

Approved 1/17/06

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

December 19, 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 at 7:00 pm by James D. Smith

7:00 pm Walk-Ins

Art Booth, VFW Business: Art came before the Board to notify them of work that the VFW would like to perform on site. The VFW is looking to evaluate the possible relocation of the septic system prior to re-paving the parking lot. They will have to perform perc tests to determine a new location for the leach field. They are also working on bridge reconstruction and are in the process of reviewing quotes for that work.

7:15 pm Fred Markham, Howlett Hill Road: Fred Markham came before the Board to discuss the sanding and plowing of Howlett Hill Road where he is currently in the process of building a house. Mr. Markham contends that since he has received his building permit, the Town should be required to maintain the road. The question was asked as to whether the town has plowed in the past and Mr. Markham's response was that regardless of what was done in the past, he should have full access to the road now. The road is and has been posted as *unimproved, pass at your own risk*. The Board contends that the property owner must bring the road up to "a reasonable standard" which could mean drainage, a cul-de-sac, and proper width for two vehicles to pass. James Smith's recommendation was that if Mr. Markham wants the road plowed and maintained, he will be required to improve the road. Travis Markham, (Mr. Markham's grandson) asked what the guidelines are for the road improvements. The response from the Board cited past practice on Mountain Road, which was to have an engineer design improvements and have those improvements reviewed and approved by Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent, as well as the Planning Board and Town Engineers.

Minnechaug Building Maintenance, Bob Page and Allen Kinney: Two residents from Wilbraham came before the Board to discuss an ongoing maintenance schedule for Minnechaug High School. They would like the high school to relinquish responsibility for the scheduling of maintenance so the money budgeted for maintenance gets spent on needed maintenance. James Smith agrees that when money is tight, the tendency in government is to put capital items on the back burner and use available funds for operational purposes. James Smith likes the concept of overseeing the maintenance schedule. Duane Mosier does not want to manage the maintenance of school buildings. James sees value to incremental improvements and someone watching the process, but

John Flynn contends that there is an elected board responsible for the budget, and money in the budget for maintenance, and that this group should be the ones holding the school accountable.

James Smith thinks it is good idea, but feels that it needs further support from the Wilbraham Board of Selectmen as well.

7:45 pm Chief Scott Trombly: Scott came before the Board so they could interview Khristy Lord for a permanent part time dispatcher position. Khristy currently works at AMR as a dispatcher and has held the job for 3 years. She is also a college student with 2 years left. The position here would be that of 2 days a week with 4 days off. She does need 911 training in house (2 day class at STCC), but she can start training here in the interim. She would also need LEAPS certification. She would stay at AMR and work here in a part time capacity. James emphasized the need to be available to the public, and to be approachable to the public, that people's first impression of the town is with dispatch and therefore it is important to be courteous and helpful to the public. Khristy was initially interviewed by Scott and a background check was performed by Racky Kenison.

Tim Lord resigned as permanent part time dispatcher but will continue to dispatch on a part time basis.

A motion was made by Duane Mosier to appoint Khristy Lord as permanent part time dispatcher contingent upon successful completion of 911 training effective (within 60 days) until June 30, 2006. Seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Mark Feeney, Building Inspector: Mark came before the Board to discuss fee schedules for various inspections in Town. It was brought to the Board's attention that fees may not effectively cover expenses incurred by the inspectors in town. The Board does not want the fees to be revenue generating, but to cover the expenses as a total. Other towns may use it to generate revenue. The Board asked that a reasonable rate should be determined based on the number of visits required for particular inspections. The Board would like each inspector to bring forward a list of time spent on each inspection. The inspectors currently get 90% of each fee. Mark Feeney will come before the Board at the next meeting to discuss further.

Police Chief Discussion: The Board will discuss how to proceed from here. James Smith stated that MGL, Chapter 41, Section 97A, allows the Board to enter into a contract for a 3 year term, with the right to appoint for 3 years. A guarantee to reappoint in the contract does not ensure accountability from the Chief. The Board is concerned that allowing a member to fall back into a prior position in the department cannot be done with any certainty of funding, and wants to ensure that those contracts don't become the norm in Hampden. James suggests that independent of us offering this position internally or externally, we should make those interested applicants aware of what we expect.

John Flynn asked if the Board wanted to reestablish the search committee for the Chief.

James thinks we should re-consider the prior candidate who came forward at the same time Scott Trombly did. Sgt. Farnsworth has shown interest in the position but stated that he is not interested in the acting chief's position, but would consider the Chief's position.

John Flynn thinks it is the right thing to offer Jeff the position, and although he was not chosen originally, he was a viable candidate nonetheless.

The Board will invite Jeff Farnsworth into the next meeting on January 3rd. Both Duane Mosier and John Flynn will speak with Jeff prior to the 3rd.

- Charter Cable License, Senior Citizen discount: A few senior residents came into the office asking that the Board discuss the possibility of a senior rate negotiation for the cable renewal.
- Capital Planning Members: Doug Boyd is currently a member; the committee needs one at-large member and one appointed by the moderator. James Smith to call Austin McKeon to see if he is interested in being on the committee.
- TWB Repair: The boiler is being installed per Steve Nembirkow, looking at an early February start up.
- Cell Tower: Waiting to hear from Gridcom that the work is complete and Cingular is going on the tower.
- Phone Service Transfer: The transfer is scheduled for December 23rd. The Town should realize a savings of approximately \$4,000 a year with Lightship/CTC service with the addition of a menu selection for residents calling town offices.
- Golf Course Issue: Duane Mosier and John Flynn researched old meeting minutes as well as plans and determined that the drainage issue brought before the Board by the Hampden Country Club is the responsibility of the golf course, rather than the Town's. James Smith spoke with a purchaser regarding the work and he stated that the drainage pipe (which handled Wautchaug Brook) will be redesigned into the scheme of the golf course. The Country Club actually benefits from the easement and the drainage.
- COA: This office will contact the COA Board for a recommendation to replace Arlene Fisher's recent resignation.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Duane Mosier at 9:20 pm and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc