

**Select Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2023, 7:15 p.m.**

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

Chair Hazard called the meeting to order 7:15 p.m.

**Consent Items**

**Appointments & Resignations**

Applications for Community Preservation Committee

- Jim Abbruzzese
- Herbert T. Potter, Jr.

Talent bank forms for both applicants are available on the town website with the meeting packet. Both Mr. Potter and Mr. Abbruzzese were in attendance and spoke about their involvement in the town and interest in this committee appointment.

Motion made by Mr. Keyes and seconded by Mr. Stock to appoint Jim Abbruzzese and Herbert T. Potter, Jr. to the Community Preservation Committee.

Hazard- Aye Stock-Aye Keyes- Aye

**New Business**

Request for one-day liquor license – Blackstone Valley Curling Club:

Event to be held 3/25/23. All paperwork is in order.

Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Keyes to approve the one-day liquor license for the Blackstone Valley Curling Club.

Hazard- Aye Stock- Aye Keyes- Aye

Update from Highway Superintendent: As it is snowing, the Superintendent is not available.

Discussion regarding Private Ways

Mr. Nutting explained that there are several private ways that the Town either plows and/or on which the Town has performed some maintenance, noting that this issue is not unique to Hopedale. The relevant general laws were included in the meeting packet as well as a list of the private ways that the town currently maintains. Currently there is no bylaw concerning maintenance and snow removal on private ways. Mr. Nutting suggested that the Select Board and Road Commission should meet to discuss this matter and establish a consistent approach regarding maintenance of private ways.

Review/Approve Town Counsel response to Open Meeting Law complaint.

Mr. Nutting stated they received an open meeting law complaint and Kopelman Paige Law prepared a response for the Board's consideration; in their opinion there was no violation. The Board needs to vote to send the letter from KP Law.

Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Keyes to authorize the letter from KP Law to be sent.

Hazard- Aye Stock- Aye Keyes- Aye

## **Old Business**

No items

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

1. Mr. Stock stated that Congressman Jake Auchincloss recently met with members of the community. He spent a considerable amount of time in town and was very engaged and interested.
2. Mr. Stock stated that the Hopedale Blue Raiders had a great game and a great effort on Saturday. They are now in the state playoffs.
3. Mr. Keyes stated the Treasurer and Town Clerk obtained a grant of \$10,000 through MIIA for wellness programs, including the purchase of two treadmills which have been installed at Town Hall.
4. Mr. Keyes stated that there is information that the public should know about the town's litigation regarding the West Street property. Litigation costs are over \$300K which is primarily funded by donations. Mr. Keyes is concerned that there has not been a set process or account set up to deposit the donation directly and pay invoices directly from. He takes issue with the invoices being sent directly to the donors for the donors to pay.

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

Interim Town Administrator's letter to Zoning Board (included in meeting packet available on town website).

## **DCR Order to Conduct a Dam Safety Phase I Inspection**

Letter included in meeting packet available on town website.

## **Requests for Future Agenda Items**

None

## **Administrator Updates**

Financial Summit follow-up meeting March 6th 6:30 p.m.

The master budget version 1 was sent out to all departments today; numbers are still being crunched on four budgets. All committees are working extremely hard to really dig into the budget.

## **Information regarding May 9, 2023, Election**

This information is included in the meeting packet available on the town website.

## **Thank you letter to the Hopedale Foundation for donation to Bancroft Library**

Letter included in meeting packet available on town website.

**Chair Hazard dissolved the meeting at 9:02 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Kelly Grant, Executive Assistant