearse seconded. 3-0

III. Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator described for the Board the plans for the upcoming Special Town Meeting on January 28th, and how preparations are nearly complete for the event.

Secondly, the Administrator presented the 2nd Quarter Financial Report, as prepared by Bookkeeper Mary Cooke, and explained that the town is in a much better fiscal position than it was at this time a year ago. Property tax and excise tax revenues are all up over last year by a significant amount and our undesignated fund balance is in a good position after some tenuous times last spring. The Board wished to thank the bookkeeper for an outstanding job in presenting this report and in her work for the town.

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

a. Liquor Sales

Andrew Stewart, on behalf of Hope 4 Jazz, and Matt Brennan would like to be able to sell food, beer and wine in a tent on the festival grounds at this year's upcoming Hope 4 Jazz festival. Judging from last year's crowd, this would be a prototypical "jazz festival clientele" and would be quite docile in comparison to crowds of other music themed festivals. Hope 4 Jazz is planning to have a police officer on site all day to deal with any disturbances. The food and drink tent would be located in a roped off area that would be carefully monitored. Matt Brennan has done a number of events for his catering business and has obtained the permits necessary to cater and a million dollar liability insurance policy. If the Board agreed with the concept of allowing liquor sales at Hope4Jazz, a

public hearing would be held no more than 60 days prior to the event to approve a catering function permit. This public hearing would contain all the usual notice so that citizens can weigh in as to whether they wish to see this permit approved. While the organizers of Hope4Jazz would like the ability to sell alcohol onsite, they do believe they could operate without it. As a note, last year's festival attendance totaled over 400 on a very cold and rainy day, so it would appear one police officer should be able to address any concerns with that small of a crowd.

b. New Fire Station Sewer System Design

The Town Administrator presented to the Board a letter from Gartley & Dorsky proposing to conduct a soil test and complete a septic system design for the proposed new fire station at Hope Corner. The cost of this design would be \$600 plus reimbursable expenses and the funds would be taken from the new fire station reserve account.

Tim Pearse made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$600 for the testing and design of a septic system at the proposed new Hope Corner fire station. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

c. Warrant Approval 51-54

Barbara Bentley made a motion to approve warrants 51-54. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Tim Pearse made motion to exit as Selectmen and enter as the Board of Assessors. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

VI. Board of Assessors

a. Personal Property Tax letter

The Board reviewed the letter drafted by the Assessors' Agent and Barbara Bentley for the purposes of circulating to all Hope residents in the hopes of raising awareness and compliance with changes in the state's personal property tax laws. The Board suggested simplifying the letter and having the town attorney review the letter for his comments.

Tim Pearse made a motion to exit the meeting as the Board of Assessors and re-enter as the Board of Selectmen. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 3-0**

VII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 3-0**