

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 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

Board Members Absent: Kathleen Hastings

Others Present: Jon Duke, Wendy Pelletier, Jan Campbell

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the February 22th meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tim Pearse moved, and Eric Campbell seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22nd meeting of the Board of Selectmen as modified. **Motion passed 3-0-1.**

III. Town Administrator's Report

- As a result of the rainstorm, water made its way into the basement office making the carpets damp. We used the dehumidifier, but we may want to consider purchasing a wet-dry vacuum to deal with the 5-6 events a year where water enters into the building. The Board suggested turning up the heat in the basement utilizing the fans and dehumidifier in an attempt to remove the dampness in the rug.
- The office toilets backed up today and we have called Interstate Septic to come in and pump out the septic tank. Despite the tank being a giant 2000 gallon tank, it has been nearly 12 years since the last time it was pumped. Interstate is unsure at this point if the problem rests with the tank or the pipe that runs under the road from the office to the tank on the opposite of the road. Alex will be helping us unearth the tank lid as it there is a sizable snow bank and frost in the ground.
- 2010 Census figures for the region were published in the Herald Gazette on Monday, and found Hope as the fastest growing town in the midcoast. With a population increase of over 25% during the last decade, Hope's household median income also grew though not at the same rates as wealthier towns such as Camden, Rockport, or St. George. The new total population for Hope is 1671, nearly four times the town's population during the 1970 census.
- Hope's planning board will be considering an application from Chris and Lindsay Pinchbeck to develop the lot in Hope Corner formerly owned by the Desroisers family to create a workshop to make bagpipes and an art center for children. The application will be considered by the planning board at their next meeting, and a public hearing will be held on April 5th.
- Jon asked for direction from the Board as to how to deal with the issues highlighted at the Special Town Meeting on the matter of roads employees. The Board agreed to discuss the matter further with the Budget Committee during budget deliberations.

IV. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place Tuesday, March 22nd at 6:30pm at the Hope Town Office.
- The Budget Review Sessions with the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen will take place Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30pm at the Hope Town Office.
- Tim Pearse asked Alex Ludwig about the high price of gravel used to fill in the washed out areas as a result of the heavy rain storm of this past weekend. Alex replied that short supply has driving the abnormally high cost of gravel.

V. Unfinished Business

a. Hope Grove Cemetery Tree Trimming/Removal Contract

Jon presented to the Board a proposed contract with Tom Massey of Maine Tree Surgery for the removal and trimming of trees in the Hope Grove Cemetery. Jan Campbell of the Cemetery Committee met with Mr. Massey on the site to review the work to be done and mutually agreed upon the terms as outlined in the proposed contract.

Tim Pearse made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract with Maine Tree Surgery to remove and trim trees in the Hope Grove Cemetery. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 3-0-1 (Ames abstained)**

VI. New Business

a. Town Office Hours discussion

Jon presented to the Board a proposed set of office hours for the town office which add a fourth day open, but with minimal impact to the budget. The proposal adds one hour per day for the Town Clerk and for the Bookkeeper. The propose hours are Monday: Off, Tuesday: 7:30am to 4:30pm, Wednesday: 7:30am to 4:30pm, Thursday: 2pm to 8pm, and Friday: 7:30am to 4:30pm. The hours will be reassessed before July 1.

Tim Pearse moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to change the Town Office hours. **Motion approved 4-0.**

b. Town Administrator's FY 2012 Contract

Eric Campbell moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve the FY 2012 Town Administrator's contract. **Motion approved 4-0.**

c. Approval of contract with Official Payments

Eric Campbell moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign a contract with Official Payments to provide online payment of property taxes at a cost to be carried by those who wish to access that service. **Motion approved 4-0.**

d. Approval of Warrants

Tim Pearse moved, and Mike Ames seconded, a motion to approve warrants 64-66. **Motion approved 4-0.**

VII. Adjournment

Tim Pearse moved to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Mike Ames seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**