

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011  
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, Barbara Bentley, Eric Campbell, Tim Pearse, Kathleen Hastings

**Others Present:** Jon Duke, Jean Ettlinger,

**I. Call the Meeting to Order**

Barbara Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

**II. Minutes**

**a. Minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Kathleen Hastings moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Selectmen as modified. **Motion passed 4-1.**  
**(Bentley opposed)**

**III. Town Administrator's Report**

- Jon presented to the Board the schedule for the budget committee meetings (March 2: Town Office, March 9: Administration, etc, March 16: Roads and Fire Dept.) and possible dates for the town office renovation bid process.
- 2A Architects are working on the design development sketches and will present those at the Board meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, the Board asked that 2A proceed with obtaining a structural engineer to review their plans for the building.
- Jon informed the Board that the state has revised the fees for plumbing permits and increasing the rates for internal plumbing to \$10 per fixture and \$250 for a subsurface wastewater system. The new fee schedule is posted in the Town Office.

**IV. Selectmen's Roundtable**

- Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place Tuesday, February 22 at 6:30pm at the Hope Town Office.

**V. Unfinished Business**

**a. Cemetery Committee**

The Cemetery Committee opened bids for removing several dangerous trees in the Hope Grove cemetery and elected to accept the lowest bid from Tom Massey and Dan Ford c/o Maine Tree Surgeon for \$3280. The Committee will need to revisit their budget to determine how much of the work can be done within this fiscal year and how much will need to be included in the FY12 budget.

The Board suggested investigating liability coverage for volunteers who work on town projects such as the cemetery committee or recreation committee members. This

insurance policy has been very inexpensive in the past, and with both groups becoming active it may make sense for the town to consider purchasing coverage.

Lastly the Board discussed the need for a purchasing policy for committees and at what price items before them should be put out to bid.

**b. Ordinance Review Committee update – Bill Jones**

Bill Jones reported that the ORC met last Thursday and after reflecting on the “waste of time” elected to change course and divide the remaining duties between Chris Hardy, Martie Cooper, and Bill Jones. Martie Cooper will be focusing on the definitions section, Chris Hardy will be examining the overall structure of the ordinance, and Bill Jones has the task of drafting alternatives of the village zones. The ORC will meet in two weeks with these tasks completed and then discuss the results of their labor.

Kathleen Hastings made a motion to request the Ordinance Review Committee complete remaining work, hand in work finished to date, and provide any information or recommendations toward a new land use ordinance at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**VI. New Business**

**a. Roads Commissioner Ordinance**

Jon Duke presented to the Board the results of the Roads Advisory Working Group’s efforts to provide clarity regarding the issue of an elected vs. appointed road commissioner. The group met since last September and examined the manner in which Hope handles road maintenance, how other similar sized towns in this area accomplish the same form of work, and what possibilities the Town of Hope could pursue to meet its road maintenance needs. The group prepared a draft Road Commissioner Ordinance, based largely on a model MMA has produced in its Municipal Roads Manual, that outlines the rights and responsibilities of the Road Commissioner and the Board of Selectmen. Because Hope does not have a charter, and state law leaves a great deal of “gray area” in the duties of the Selectmen and Road Commissioner, this ordinance should help provide those guiding principles. The proposed ordinance does change the road commissioner from an elected to an appointed position as the institutional controls the town possess lack any real enforcement in a worst case scenario where a road commissioner blatantly ignores his or her duties. In addition, the proposed ordinance ends the practice of hiring town employees to complete road work on the town’s behalf so as to ensure coverage under worker’s compensation. Left unmet under current practice, is meeting the worker safety concerned outlined by OSHA, or their Maine municipal counterpart, the Bureau of Labor Standards.

Kathleen Hastings moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to place the ordinance on the next Special Town Meeting warrant. **Motion approved 5-0.**

**b. Special Town Meeting Warrant**

Eric Campbell moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to set a Special Town Meeting for February 28, 2011 at 7pm at the Hope Town Office and the warrant as presented. **Motion approved 5-0.**

**c. Approval of Warrants**

Eric Campbell moved, and Tim Pearse seconded, a motion to approve warrants 57-59.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

**VIII. Adjournment**

Kathleen Hastings moved to adjourn at 9:40 pm. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**