

Approved 8/22/05

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

August 8, 2005
7:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: Duane Mosier, John Flynn. James Smith was out of town.
Guests: Patty Ehlers, Cynthia Bailey, Bill Olmstead,
Doug Farmer, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Suzanne McLaughlin, The Republican

7:00 pm Walk-Ins

Melissa Reeves, Planning Board member: Melissa came before the Board to speak about Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and grant money that is available. PVPC will include the town in a grant proposal, but we need to update some of our bylaws to improve our Commonwealth Capital Score. By doing so, the Town would have a better chance in being awarded grant monies.

This Smart Growth Initiative, (through which the grant would be received) focuses on achieving more open space, stormwater measures, water management, and affordable housing.

PVPC suggests that an application be submitted as a regional submittal, with approximately 22-23 towns participating. The Town's contribution rate would be 1 to 12.

There was discussion as to whether our share could be paid for by CPC. Criteria are; historical, housing, open space and it can also be used for recreational preservation. John Flynn spoke as member of CPC and believes that CPA would have no problem funding this \$640 fee.

Motion was made by John Flynn to authorize the Board to sign as stated in the letter received from PVPC on August 10, 2005. Second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Bill Olmstead: Bill came before the Board to state that he is still interested in a position on the COA Board. The Board acknowledged his interest and said should a position be available, he would be considered.

7:30 pm Peter Hatch, Fire Chief: Peter came before the Board to discuss the Fire Truck bid. It has been recommended by Town Counsel that the bid from Fleet Masters may be accepted, as long as it is stipulated to them that the specifications as detailed in the appendix will be enforced.

8:15 pm Radcliffe Kenison, Dispatcher Staffing Discussion: Racky came before the Board to discuss a concern over the staffing of dispatchers and a concern that they cannot get the hours off they would like. He claims that there are not enough staff trained to do dispatcher duty. He states that when reserve officers were previously hired, they have been hired as dispatchers/reserve officers, but as of late, reserve officers have not been hired to do the dispatch portion of the job.

There are 3 full time dispatchers and 3 permanent part time dispatchers who need to work 16 hours as well as fill in when needed.

Jeff Farnsworth, Acting Chief came in shortly after Racky left and stated his position on the situation. He is looking to train a few additional reserves as dispatchers, but stated that it is not cost effective to train everyone in that manner.

Jeff feels as though the department is running smoothly, although some of the staff is not entirely happy with the changes in the department, but they are managing the situation as best they can.

Items for Discussion:

- Minutes of July 25, 2005 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve as corrected, second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Minutes of July 27, 2005 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve as corrected, second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Town House Telephone Service Proposal: The proposal will be reviewed by Town Counsel and with his approval; the Board will sign the contract. The contract for new service will save the Town approximately \$4,000 on a yearly basis.

Conservation Commission: The Conservation Commission submitted a letter of recommendation for the appointment of Jeffrey Liquori to the open position on the Commission. A motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Jeffrey Liquori to the only open position on Conservation Commission, expiring June 30, 2006. Second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Board requested that letters acknowledging thanks from the Town for years of service should be sent to Carl Mazzaferro, Patricia Smith, Al Rosati and Beth Perkins.

The subject of street lights was brought up by John Flynn to determine how much money might be saved through unemployment insurance (in light of the fact that some former employees have been hired in other positions) and the possibility that the money saved might be used to fund the street lights.

Duane Mosier stated that he thinks a town meeting vote would be required to expend any money saved through unemployment.

The Board is looking in the possible purchase of the street lights in order to investigate a possible cost savings if the Town owned the hardware and is awaiting a cost estimate from MA Electric to determine the feasibility of such a plan.

Jeff Farnsworth, Acting Chief was in to discuss the current staff reduction which has occurred through attrition. Carl Mazzaferro has gone to Enfield, Connecticut.

Josh Dufresne, Reserve Officer has moved on to the State Police.

Homeland security grant has been submitted and Chief Farnsworth is awaiting a determination of money received.

Letters acknowledging receipt of resumes will be sent to all applicants for the Board of Health job currently available.

Motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn meeting at 8:40 pm, second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Duane Mosier yes.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc