



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Selectmen
Robert P. Burns
Sandra Biagetti, Acting Chair

Town Coordinator
Steven A. Sette

Board of Selectmen Minutes
April 13, 2015

The regular Meeting of the Board and Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Biagetti in the Draper Room of Town Hall.

Chair Biagetti read a prepared statement on the passing of Town Clerk and Board of Selectmen colleague Janet Orff Jacaruso. Sandra then asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of "our colleague and friend Janet".

Present: Chair Sandra Biagetti, Selectman Burns, Town Coordinator Steven Sette, Executive Assistant Susan Brouwer, members of the public, and Videographer Art Maggiore.

Chair Biagetti moved to consent items on the agenda

1. Approval of Regular Minutes March 16, 2015

MSDV to passover the Regular Minutes March 16, 2015
Selectman Burns-Aye; Chair Biagetti-Aye

Chair Biagetti moved to Appointments and Resignations on the agenda

1. Resignation of Mary Draper – Assistant Town Clerk

MSDV to accept resignation of Mary Draper – Assistant Town Clerk
Selectman Burns-Aye; Chair Biagetti-Aye

2. Resignation of David Pighetti – Call Firefighter

MSDV to accept resignation of David Pighetti – Call Firefighter
Selectman Burns-Aye; Chair Biagetti-Aye

3. Resignation of Alberta M. Lachina – Retiree appointee to PEC Committee

MSDV to accept resignation of Alberta M. Lachina – Retiree appointee to PEC Committee
Selectman Burns-Aye; Chair Biagetti-Aye

Chair Biagetti moved to new business on the agenda

1. Joint meeting with members of the Board of Health to discuss Animal Control Officer Position

Board of Health Members Lou Arcudi and Walter Swift came forward. Having a quorum the Board of Health, Chair Arcudi opened the Board of Health meeting. Board of Selectmen Chair Biagetti stated she first wanted to make it very clear that she does not have any concerns with Animal Control Officer/Dog Officer John Gagnon's nor Health Agent Lenny Izzo's job performances in any way. Ms. Biagetti advised she felt that the Board of Health

may not have the time for oversight of the Dog Officer because when she attended a Board of Health meeting back in November, she believed the Board of Health voted to attach a backup log to the Dog Officer payroll warrant as backup. Mr. Arcudi responded that he recalled Ms. Biagetti bringing this matter up at the Board of Health meeting but the Board of Health never voted at the public meeting but rather had a discussion among members after the meeting to have further discussion at their next meeting. Ms. Biagetti disagreed with Mr. Arcudi that the Board of Health did not vote or agree to provide Animal Control/Dog Officer logs. Officer Gagnon who was present in the audience asked "what other positions in Town require back up before payroll is released?" Ms. Biagetti responded "she is responsible to the taxpayers to ensure she is doing her due diligence by reviewing all warrants including payroll warrants that they are properly signed, dated and any requested back up material(s) is/are provided". Mr. Arcudi responded the Health Agent authorizes the Animal Control/Dog Officers payroll and does not understand the need to provide backup logs in order to pay this position. Mr. Swift stated that he does not have a preference as to which board manages the Animal Control/Dog Officer but Walter wants to understand the Board's reason for transferring oversight of this position to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Biagetti restated her concerns. Mr. Swift then asked if the logs were provided would this satisfy the Board of Selectmen and would the board reconsider placing a warrant article at Town Meeting. Ms. Biagetti responded "No". Mr. Swift responded that if this is the case, he too would not support the Town Meeting article relinquishing the Board of Health's oversight of the Animal Control/Dog Officer position to the Board of Selectmen.

After a spirited discussion, Town Coordinator Sette provided guidance on considering the following as compromise to both boards. "If the Board of Health votes to agree to attach an Animal Control/Dog Officer log to each payroll that is submitted, the Board of Selectmen would not place an article on the Town Meeting warrant. After further discussion Ms. Biagetti added "that a log needs to be attached whether or not any calls were logged for that pay period".

Selectman Burns made a motion "If the Board of Health agrees to attach an activity log to the monthly Animal Control payment warrant, the Board of Selectmen will not pursue the Town Meeting warrant article regarding supervision of the Animal Control Officer." Ms. Biagetti seconded the motion and requested further discussion. Mr. Swift asked to clarify the motion by removing the "If the Board of Health" with "the Health Agent". Walter stated it is the Board of Health Agent's responsibility to submit payroll for the Animal Control Officer, so it will be his responsibility to provide the requested "Animal Control/Dog Officer activity logs with each payroll".

Mr. Swift made the following motion "The Board of Health will make a new policy to require the Health Agent to provide monthly Animal Control logs with each Animal Control Officer payroll warrant. Mr. Arcudi asked for discussion; there was none and the Board of Health vote was unanimous.

The Board of Selectmen then voted in support of not pursuing a town meeting warrant article to re-establish control of the Animal Control Officer. Under Discussion Ms. Biagetti said in the spirit of cooperation she would agree to this compromise.

Selectman Burns-Aye; Chair Biagetti-Aye

The Board of Health voted unanimously to adjourn their meeting at 8:00 pm.

2. Ratify signing of Local Election Warrant to be held on May 12, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the George A. Draper Gymnasium

MSDV to ratify signing of Local Election Warrant to be held on May 12, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the George A. Draper Gymnasium

Selectman Burns-Aye; Chair Biagetti-Aye

3. Building Commissioner – Proposed Policy – Refunds on Permit Fee to be effective April 1, 2015

Coordinator Sette advised the Building Commissioner plans to set a policy of refunding 50% of permit fees of projects that do not move forward. Steve advised the board to table this item to a future meeting when Building Commissioner Bob Speroni is available to discuss this proposal in more detail.

MSDV to table Building Commissioner – Proposed Policy – Refunds on Permit Fees to a future meeting.

Selectman Burns-Aye; Chair Biagetti-Aye

Chair Biagetti moved to old business on the agenda

None

Chair Biagetti then moved to other Items not reasonably anticipated

1. Mr. Lou Costanza asked to be recognized and handed a piece of paper to Board Members Burns and Biagetti. Chair Biagetti and Member Burns advised they have no comment. Mr. Costanza commented that he “wants to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals” he pointed and continued “Her term is up”. Mr. Costanza then turned and left the meeting.

Chair Biagetti then moved to Coordinator News

1. Coordinator Sette advised that the “2015 Annual Day in the Park” is scheduled for September 12 with a rain date of September 13.

Adjournment

With no further business before them at 8:12 p.m. the board adjourned.

Chair Biagetti-Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye

Sandra Biagetti, Chair

Robert P. Burns

**Hopedale Board of Selectmen
*Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted ** Roll Call Vote**