

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008
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: Barbara Bentley, Ray Sisk, Tim Pearse

Board Members Absent: James Annis, Eric Campbell

Others Present: Jon Duke, Fred Holbrook, Richard Higgins, Clarence Keller, Tim Higbee

I. Call the Meeting to Order

Barbara Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M.

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse tabled consideration of the minutes from the February 26, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Barbara Bentley seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

III. Town Administrator's Report

The Administrator described to the Board the new procedure for the adoption of the school budget and how it would affect the town. The Town will be required to have a Special Town Meeting prior to the June election to set the budget, and the election itself will only have 1 question on the school ballot as to whether the entire budget should be adopted.

IV. Unfinished Business

a. Fire Station Design-Build package update

Richard Higgins reported to the Board that he received 8 responses to the letters and advertisement in the newspaper asking contractors to contact him if they are interested in being part of the design-build bid process for the new fire station. Richard presented to the Board the final draft of the sketches he would include in the design-build package and asked that the Board approve the sketches and plan.

Ray Sisk made a motion to approve the sketches and plan as presented and subsequently send bid requests to each of the eight responding contractors. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

In addition Scott Nelson, Alex Ludwig, Fred Holbrook, Richard Higgins, and the Town Administrator will be present on April 10th for the bid opening. That group will give the Selectmen a recommendation of top two bidders, and a listing of the responses of all bidders. The Selectmen will meet that evening to give a direction on the next step. Vera

Rand will be invited to join the bid opening committee to give her expertise in banking and experience on the Fire and Emergency Services Capital Planning Committee.

V. New Business

a. Preliminary Budget discussion

The Town Administrator presented to the Selectmen the Fiscal Year 2009 municipal budget and highlighted areas of note over the past year's budget. The Administrator is recommending adding 4 hours to each front office position for the purpose of changing the Town Office business hours from 3 days a week to 5. This will allow the Administrator to gain more clerical help, and expand the ability for citizens to come into the office during normal business hours. The Administrator also included funds for the purpose of purchasing the TRIO motor vehicle module so that the vehicle registrations would no longer be done manually and would be digitized, which would be much more efficient and minimize errors. Lastly, the Administrator has budgeted to hire consultants to assist the Ordinance Review Committee in their revision of the Land Use Ordinance.

The Roads budget is largely impacted by the increased costs and mileage required for repaving the remainder of Alford Lake Road. This would be a resumption of the 10 year repaving plan the town has embarked on since 2001, and interrupted last year. The remaining 1.8 miles of road on Alford Lake Road to be repaved does not account for miles overlooked last year.

Budget review sessions with the Budget Committee are scheduled for April 1st and 2nd at 6:30pm at the Town Office.

b. Route 17 Corridor Group appointments

Tim Pearse made a motion to appoint Andy Rowe to the Route 17 Corridor committee. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

c. Warrant Approval 68-71

Ray Sisk made a motion to approve Warrants 68-71. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0**

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

V. Board of Assessors

a. Abatement – Don Young

Ray Sisk made a motion to grant an abatement to Don Young in the amount of \$37.76. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 3-0**

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

VI. Adjournment

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn at 9:55pm. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 3-0**