

Approved 8/8/05

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

July 25, 2005  
7:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Present: James Smith, Duane Mosier, John Flynn  
Guest: Jason Poole, The Reminder Publication, Suzanne McLaughlin, The Republican

7:00 pm      Walk-Ins

Art Booth representing the VFW: Art Booth came in for the VFW regarding the annual turkey shoot held during the fall. To alleviate neighbor's concerns regarding the noise the shoot created, it was agreed upon in October 04, by the Board and the VFW that the VFW would start the activity later in the fall, rather than in September. They will now start the shoots on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and end in December on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Board will need to issue permits for the specific dates requested by VFW.

John Flynn brought forward his conversation with Art Booth regarding him having an interest in being appointed as ADA Coordinator for the Town. Art has agreed to take over the position vacated by Becky Moriarty.

7:30 pm      Chris MacDonald, Park and Recreation Commissioner: Chris came before the Board regarding a full time employee and inquiring into how insurance, unemployment, etc would be paid for that employee; whether by the department or the town. It is the understanding of the Board's that if that person is paid out of a revolving account, then all other benefits must be paid out of that account as well. The question was also asked if an employee was to work 15 hours for one department, and 5 hours for another, would that enable them to qualify for benefits. Chris does not intend to act on hiring someone for a 20 hour work week, but should he do so, he will ask the Board to find out the answer, which would have to be researched by our town counsel.

7:45 pm      Patty Ehlers and Cynthia Bailey: Residents of town came before the Board to discuss having a book swap on the lawn of Town Hall and in inclement weather, the town house in available space. They are proposing a schedule of the second Saturday of the month to allow for the swapping of books by the residents. James wants the Library Trustees informed of the proposal to seek their endorsement and/or input. Patty stated they are not looking to replace the library, but are trying to do something for the good of the town. Jim feels strongly about the issue and does expect a positive response from the Trustees, but wants to ensure they are made aware of the proposal. Duane Mosier feels

that the program has definite merit, but does feel as though the Trustees should be involved to the extent they might want to be. John Flynn suggested that they make a lot of people aware to help make the program a success. He does not feel as though there would be any obstacle to it. Patty suggested that the possibility of corporate sponsors donating books. John wanted to make sure that there will be supervision of the lending itself. Cynthia Bailey will contact the Trustees to seek their input.

Patty inquired about getting a copy of our general ledger for review purposes and was told that the request should go through the Town Accountant. If there is an expense involved, she would be happy to pay. She also wondered what outstanding accounts exist on delinquent taxpayers? She should go to tax collector to get answers to tax questions. Patty asked about street lights: we will turn off all lights and the \$8400 is an ongoing financial obligation that the town must continue to pay.

8:00 pm Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent: Lorri came before the Board to discuss a number of issues. Chris McDonald was invited in to discuss the pumping of the pool at Memorial Park. Lorri received a call relative to pumping out the pond at Rec Park, but a water sample needs to be done. It could be pumped out onto the ball fields as an easiest solution. Chris McDonald is seeking a letter from the Selectmen to Peter Hatch, Fire Chief stating the plan to proceed. According to Chris McDonald, Charlie Schmitt, Conservation Committee Chairman has said that no action is required by Con Comm. A Notice of Intent is not necessary according to Charlie Schmitt, via Chris McDonald. James stated his concern that DEP may have some concerns about the pumping. The pumping would be done by the Fire Department and then the pool would require scraping of the sand and any debris left would be another phase of the project. Duane agrees that Conservation should be involved in the permitting process. If Chairman of Con Comm feels okay with the process, James would like to see that stated in writing. The pumping has been done numerous times in the past. Park and Rec is looking for an endorsement from the BOS to clean the pool. James is adamant about getting an approval from Con Comm prior to going forward. Duane is okay with them going forward with the pumping as long as Lorri gives permission for them to proceed. John is okay with them going forward with the pumping as well.

Hampden County Health Coalition – Lorri brought the Board up to date, notifying them that Thornton Burgess School is designated as the staging site in the event of a Health emergency and Wilbraham will have their own staging site. Residents would go through a screening at TWB, then be bused to Minnechaug for inoculation, or whatever treatment is necessary, and they would then be bused back to TWB. There is some discussion within the Coalition of next year doing a tabletop exercise to run through the drill.

Lorri talked about Board of Health Coordinator, Beth Perkin's resignation and what a loss it is for the town and the wonderful job Beth has done in her time here. Lorri stated that Beth has been the best assistant she has worked with over her entire 20 years on the job. The Board concurred with Lorri's comments and noted the loss this office will feel with Beth's departure.

James mentioned to Lorri the need for the Board to vote on any variance technically approved by Lorri McCool.

Items for Discussion:

1. Minutes of July 11, 2005: Minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as amended. Second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
2. Chief's salary discussion – will be discussed in Executive Session.
3. Free Cash Certification: Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant, came before the Board to discuss his meeting with State Auditors regarding the certification of our free cash. It has been certified at a negative \$20,162.

James Smith spoke with the Mayor of Northampton, Claire Higgins regarding a study from MMA relative to State Aid. The Board agreed to have James go forward with speaking with her regarding her initiative.

At 9:00 pm a motion was made by Duane Mosier to go into Executive Session without return to Open Session for the purpose of discussing the Acting Chief's salary. Second by John Flynn. VOTE: Duane Mosier yes, James Smith yes, John Flynn yes.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc