

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010  
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:** Mike Ames, Tim Pearse, Barbara Bentley, Kathleen Hastings, Eric Campbell

**Others Present:** Jon Duke, Alex Ludwig, Jake Esancy, Brian Powers, John Jensen, Lois Jensen

**I. Call the Meeting to Order**

Barbara Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**II. Minutes**

**a. Minutes of the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Tim Pearse moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Selectmen as modified. **Motion passed 5-0**

**III. Selectmen's Roundtable**

- Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Hope Town Office.
- Tim Pearse noted the presence of the new fire truck at the Hope Corner Fire Station.
- Barbara Bentley inquired with the Road Commissioner regarding plugged culverts along Hatchet Mountain Road near Mansfield Pond and asked if the state can visit those areas so that the road avoids unnecessary damage.
- Brian Powers asked the Board to get answers from the DEP on the specifics they will need so that they can best request from the DEP initiation of ending receivership of the Union Chemical property. Powers suggested the Board needs a specific list on the restrictions of use for the site, current encumbrances on the future, how many wells there are (capped and uncapped), and where those wells are located. Powers saw great value in a survey of the property conducted by Woodward and Curran as a means to understand and clarify the status of the woods roads that run through the property.

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Selectmen and convene as the Board of Assessors. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**IV. Board of Assessors**

**a. Abatement Request – Robin Esancy**

Jake Esancy spoke to the Board regarding his request for an abatement. Mr. Esancy provided a copy an "A.L.T.A. Commitment Schedule C" to support his claim that his

value is too high for what the reality of the situation is. Assessors' Agent Vern Zeigler provided a letter to the Board supporting his recommendation that the Board deny the request due to the fact that Mr. Esancy did not adequately provide a "supportable, defensible, and conflicting estimate of value."

Tim Pearse made a motion to deny the abatement request by Robin Esancy. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**b. Abatement Request – Todd Snyder**

Tim Pearse made a motion to approve the abatement request for Todd Snyder in the amount of \$209.99. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**c. Abatement Request – Charlie Benjamin**

Tim Pearse made a motion to approve the abatement request for Charlie Benjamin in the amount of \$261.86. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**d. 2010 Municipal Valuation Return**

Eric Campbell made a motion to sign the 2010 Municipal Valuation Return. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and re-convene as the Board of Selectmen. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

#### **IV. Town Administrator's Report**

- During a call earlier this month, one of the fire trucks and the building at the South Hope station sustained some damage due to a gear door accidentally being left open as the truck rolled out the door. The total damage for this accident is over \$1,400, but should be covered by the town's casualty and liability coverage through MMA.
- Knox County recently completed a study of their operations conducted by Municipal Resources that found a number of efficiencies including the reduction of staff in some areas and a shift of resources to the finance department. It is expected that many of the proposal's recommendations will be adopted by in the county budget process currently underway.
- The RPC that is investigating consolidation of local schools may be taking a permanent hiatus due to a lack of support from SAD 28. It appears SAD 28 feels that not enough attention has been given to the impacts on the students themselves as a result of any consolidation plan and hope take a slower approach before they would support consolidating.

#### **V. Unfinished Business**

**a. South Hope Cell Tower Information Update**

The town has revised its offer to the developer and should expect to hear an answer soon as to how well that offer was received.

**b. South Hope Cell Tower Information Update**

Jon met with four architectural firms last week following their response to the Town's RFP for the Town Office Building ADA Renovation project. The Board asked for Jon to

receive a clearer understanding of a handful of the proposals, for each to re-affirm a commitment to the schedule planned, and a better explanation on the degree of detail on the “as built” drawings.

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. FY 11 Paving Discussion**

Alex Ludwig spoke with Marriner’s several times over the past few weeks regarding the scheduling of the Town’s FY 11 paving schedule. Lee Andrews from Marriner’s claimed initially that the Town’s paving would be done the week of the 18<sup>th</sup>, but nothing was complete. Alex called once again Monday and was told any day they could come after they complete Rockport’s paving.

The Board asked Alex to contact Lee Andrews once again to request that the work completed by the close of business Friday, or the Town will explore other options to complete the work planned.

### **b. Approval of Warrants**

Eric Campbell moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to approve warrants 29-31.  
**Motion approved 5-0.**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Mike Ames moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**