

Approved 2/27/06

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

January 30, 2006
7:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: James D. Smith, Duane E. Mosier, John D. Flynn
Guests: Diane Knecht, Dave Knecht, Elaine Robbins, Norman LeBoeuf, Dave Hayward,
C. Hayward, Tom Regan, Craig Krejci

7:00 pm Walk-Ins: Residents from Martin Farms Road came before the Board to discuss clogged storm drains on the road. The Board responded that they had been told by Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent that the pipe is plastic and would be damaged if cleaned in the customary fashion. James added that many of the residents are funneling water from their home sump pumps into the system. John commented that the water table in town is very high since the storm, as it is in surrounding towns and many homes that never had water problems are experiencing problems this year. The residents questioned whether the new development might be a source of the problem. The Board responded that there is no additional impervious area developed so affects from that would not be felt. Through an earlier conversation with the Administrative Assistant, Dana has suggested that the pipe be replaced, which would require the road being opened, with a cost estimate to be determined, but he does not have the money to do the project. The residents think some of the road has broken away, and that water is coming up through the cracks.

There is a ditch that used to be cleaned out by the town with a backhoe from time to time. The question was asked as to how FEMA might be involved in funding this repair. FEMA/MEMA is not involved since the problem was not directly related to the storm. The Board will invite Dana Pixley in to discuss his budget, timing, etc. for next meeting on February 6th.

7:30 pm Pole Petition, Gridcom, Howlett Hill Road: The petitioner did not appear for the hearing and abutters will have to be re-notified of a new hearing date. The Board cancelled the hearing until a later date.

7:45 pm Chief Jeff Farnsworth: Jeff came before the Board to discuss the Sergeant's promotion policy and the need for an E911 Upgrade, Contract Issues and Emergency Management. Jeff brought forward the existing policy for promotion for sergeant, requesting that a change be made to 2 year's experience, instead of the current three year requirement. Jeff will bring in candidate testing alternatives for next meeting as well as possible budget numbers necessary to fund the testing. Jeff wants to expand the pool of candidates. Decision on policy at next meeting. Jeff brought up the need for an additional expense for his budget regarding an E-9111 upgrade enhancement. The

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upgrade is necessary but was not originally budgeted for includes money for remodeling/reconstruction cost, equipment costs and training required for all who work on they system; dispatchers, part time dispatchers and any officers currently qualified. Jeff will meet with Verizon and E911 group to figure out costs on Friday. Perhaps this will go on as a warrant article. Annual service agreement currently exists which is carried as a line item within the budget. Perhaps as much as \$10,000, but Jeff will research for a final number. We have deferred this upgrade in the past, but if we put it off much longer, the burden will be on us, and at some point it will be incompatible with other systems in the state. James would prefer to see it placed in the budget, rather than as a warrant article, since it would not be discretionary. John's response is that he sees the inclusion as a warrant article as a one time cost.

James suggested that a line item be placed within the police budget, to cover technology expense, to be carried on a yearly basis for E911, new computers, homeland security, etc.

Jeff also brought forward a list of existing cars and their mileage and stated that 85,000 miles seems to be the industry standard as to when to replace cruisers. Jeff has explored the issue of leasing cruisers which allow us to purchase the vehicles at the end of 2 years for one dollar.

Jeff is meeting with Advisory on 2/6 to discuss his budget.

Emergency management was discussed and will be on the agenda for next week's meeting.

8:30 pm Liquor License Transfer Hearing, Hampden Country Club: A group of partners were before the board to be heard on transferring the license from the present licensee to the new owners. The business will stay as is, upstairs, downstairs and patio is where liquor will be served. No abutters are present for the hearing after having been notified by certified mail. James Smith stated that the business is a good for the community and this is a continuation of a solid business.

A motion was made by John Flynn to transfer the liquor license from the existing business owners (The New Hampden Country Club, Inc.) to new business owners (Hampden Realty Partners, LLC d/b/a Hampden Country Club), and was seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The country club would also like permission to use the road for crossing purposes, since the tunnel does not accommodate the height required for tops on the carts. James has some reservations about the crossing. Wilbraham Golf Club crosses Stony Hill Road and Chief Farnsworth spoke with them and they reported no significant incidents. Jeff would like to check on appropriate signage available. James would like some history from other towns before making any decisions.

Bill Tragakis will also look into reflectors being placed on the carts. James asked for a plan to be presented by the Country Club to be reviewed by Police and Highway prior to the meeting. The plan will be reviewed by the traffic safety officer as well.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Chief of Police with return to Open Session at 8:50 pm, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Duane Mosier yes, James Smith yes.

A motion was made by John Flynn to leave Executive Session at 9:10 pm. Second by Duane Mosier. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Duane Mosier yes, James Smith yes.

For discussion:

1. DEP Approved Recycling Program: The Board received a letter to mandate an inspection of our recycling and Duane will include this with Transfer Station bid process.
2. Minutes of January 17, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Duane Mosier to approve as corrected, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Executive Session minutes were reviewed for January 17, 2006 and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
3. Draft Warrant: The budget was discussed and James stated that he wants to ensure that the Board drives the budget process and then makes recommendations to Advisory for their input. James wants to meet with Advisory to have a philosophical discussion about how the budget should look. James would like to restore services in town, prior to granting everything to the schools that they request. John would like some restoration to the Senior Center, Library, Highway and Police including a cruiser with the money that appears to be available. Duane thinks any "found money" should go into the snow and ice account and into funding stabilization, as well as using money for the Town's infrastructure. John would like to use any additional state aid money and put that into stabilization. James thinks the school has never been told that the town was going to take care of services before the school gets all they request. James' priorities, to the extent money is available, are to fund departments in town first, then to the school. John and James agree on the issue.
Duane mentioned Advisory's concern that it's hard to put a budget together prior to knowing final numbers from the Governor.
4. School Committee vote: The School Committee has voted to rescind their vote regarding the borrowing of money for Minnechaug building plans, etc. A motion was made by Duane Mosier to cancel the Town Meeting scheduled for March 4, 2006, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
5. Meeting date with AFSCME: The Board will acknowledge receipt of a letter from the Dispatcher's Union to meet to extend the current agreement. The Board will work on a proposal prior to meeting with the Union. The Board would like to meet in early March to start the process.

6. Transfer Station Meeting Minutes: Duane continues to work with a committee to explore transferring the operations to an outside entity other than the town handling the operations.
7. Committee/Board Liaisons: The Board reviewed the current list of liaisons to various committees.
8. Fee Schedule: The Board reviewed remarks from the Fire Chief relative to fees charged by surrounding communities.
9. Burning Permits: The Board reviewed a letter submitted by Racky Kenison regarding the large number of phone calls dispatch gets during burning season. The board discussed the necessity of taking the home information down, if permits are never issued. The Board will check with Chief Peter Hatch as to whether a state requirement exists and makes it necessary to record residential information. Also find out if other rural communities charge for permits.
10. Tree Removal: Dana Pixley requested authorization to remove the tree on the Town House lawn as it has become a safety issue with fallen limbs. The Board granted their approval to take the tree down.
11. Revised Revenue Sheet: The Board reviewed the revised sheet from Cliff Bombard.
12. Cell Tower Update: The Board was notified by the contact for Gridcom (the lessee) that Gridcom must secure a permit from DEP prior to becoming operational.

Roundtable:

Zoning Enforcement Officer: The Board discussed the need for a Zoning Enforcement Officer in town and noted that Mass General Law allows that an appointed Building Inspector automatically becomes an enforcement officer at the time of appointment.

A motion was made by Duane Mosier to adjourn at 10:40 pm, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

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