

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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, Eric Campbell, Tim Pearse, Ray Sisk

Others Present: Jon Duke, Ron Smith, Jeff Burgess, Bill Jones, Jean Ettlinger, Tim Higby, Ginny Ryan, Doug Merrill, Clarence Keller, Reney Croshere

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 22, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Barbara Bentley made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0-2** (Sisk and Campbell abstained)

III. Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator brought the Board up to speed on the progress of negotiations with the towns of Union and Appleton on a new Animal Control budget. The current Animal Control officer has requested some consideration of health insurance in the coming year budget, but the Administrator feels this would be a very onerous cost for a town as small as Hope. The towns are continuing to look at the issue and see if allowing the ACO to purchase her coverage through the Town of Union would result in a savings without higher assessments to the towns.

Aerial Survey and Photo has produced a preliminary set of maps and data for the Town of Hope to review and provide comment on. We will ask citizens to come into the office and look over the maps to determine if their lots are properly represented. If not, they may meet with the Assessor's Agent, but it is suggested these individuals bring documentation to support their claims (deeds, surveys, etc).

At our next meeting, Eric Gallant from the Midcoast Regional Planning Commission will attend to discuss the future of the Rt. 17 corridor with the Board. The MRPC has been given a grant by MDOT to examine this highway and how it affects those who live along it. The review will cover everything from environmental and economic concerns to land use and road maintenance. In addition, the MRPC is working with MDOT to compile surveys from municipalities about future road projects for the DOT's coming biennial plan.

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

a. Capital Planning Committee report

The Capital Planning Committee prepared a pair of reports for the Board: the Capital Plan and a roads plan. The committee felt that with the exception of two projects the prospective projects were too poorly defined to receive greater attention. The elementary school's septic system must be replaced if found to be failing, but that is unknown at this time. Science room renovations are not due to go before voters, but instead the funds will be raised by grants and contributions. Private financing of this project should be given public administrative oversight whether it is funded by the voters or not. Next, the fire department proposed purchasing a new brush/utility vehicle to replace a 1977 pickup it is using in a similar capacity, and the CPC agreed this was a legitimate need and asked that used trucks be considered in the bid process in addition to new vehicles.

Town Office modification was difficult to determine as the use of space is unknown due to school consolidation. However the building exterior should receive attention as maintenance has been deferred over the past several years. ADA compliance should be met with all deliberate speed and the Town should begin meeting needs soon. Storage is a concern (use of attic stairwell is dangerous) and the needs might be met with time as opposed to construction. Code needs should be met, but are dependent on interior work. Library requests are also dependent on interior. Delay on these items could cost even more than waiting to a greater extent.

Land Use Ordinance revisions are marked as a "should do" and these should be done as much as possible by town committees. Midcoast Regional Planning is a group who could be helpful in meeting the July 1, 2009 deadline. Grants should be sought to assist the ORC in their work to completing the Ordinance. 36 hours of use of MRP would be worth the cost of the yearly subscription fee of \$600.

Salt/shed, Barnestown walking path, True Park electrification, and Town Office sign are not projects that rise to the level of being a capital need. Roads did not offer a capital project, nor did a handful of other town departments and entities.

The committee circulated a form to departments to determine what capital projects would be submitted, how much it would cost, who would benefit from this project, and how would it benefit those individuals.

Roads

Bill Jones and Doug Merrill met with the Road Commissioner on the needs of Hope roads and through their meeting, and discussion with the rest of the committee, the CPC recommends a consistent repaving cycle. Hope had operated on a 7 year repaving cycle and changed that to a 10 year cycle a number of years ago. CPC recommended moving to an 8 year paving cycle, but noted that traffic should play a greater role in how often a road can be repaved. Moving from an 8 to 10 year cycle did very little to save a great deal of money as the length of road needed to pave year wouldn't be a significantly greater distance.

The new plowing/sanding contractor should be responsible for providing the material used for winter maintenance in the new contract next year. Town roads that currently do not meet subdivision standards should be upgraded to those standards as finances allow and traffic counts meet the needs. Unpaved roads should not be paved until more information can be obtained.

Road commissioner should be protected by conflict of interest by having the Selectmen and the Administrator maintain that costs be compared with prior expenditures and those undertaken by area towns.

b. New Fire Station Design-Build package

Chief Keller and Richard Higgins spoke with the Board regarding the progress made thus far toward completing a design-build package for a new Hope Corner fire station. The Chief was happy with the response at the Special Town Meeting in January, and the fire department has met with Higgins twice prior to this meeting to begin work on this design-build package.

Richard Higgins presented to the Board a pair of drawings: a floor plan of the building and a site plan. The Administrator noted that the DOT has approved a pair of entrances for the site, and work is underway to develop a septic design. Higgins also presented a preliminary schedule to meet all necessary deadlines and allow the Town for a firm bid price to vote on at the June Town Meeting.

Chief Keller noted that the committee working to fundraise for this effort has a number of events building up to the vote in June. A dance at the Elks' Lodge with Creatures of Habit on March 8, a St. Patrick's Day dinner at the Hatchet Mountain Publick House, a hypnotist comedian on April 5th, a supper at the elementary school in May, and a fundraising letter to all residents and landowners of Hope and businesses in Knox County have all been planned for the next few months. Adventure Advertising donated its services to construct a trifold brochure to explain the project and the needs of the department.

c. Warrant Approval 55-58

Ray Sisk made a motion to approve Warrants 55-58. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

d. Committee Appointments

Ray Sisk made a motion to appoint Mike Ames to the Cemetery Committee. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

VII. Adjournment

Eric Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**