

Approved 11/21/05

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

November 14, 2005  
7:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Present: James D. Smith, Duane E. Mosier, John D. Flynn

The meeting was called to order by James Smith at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made by James Smith to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of finalizing negotiations with Scott Trombly with return to Open Session. Second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: James Smith yes, Duane Mosier yes, John Flynn yes.

A motion was made by Duane Mosier to leave Executive Session at 7:45 pm and return to Open Session and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Duane Mosier yes, John Flynn yes, James Smith yes.

**OPEN SESSION**

Present: Kathy Pessolano, Cindy Bailey, Doug Farmer

7:30 pm      Jay Leonard, Hampden Country Club: Mr. Leonard came before the Board to discuss a failed drainage pipe on the golf course which has created a large sink hole. Dana Pixley attended the meeting to give an assessment of the situation to the Board. The storm water from Wilbraham Road is carried through this pipe and is approximately 40 years old. Dana has done a cost estimate on 550 feet of pipe @ \$35 a foot. Looking at \$20,000 in material alone. We would need an excavator, and other equipment bringing the total near \$40,000, which does not include lawn restoration.

Prior to this meeting, this office along with the Planning Board have attempted to find evidence of an easement existing between the Country Club and the Town to determine who is responsible for the maintenance and therefore, the cost of repair to this drainage pipe.

Jay Leonard would be happy to grant an easement for drainage purposes, and would also provide lawn restoration.

James asked the Highway Superintendent about past procedures regarding maintenance of drainage issues, etc.

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Dana stated that this is the first failure of this kind, but normally we have dealt with culverts that might have failed, etc.

There is some history that the golf course might have asked for the pipe to be installed on their property. There is the suggestion that Robbins (who opened the club) originally asked the town to install the pipe.

Jay Leonard is willing to work with the Town towards a solution as he is cognizant of the situation that the town faces with the budget.

The Board would like Dana Pixley to start on bid specs while, while research of the situation continues.

Jay is willing to work with us to allow water to drain on his site. He does not believe he needs it for irrigation, and could try to help on the labor side of things.

The Board is scheduled to meet on November 21 and will invite Jay Leonard to that meeting to update him as to what is found in old documents.

There was also discussion about this being the time to secure easements for any drainage the Town does direct onto the golf course property.

Dana's bid specs will include land clearing, ground restoration, removal of tree growth. Some required work may even go beyond the limits of the golf course.

No commitments were made for expenditures and the Board agreed to continue research of the situation prior to the next meeting.

1. ZBA Appointment of Mark Barba: ZBA had requested the appointment of Mark Barba to an associate's position, and the Board of Selectmen preferred to wait until a legal settlement had been reached between Barba and a neighbor. The settlement has been signed by all parties. Therefore a motion was made by Duane Mosier to appoint Mark Barba as associate member of the ZBA until June 30, 2006 and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
2. The Executive Session minutes of October 24, 2005 were reviewed. A motion was made by Duane Mosier to accept as corrected and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
3. The minutes of October 29, 2005 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Flynn to accept as corrected and was seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The Executive Session minutes of October 29, 2005 were reviewed. A motion was made by Duane Mosier to accept as presented and seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
4. The minutes of October 31, 2005 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Flynn to accept as corrected and was seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The Executive Session minutes of October 31, 2005 were reviewed. A motion was made by Duane Mosier to accept as presented and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
5. John Ouellette, Benefit Letter: The Board received a letter from Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent regarding sick days that John Ouellette would like to

buy back from the Town. He was forced to into a buy out situation when the layoffs occurred in Town in June 05. The Board feels that any employee should be allowed to buy back the sick days as a benefit that he was forced to lose due to the layoffs. A motion was made by John Flynn to allow a sick day buy back (up to 50 days) by John Ouellette in direct response to his request due to his previous layoff. The decision is in no way meant to be construed as policy setting by the Board, and shall not be used as a past practice or in labor negotiation but is only occurring due to the layoff situation. Second by James Smith. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

6. Elected/Appointed Officials Meeting: The Board discussed their strategy for the upcoming budget discussion between all elected and appointed officials. The Board does not wish to discuss specific numbers at this time, but prefer to have a more general discussion about the Town's financial situation.

- Should any savings go to fund other departments?
- Any school increase beyond 2.5% should be looked at as a separate override
- Need to look at infrastructure work that needs to be done as well as work that needs to be done at TWB
- How much will we need to just open the doors at the Library and Senior Center?
- Reduce to bare bones and possibly restore
- Get back to level of services that we had without an override
- School override?
- Look at new growth and available funds to restore library and senior center services to some level,
- Do we want to restore services to level we provided in FY05 for the FY07 budget?

The board feels strongly that a menu style override does not work philosophically, and that we're all in this together.

The Board will get budget numbers together to get to advisory as soon as possible.

Duane Mosier is working on getting temporary help in for the Board of Health's position.

TWB repair: Duane Mosier waiting for contract to be signed.

Cell Tower: The easement agreement requested by Grid Com has been signed by the Board so they may proceed with setting the last pole they need.

Telephone Service: This office is working on finalizing the contract for the new phone service. There was a delay in a final contract due to the sales representative working with the town leaving the company. The change over should occur over the next couple of weeks.

A motion was made by Duane Mosier to adjourn meeting at 10:00 pm, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant