

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 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: Barbara Bentley, Mike Ames, Ray Sisk, Tim Pearse

Board Members Absent: Kathleen Hastings

Others Present: Jon Duke, Alex Ludwig, Mike Hoffman, Mari Hoffman, Leslie Robinson, Mike Eaton, Fred Holbrook, Clarence Keller

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the December 22, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the December 22nd meeting of the Board of Selectmen as modified. **Motion passed 3-0-1.**
(Sisk abstained)

b. Minutes of the March 9, 2010 meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Ray Sisk moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9th meeting of the Board of Selectmen as modified. **Motion passed 3-0-1.**
(Pearse abstained)

Ray Sisk made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Selectmen and convene as the Board of Assessors. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion 4-0.**

III. Board of Assessors

a. Abatement – Mike and Mari Hoffman

Mike Ames made a motion to grant an abatement to Mike and Mari Hoffman in the amount of \$1084.11 for their property on Quarterhorse Drive. Tim Pearse seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Tim Pearse made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and re-convene as the Board of Selectmen. Ray Sisk seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

IV. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting will be at the Hope Town Office on April 13th
- Chief Keller noted that the Fire Department Auxillary will be working with the Knox County EMA office to train county residents in sheltering those in need during a disaster situation.

V. Town Administrator's Report

- John McKay emailed Jon to inform him of the rapidly deteriorating condition of Route 105 and some general concerns related to plowing and sanding. Jon forwarded the email to Farley and Son Landscaping for their comment, and engaged in a dialog with Mr. McKay regarding the fact that while Route 105 has been placed on the list of roads to be re-paved this coming summer, Route 105 is at the bottom of the list. Often times, items near the bottom of the list are removed due to high asphalt costs.
- In addition to the above conversation, at a recent meeting of the Midcoast Municipal Association, Pete Coughlan of the Maine DOT's Local Roads Center attended to discuss the work done by a legislative blue ribbon commission in examining the re-classification of the state's roads. Most notable in this committee's work for Hope, is that it appears the committee will recommend the state handing over all minor collector roads to the municipalities. Which would mean routes 105, 235 and Barnestown road would become town roads that Hope would maintain year round. While there are some funds that will be available for the purpose of maintaining these roads from the state, the costs far outweigh any revenues as this plan would double the miles of town roads from 17 miles to nearly 34 miles. Jon will monitor the situation closely and report back information to the Board as the committee completes its work and reports to the Legislature. No action will be taken until the Legislature approves the action, and a bill is signed by the next governor, next year.
- Katie Butler's official first day as town clerk began today though she attended mandatory Bureau of Motor Vehicles training early last week.
- Nomination papers are now available for the positions whose terms are ending in June. There are two selectmen seats available, five budget committee seats, and a pair of school board seats. Completed nominations papers, with at least 25 signatures of registered voters in Hope, are due by the close of business Friday, April 23.

VI. Old Business

a. Town Office ADA/Maintenance Plan

The Board discussed a variety of options as to how they should proceed in planning to address outstanding ADA issues in the town office in the FY 11 budget.

b. Fire Truck Repair Issue

Chief Keller worked with the fire department's chief officers to further investigate the options before the town in either repairing the 1977 utility truck or replacing the truck using funds from the Town's fire truck replacement reserve account. The current estimate of repair costs is \$1000, and the chief officers feel that those repairs would be well placed to provide the department and the Town the time it would need to research a capable replacement.

VII. New Business

a. Approval of Warrants

Ray Sisk moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve Warrants 71-73.

Motion approved 4-0.

b. Road Commissioner Warrant Article

Barbara Bentley moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to direct the Town Attorney to draft a warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting to change the position of Road Commissioner from elected to an appointed position beginning in June 2011. **Motion approved 4-0.**

VIII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 9:55 pm. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**