

**Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2022, 6:15PM**

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

Call to order 6:15 p.m.

Chair Hazard called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

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, Attorney Mina Makarious

Chair Hazard explained to the public that the Select Board is to vote on this every month until the Judge has made a decision. Hazard clarified that this is not a new action but retaking of an action the Select Board has taken before.

Selectman Stock moved to execute 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.

Selectman Keyes stated that he wants to remain consistent with this item, noting that he does not agree with the path that the Town has taken. Keyes stated that the Town has continued to exhaust resources and energy on something that he does not feel is going to end with a victory for the Town. Keyes stated that, regarding the legal fees for special counsel, the Town has paid an invoice of approximately \$122,000 resulting in an outstanding balance of approximately \$65,000. The Town had placed a \$9,000 deposit for the appraisal; the appraisal cost is \$24,000. Keyes noted that these expenditures total roughly \$200,000; these payments have been made through donors, who are incredibly generous and looking out for the welfare of Hopedale. However, Keyes feels that the \$200,000 could have been donated towards something tangible to the Town instead of pouring money into litigation that is not netting the Town successes. Keyes speculated that this litigation will most likely take on a federal presence which Keyes does not feel the Town will win. Chair Hazard thanked the donors for their generosity and feels that the results of this litigation will be to the benefit of the Town. Chair Hazard stated that preserving the land in question is important to the Town and the residents. Chair Hazard stated that as of now, all expenses have been funded by the donors.

Selectman Keyes stated that there have been no donations made toward the land purchase cost of \$3.9 million. Chair Hazard responded that the Town Administrator is going to reach out to donors regarding this. Chair Hazard reiterated that the residents, at Town Meeting, voted for this.

Selectman Stock moved to execute 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.

Selectman Stock – Aye, Selectman Keyes – Nay, Chair Hazard – Aye 2:1, Passed

Selectman Stock motioned to adjourn the regular meeting. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Selectman Stock – Aye, Selectman Keyes – Aye, Chair Hazard – Aye

Chair Hazard dissolved the meeting at 6:25PM.

Submitted:
Lindsay Peterman

Board Adopted: 3/13/2023