

**Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2022, 7:00 PM**

Present: Chair Keyes, Selectwoman Hazard, Selectman Stock, Town Administrator Schindler

Chair Keyes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Keyes began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reorganization of Hopedale Select Board

Selectman Keyes recognized Bernard J. Stock as just elected to Select Board. Selectman Stock moved to nominate Selectwoman Hazard for Chair.

Selectman Stock – Aye, Chairman Keyes – Aye, Selectwoman Hazard – Abstain. Passed 2 in favor. One abstention.

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee – FY23 Budget Review

-Town Hall Administrator Schindler recapped final updates to budget, including additions to Retirement and Health insurance premiums, a 5% increase for noncontract nonunion employees, and a reduction in the trash account line equal to 7%. Current end of year projection in the account reveals the trash budget is overstated currently by 20%. Free cash or ARPA must be utilized to balance the budget.

-Currently, there is \$1.5 million in ARPA that must be spent before **June 30th, 2026.** \$150k ARPA funds would go to fund Stormwater, as the Select Board originally determined the use for pandemic recovery expenses and water sourcing. More groups have come forth with requests and these need to be prioritized. ARPA should be used for one-time expenses, preferably investment capital. It could be used for matching funding for state and federal funding programs, such as Complete Streets, MVP, and other federal and state earmarks and grants and federal/state loan programs requiring matching funds. The group proposed reconvening after budget season to further prioritize and address.

- There is a 2-million-dollar federal earmark project request for funds to construct water storage tank from Tim Watson, Water/Sewer Superintendent. W/S is requesting \$165,000 from ARPA for the engineer. Chairman Keyes noted that more discussion must be had on how to use ARPA money. He brought up the potential for ARPA to be used for first responder equipment, hoses, and other public safety equipment. Town Administrator Schindler confirmed the town needs a new ambulance.

- The Finance Committee will be meeting tomorrow to finalize recommendations. The budget includes stipends as they were in the FY2019 warrant and doesn't include capital expenses. Stipends are not currently being recommended by the Fin Com. Finance Committee Chair, Chris Hodgins, stated that the stipend committee did not recommend the stipends as they may not be as motivational. \$75K is necessary according to Chair Hazard, Selectmen Keyes and Selectman Stock, and Town Administrator Schindler to hire a town planner. The recommendation is \$292,000 Free Cash and \$150,000 of ARPA.

Appointments & Resignations: None

Old Business

Review and Sign Final Annual Town Meeting Warrant (vote)

Selectman Stock – Aye, Chairman Keyes – Aye, Chairwoman Hazard – Aye

Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken)

Congratulations to the runners of the Hopedale 5k! Taylor Stock and Colin Black won in their gendered Categories. Thank you to the first responders as well. Request to Town Hall Administrator Schindler from Chair Keyes to contact Attorney Riley to amend any litigation documents to include Stock and Hazard.

Correspondence and Selectmen Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

Memorial Day Parade needs to be updated on the website. Flag day on June 14th at 8:30 at the little Red Shop.

Requests for Future Agenda Items

- COA is invited to meet with the Board to share about activities.
- Senator Fattman and Murray requested a consultant study last November to fund the Legacy and Climate resiliency project, to get \$4-\$5 million in federal funding for dredging Hopedale Pond.

Motion: To move into Executive Session, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a) for item # (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares, which he does. (Collective Bargaining; DPW, Clerical, Dispatch, Call and F/T Fire units).

Selectman Stock – Aye, Chairman Keyes – Aye, Chairman Hazard – Aye

Chairwoman Hazard dissolved the open meeting at 9:16 PM.

Submitted by:

Sara Refundini, Temporary Executive Assistant

Adopted: 08/01/2022