

Approved 04/05/05

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH

March 21, 2005
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present-Mark Barba,James Smith,Duane Mosier
Douglas Farmer,Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Mark Barba called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

A review was done of the latest draft warrant for town meeting. Minor changes were made and an updated warrant will be prepared for the next meeting.

6:15 p.m.

The board was joined by Sergeant Farnsworth and officer Trombley. They brought forth Tawrin Seega who has applied for an available full time patrol position. Mr. Seega comes to us with previous experience with this department. He was employed from October 2001 to November of 2004. After a short pursuit with the Massachusetts State Police he decided to return to policing at the community level. Both Sergeant Farnsworth and Officer Trombley feel Mr. Seega would be a good fit for the department and would support his return. It was explained by the Board that if appointed he would be starting as a probationary officer for the customary one year period that all recent appointments have been required to do. He indicated no problem with that. All his background information checked out and Jim Smith made the following motion: "I move to appoint Tawrin Seega as a reserve officer for thirty days". This was seconded by Duane Mosier and unanimously approved by the Board. It was explained that in thirty days after firearms qualification and a routine medical check was performed he would then be appointed to a full time probationary officer position.

At 6:40 the entire board departed for a 7:00 meeting with the Wilbraham selectmen.

The Board returned at 7:55 p.m. and continued the meeting.

The Board reviewed their options on the acting police Chief position. After some discussion it was agreed that it is important that the department is lead by someone who was a working knowledge of the day to day operations and also involved with the budget process. Both Sergeant Henry and Sergeant Farnsworth were given time at the previous

meeting to discuss their thoughts and goals of the department. Chief Mellis in a letter to the board stated that Sergeant Farnsworth has been left in charge of the department when the chief was out of town. He felt Sergeant Farnsworth would be a good person to fill this temporary role. A motion was made by Jim Smith:” I move to appoint Jeff Farnsworth to acting Chief of Police effective upon the departure of Chef Mellis and to be valid until June 30th. 2005 or until a full time Chief is hired, which ever comes first.

Sergeant Farnsworth joined the meeting at aprox. 8:30 after being called to come down to the Selectmen’s office. He was notified of the board’s decision. The board also explained their desire to enter into a contract with him. Mark Barba was authorized to enter into contract negotiations with Sgt. Farnsworth to work on contract language before the next scheduled meeting on 4/5/05.

Motion made by Jim Smith to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Seconded By Duane Mosier. Vote: James Smith yes, Mark Barba yes, Duane Mosier yes.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Barba