

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 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, Eric Campbell, Kathleen Hastings

Others Present: Jon Duke, Alex Ludwig, Bruce Melanson, Leslie Robinson

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the November 23rd meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Eric Campbell moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the November 23rd meeting of the Board of Selectmen as modified. **Motion passed 5-0.**

III. Town Administrator's Report

- Meetings with property owners affected by the proposed expansion of Resource Protection zones, as mandated by the Maine DEP, have continued but should wrap just before the end of the year. Only two minor revisions to the map will be suggested to Maine DEP's review.
- Midcoast Solid Waste Corporation's FY2012 budget will be voted on Wednesday evening with a proposed cut in the Town of Hope's contribution by nearly \$5000.
- Knox County's FY 2011 budget is also nearing completion this week. At last look, the proposed budget will reduce Hope's contribution to the county by nearly \$1000.
- Jon received an inquiry from Principal Carol Hathorne regarding the need for signage and a reduced speed limit on Barnestown Road from the Rt. 235 intersection to just past the town's sand shed. Jon informed Carol that the town has already made a request of the DOT to review the speed limit in that area in response to concerns brought forward by residents living in that area and that the town will continue to pursue this review as soon as possible.
- The Town Office is now accepting credit cards, and residents can use that service for a small, non-refundable service fee. Town Clerk Katie Butler is now working on online property tax payments and hopes to have that in place well advance of the next tax due date of April 30th.
- 2A Architects have completed their review of the Town Office building and have prepared a conditions report that assesses the status of the building and deficiencies in terms of ADA, life safety, and overall suitability. 2A will transition into developing schemes (and accompanying pricing) for the Board of Selectmen to review and eventually endorse as a path toward full ADA compliance.

IV. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place Tuesday, December 28th at 6:30pm at the Hope Town Office.
- Tim Pearse asked Alex about where Marriner's stands in regards to the remaining shoulder work on the roads that had been paved this past fall. Marriner's machine broke down and with the colder weather, it may be a challenge to see this completed this year. Perhaps the shoulder work could be included as an option as a part of the annual paving bid.
- Eric Campbell inquired about the status of the Riggs property on Hatchet Mountain Road and whether or not the construction of a basement space required a building permit. Jon replied that basements, under current ordinance and town policy, do not require a building permit, but any additional square footage beyond 100 sq. ft. does require a permit. Mr. Riggs received a permit to demolish a section of his existing building and rebuild that space with a slight increase in area plus a full basement. Mr. Riggs may need to return for an additional permit if there is additional space added on the second floor.
- Wayne Luce contacted Jon earlier Tuesday regarding an issue with the turn for his school buses going from Beverage Road onto Church Street. Alex Ludwig pledged that he would take a further look at the situation and return with a price to complete the work at the next Selectmen's meeting.

V. Unfinished Business

a. DEP Letter for Union Chemical

Jon noted for the Board that the town's attorney, Sally Daggett, has asked for more time to further review the town's situation as it pertains to the Union Chemical property. Sally will be contracting with a title extractor to provide a better picture as to the chain of title and any encumbrances that exist on the property.

b. Approval of Warrants

Eric Campbell moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to approve warrants 39-46.
Motion approved 5-0.

Eric Campbell made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Selectmen and enter as the Board of Assessors. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

VI. New Business

a. Abatement - Arnold Escancy

Eric Campbell made a motion to grant an abatement to Arnold Escancy in the amount of \$142.95. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

b. Abatement - Tim Pearse

Eric Campbell moved a motion to grant an abatement to Tim Pearse in the amount of \$337.76. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion approved 4-0-1 (Pearse abstaining)**

Kathleen Hastings made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and re-enter as the Board of Selectmen. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**