

Approved 1/30/06

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

January 17, 2006
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 Smith.

7:15 pm Hampden Country Club: The Hampden Country Club is in the process of being sold and the new owners are requesting a transfer of an existing liquor license. The Board discussed the process necessary to do so. A notice for a public hearing will be published and abutters will be notified that the issue will be heard on January 30, 2006 at 8:30 pm. The Board will charge a \$100.00 administrative fee for the transfer and a new common victualer license will be issued at the time of the hearing.

7:30 pm Reserve Officer Interview: Eric Iwaniec came before the Board with Sgt. Jeff Farnsworth and Sgt. Joe Henry. Eric currently works in the Palmer District Court coordinating the community service program and also works as a reserve officer in Monson. Officer Cooney has done the background check and Eric came highly recommended by the Police Chief in Monson. His training is up to date and his background is in line with what we look for in an officer. He will need some road training work to become familiar with the Town. He will be appointed as a Reserve Officer only, with no dispatching duties required.

Duane Mosier talked about the need for our officers to be a part of community policing.

John Flynn reinforced the spirit of community and the value placed on our community policing program.

James Smith reiterated our police department members being a positive part of the community and the fine job they have done in this area in the past.

A motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Eric Iwaniec as a probationary Reserve Officer for the Police Department contingent upon successful field training within 90 days, until June 30, 2006. Second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session to discuss the Chief of Police's contract at 7:28 with return to Open Session. Second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Duane Mosier yes, James Smith yes.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 7:45 PM

7:45 pm Jeff Farnsworth: Jeff met again with the Board to discuss the timing for the transfer of responsibilities. Jeff would like Scott Trombly to return to the Acting Sergeant's position that he left when he was appointed as Acting Chief. The Board agrees that Scott should go back to that position, in that he never had a final contract for the Chief's position and he therefore never left the IBPO. James indicated that the acting sergeant role being filled by Scott Trombly is a position open to competitive bidding under the existing sergeant promotion policy, and that other officers as well as Scott need to be given the opportunity to be considered for the position.

A motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Jeff Farnsworth as Chief of Police, starting at 7:00 am January 18, 2006 until January 17, 2009. Second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

8:00 pm School Committee Chairman, Scott Chapman, and Superintendent of Schools, Paul Gagliarducci: Scott and Dr. Gagliarducci came before the Board to discuss how the BOS would handle the School Committee vote to borrow money for school design plans, et al. Wilbraham has decided to hold a Special Town Meeting on February 28 for a vote. Scott Chapman is researching borrowing parameters, 5 year vs. 10 year. The School Committee is researching through bond counsel exactly how the bonding would take place and when repayment would start?

The Board has two courses of action; do nothing which allows the School District to go forward or have a town meeting to "disapprove" the borrowing. A Town Meeting must be held within 60 days. There was discussion about the District picking up a portion of the cost (approximately 20% or \$184,000) and about how the remaining expenses would be distributed to the town. No final answer was given pending further review by the School Committee.

Dr. Gagliarducci mentioned that School Choice could be used as an additional revenue stream which is currently used to reduce assessments for each town. Dr. Gagliarducci would like to add students to the school population to generate additional revenue. He suggests adding 12-15 students at \$4500-\$5000 a year to generate revenue.

John Flynn suggests that the school get as much information out to the community and have a presentation to inform the public and get as many people educated about the project.

James Smith states that regardless of additional revenue, there is another \$880,000 that must be paid for by the District. James feels that we must bring the issue before the voters. James feels that the school committee must "sell" the planning expenses to the voters and get the revenue through an override prior to asking the voters to support the entire building.

John Flynn emphasized the repair versus rebuild scenario; 30 million for repairs versus 35 million (with reimbursement) for rebuild.

James noted that the school will come forward with an increased budget already, and then the town will need to be sold on the budget and the rebuild.

Duane Mosier added that the current school debt continues through 2010; it was at \$56,000 last year and is now \$53,000 for Hampden.

Duane supports the town meeting but he cannot support the project without knowing where the funding is coming from. Would it be a debt exclusion or added to the assessment? Dr. Gagliarducci responded that they will research the funding and bring that information back to the Board. Dr. Gagliarducci will work with Steve Nembirkow to get those numbers together.

There was discussion about the merits of using section 16(n) which would allow a direct ballot vote to approve the borrowing rather than a Town Meeting vote.

John Flynn feels that it would be a disservice to the town to hold a vote without holding a town meeting.

James would like a motion to disallow the District to borrow the money unless there is a positive debt exclusion vote.

The Board is in charge of the warrant and how it should be worded.

James feels strongly that it go to a ballot vote and not just a town meeting vote.

A ballot vote requires 35 day notice. For special town meeting, a 14-day timeframe is necessary.

There was discussion as to a date for a Special Town Meeting. James' reservation with a Saturday meeting as some had suggested is that we have never done that in Town before, but does acknowledge that many have voiced concerns about a night meeting and their inability to attend evening meetings. It would serve the elderly population as well as others who work at night and are unable to attend as a result of their schedules.

A motion was made by John Flynn to make the School District borrowing contingent upon an override election to allow a debt exclusion loan associated with the vote by the School Committee on January 10, 2006. Second by Duane. VOTE: James Smith yes, John Flynn no, Duane Mosier abstained.

The Board will secure the date of Saturday, March 4th at 10:00 am at Thornton W. Burgess School for the Special Town Meeting. The alternate date is the 7th of March. March 10 is the drop dead date for the vote or the borrowing by the School Committee would automatically be allowed by law.

1. Scott Trombly Legal Bill: The Board discussed the bill incurred by Scott during contract negotiations. He was asked to work with a different attorney, because the Board retains an attorney from this firm for labor negotiations and sees it as a possible conflict of interest. After some discussion, a motion was made by John Flynn to pay \$750 towards the total invoice. Motion was seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
2. Council on Aging: The COA wrote a letter to the Board in support of Mary Malinski, as a replacement for the position left by Arlene Fisher's resignation. A motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Mary Malinski to fill vacancy on the Council on Aging Board, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
3. Beaumier Property: The Board was notified through the owner's attorney that a portion of 298 North Road, currently listed as 61A land will be transferred and as agreed, the Right of First Refusal remains with the Town. Attorney McEwan will be notified that plans need to be submitted clearly showing the property in question prior to the Board making any decision on the property.
4. Board of Health Coordinator: The position for BOH coordinator will be advertised in the Reminder and Wilbraham-Hampden Times.
5. Calendars
6. Minutes of 12/19/05 and 1/3/06: The minutes of 12/19/05 were reviewed. A motion was made by Duane Mosier to approve as corrected, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The minutes of 1/3/06 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve as corrected, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The Executive Session minutes of 1/3/06 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Town Meeting Date: The issue of continuing budget discussions in June when State aid numbers are more accurate rather than at Town Meeting in April.

Town Report: Discussion about suggestions for a picture for the front cover of Town Report.

Emergency Management: Discussion about talking with Jeff Farnsworth regarding an Emergency Management team and the need to get a group together on a regular basis.

Transfer Station Meeting: A committee will meet to discuss a bid package for an operation contract of the Transfer Station.

Cell Tower: The cell tower may be fully operational by the end of the month with Cingular as the initial provider and other providers may follow.

Town House Maintenance: Discussion about the status of repair work ongoing at the town house. Duane has worked with Dick Thayer in changing out to energy efficient lighting in the auditorium, working on emergency lights being operational.

A motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn at 10:00 pm, second by James Smith. VOTE: John Flynn yes, James Smith yes.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc

