

**Select Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2023, 6:30p.m.**

Present: Chair Hazard, Selectman Keyes, Selectman Stock, Interim Town Administrator Nutting

Chair Hazard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Consent Items**

Review/Approve Select Board meeting minutes – May 9, 2022, March 14, 2022

Selectman Keyes stated he has read both meeting minutes and has no changes. Chair Hazard stated that Selectman Stock is not able to vote on these minutes because he was not elected to the Select Board at the time.

Selectman Keyes motioned to approve Select Board minutes from May 9, 2023 and March 14, 2023. Chair Hazard seconded the motion.

Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

**Appointments & Resignations**

Appointments to Town Administrator Search Committee

- Cheryl Moreci – Citizen-at-Large applicant
- Len Guertin - Citizen-at-Large applicant
- Mark Giovanella – Chief of Police
- Karen Crebase – Superintendent of Schools
- Lisa Pedroli – Town Clerk
- Jayne Solomon-Zissu – Personnel Board representative
- To be determined – Finance Committee representative

Town Administrator Nutting stated that the Finance Committee will have a representative shortly. Chair Hazard stated that she is comfortable with the list. Selectman Stock stated he is ready to approve the list to get the Administrator Search Committee started. Selectman Keyes wanted it to be on record that regarding the resident applicants, these were the only two applicants.

Selectman Stock motioned to approve the Town Administrator Search Committee as listed and to approve the Finance Committee Representative at a later date. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Accept resignation of part-time dispatcher Nicholas Walker

Chair Hazard read the resignation letter provided by Nicholas Walker. The Select Board thanked Nicholas for his time serving the Town of Hopedale and wished him well on his next endeavor.

Selectman Stock motioned to accept the resignation of part-time dispatcher Nicholas Walker. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

**New Business**

#### Highway Department Update - Chris Nadeau, Highway Superintendent

Chair Hazard informed the meeting participants that this item will be moved to a future agenda. The Highway Superintendent is not able to make tonight's meeting due to weather conditions.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Consider and Vote on Proposed Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022 Special Town Meeting**

Chair Hazard reminded the meeting participants that this vote will need to be taken monthly until the Town hears from the Judge.

Selectman Stock motioned to approve the Proposed Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022 Special Town Meeting. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Nay, Hazard – Aye

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

Chair Hazard stated that there will be an update regarding the Town Administrator Search Committee on a future agenda. This will cover the next steps the Search Committee will need to complete.

#### **Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken)**

- Hopedale Junior-Senior High School Graduation Ceremony Program and Program Insert
- Request from Worcester Regional Retirement System to consider additional 2% Cost of Living Increase for retirees, applied retroactively to July 1, 2022.
- Thank you letter from Jeff Nutting to Hopedale Friends of Elders, Inc. for their donation to the Hopedale Council on Aging
- Thank you letter from Jeff Nutting to Frederick G. Oldfield III for his donation to the Marjorie E. Hattersley Memorial Fund
- Congratulations letter from Jeff Nutting to Tricia Perry, Director of the Bancroft Memorial Library, for \$10,000 grant award from the Association for Rural and Small Libraries

#### **Requests for Future Agenda Items**

#### **Administrator Updates**

Financial Summit tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2023 in the Junior-Senior High School Auditorium

#### **Executive Session(s):**

- Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Berger v. Town of Hopedale)
- Purpose 3, G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), to discuss litigation strategy if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (High Hopes, LLC v. Town of Hopedale, Milford District Court, C.A. No. 2266CV162).
- Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) (Purpose #3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body (Collective Bargaining; Local 272 – Hopedale Highway, Water and Sewer and Local 272 - Clerical)

Chair Hazard read the executive session purposes above. Hazard stated the persons that will be present during the executive session are the members of the Select Board, Interim Town Administrator Nutting, Attorney Tim Zessin and Attorney Brian Riley.

Selectman Stock motioned to enter executive session per the purposes read by Chair Hazard, not to reconvene to open session. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Chair Hazard dissolved the meeting at 7:01p.m.

Submitted by:  
Lindsay Peterman

Board Approved: May 8, 2023