

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 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: Eric Campbell, Jason Hall, Kathleen Hastings, Tim Pearse, Wendy Pelletier

Others Present: Jon Duke, Francina Pearse

I. Call the Meeting to Order

Tim Pearse called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

II. Minutes

a. Minutes of the July 26th meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Wendy Pelletier moved, and Kathleen Hastings seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of the July 26th meeting of the Board of Selectmen as amended. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Hall abstained).**

IV. Selectmen's Roundtable

- Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place Tuesday, August 23rd at 6:30pm at the Hope Town Office
- Wendy Pelletier asked to have the calendar on the Town's website updated to reflect upcoming events

V. Town Administrator's Report

- Jon started his report by reminding everyone that two vacancies exist on the town's Planning Board and Board of Appeals. With the winter months not far away, absences become an issue and both groups could run the risk of being unable to meet due to a lack of a quorum.
- The county oil bid came in at a price of \$3.25 per gallon.
- Town Clerk Katie Butler was pleased to report that the number of liens filed on properties for unpaid taxes has dropped for the third straight year, from 74 in 2009 to 71 in 2010 to 66 in 2011.
- The Planning Board began its review of the draft land use ordinance at its meeting last week, but due to upcoming absences by members of the Board, their review process will be slowed considerably.

VI. Unfinished Business

a. Cemetery Committee Rules discussion

Jason Hall made a motion to approve the job description for Cemetery Sexton as proposed by the Cemetery Committee with an annual stipend of \$150 but an additional \$350 included in the FY 12 stipend to cover the one-time costs to create the position. The value of the stipend will be re-evaluated prior to the FY 13 budget process and potentially readjusted based upon the time documented to complete the job. The money to fund the position will be raised from funds already allocated in the Cemetery FY 12 budget. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion passed 4-0-1 (Campbell abstained).**

Kathleen Hastings made a motion to authorize the Cemetery Committee to designate the lanes between Rows 2 and 3, 4 and 5, 6 and 7, and 8 and 9 as usable plots in the Hope Grove Cemetery Extension and renumerate Rows 2A, 4A, 6A, and 8A accordingly. Eric Campbell seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

b. Town Office ADA Renovation discussion

The Board discussed the next steps in the process to have the Town consider whether or not to renovate the office space. The Board spent some time discussing the pros and cons of fully renovating the space of the building used by the library or only renovating enough to cover the full amount of the library's \$16,500 gift from their grant award from the Stephen King Foundation.

The Board will make determinations at their next meeting regarding the scope of the package to be discussed at the information meeting, and Jon will prepare a project budget, mil rate impacts if borrowing is needed, and provide details as to how much of the undesignated fund could be spent without impacting the town's cash flow.

c. FY 12 Assessors Agent Contract

Kathleen Hastings made a motion to sign a contract with Vern Zeigler of Fort Halifax Appraisers to provide assessing services for Town of Hope for Fiscal Year 2012. Wendy Pelletier seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VII. New Business

a. FY 12 Road Plan – John Monroe

John Monroe presented to the Board a draft copy of his roads plan for FY 12 and discussed the incomplete road edging project left over from FY 11.

b. Approval of Warrants

Eric Campbell moved, and Kathleen Hastings seconded, a motion to approve warrants 8-10 with the two checks to be released regarding the Hope Elementary School science project held until the School Committee accepts the gift of \$85,000 from the Hope Library Committee. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Eric Campbell made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Selectmen and convene as the Board of Assessors. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

VIII. Board of Assessors

a. Abatement – Lester Lasko

Jason Hall moved, and Eric Campbell seconded, a motion to deny the abatement from Lester Lasko. **Motion approved 5-0.**

b. Abatement – Sheryl and Scott Young

Eric Campbell moved, and Jason Hall seconded, a motion to approve an abatement to bring the total value of the property to \$157,900. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Eric Campbell made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors and convene as the Board of Selectmen. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

IX. Adjournment

Eric Campbell moved to adjourn at 10:05 pm. Kathleen Hastings seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**