

Hopedale Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday June 26, 2023  
Draper Room, 6:30p.

In Attendance: Chair Hazard, Mr. Savage, Mr. Stock, and TA Ruscitti

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Hazard

A. Consent Items

1. Welcome to Mitchell Ruscitti, Town Administrator!

2. Review/Approve Inter-Fund Transfers: Information on each inter-fund transfer is available on the town website in the meeting packet. TA Ruscitti explained that the transfers are all small and cover expenses. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage to (1) approve transfer from acct snow removal and contract services to the various funds as presented in the transfer request, (2) approve transfer from Election professional, technical to election salaries, (3) Council on Aging from transportation to salary and wage's part time with amounts as stated in requests.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-Aye

3. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes: December 20, 2021, and June 12, 2023: Motion made by Mr. Savage and seconded by Mr. Stock to approve the minutes as presented.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-aye

4. Accept \$21,130.50 donation from anonymous donor to fund legal fees associated with West Street litigation (and any other donations that may be received prior 4:00 p.m. on June 26, 2023): Motion made by Mr. Savage and seconded by Mr. Stock.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye

B. Appointments & Resignations

1. Resignation of Marcia Matthews from Conservation Commission: Ms. Matthews sent notice to the TA office of her resignation. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage to approve resignation.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye

2. Resignation of Chris Leduc, Road Commissioner : Resignation received this week from Chris and letter included in packet, effect 7/1. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage. Mr. Potty, chair of the road commission, was in attendance. He did say that there is a person interested in this position and they will take that up at their next meeting.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye

### C. New Business

1. Meet with Road Commissioners; Chair Potty is in attendance.

- Regarding Hiring of Highway Superintendent : The position is posted on MMA and the posting will be up for 30 days. There have been some applications that have come in. Chair Hazard feels the applications should be going to the select board as well as the road commissioners. Chair Hazard also asked if they could correct the posting to make it gender neutral.

- Regarding Process for Filling the Vacancy on the Road Commission: This needs to be posted for 1 week in accordance with MGL and both the Select Board and Road Commission will need to meet and make a joint appointment. This will take place on July 12 at the next road commission meeting. Chair Potty indicated that it would be suitable for them. This position is only to fill a one-year vacancy. Anyone who is interested would need to express interest in the position by July 10.

2. Consider and Vote on proposed expansion of OGeez Brands MA, LLC, at its 6 Charlesview marijuana manufacturing facility to occupy a total of approximately 7,400 square feet on the first and second floors. There is already a host agreement in place with the company. The agreement needs to be revised to include the second-floor expansion. TA Ruscitti stated that with the ZBA changes that were passed at town meeting ( shifting from ZBA to Planning Board), and that it is still under review by the AG office. It is unclear which board would need to hear this.

Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye

### D. Old Business

1. 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 : Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

E. Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken): Mr. Stock stated that they had a wonderful Flag Day event. Sally Deselles was presented with the retired flag for her contributions to the town. Also, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday event at the Community House went very well and he thanked Tara Chambers.

Mr. Savage stated that the summer programs have started up. He also stated that the ZBA is seeking a member and 2 alternate spots. He does hope more members of the town get involved.

F. Requests for Future Agenda Items: Mr. Savage wanted to reiterate now that Mitch is here to have more discussions on BVT. He wants to continue to keep the lines of communication with the parks department open and to keep the momentum going. Mr. Savage would also like to have an update on the Adin Street Complete Streets grant. Chair Hazard suggested that the board take up the Complete Street Grants on the next agenda.

Rob Fahey (citizen) asked for an update on moving the Park lands into the Conservation and how legally that would work.

G. Administrator Updates: TA Ruscitti stated that Chris Cuvier will be coming in front of the board for a 1-day liquor license at the next meeting. The board does not have any concerns. Regarding Grants, he will be meeting with Parks members, and they will look at things together. They will also be looking for an accessibility grant through the State.

H. Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken):  
Correspondence is available on the town website in the meeting packet.

I. Executive Session(s):

1. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage to move into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town, and the Chair so declares, in matters captioned Town of Hopedale v. Jon Delli Priscoli, Reilly v. Town of Hopedale, and Grafton & Upton Railroad v. Town of Hopedale. Attorney Sean Grammel from Anderson Kreiger LLP will be present.  
Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

Chair Hazard dissolved the open meeting at 7:40p.

Respectfully submitted: Kelly Grant