

Approved 2/27/06

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

February 6, 2006
7:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: James D. Smith, Duane E. Mosier, John Flynn
Guests: Doug Farmer, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Diane Knecht, Elaine Robbins,
Norman LeBoeuf, Dave Hayward, Craig Krejci.

7:30 pm Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent and Residents of Martin Farms Road re: Drainage Issue: Craig Krejci and neighbors from Martin Farms Road came before the Board to discuss the drainage issues on Martin Farms Road. Dana Pixley noted that the catch basin in front of Krejci's home is connected to two other basins that drain into a wetland area. The existing pipe is flexible and has root infiltration which has prevented the first basin from working. The basin is filled to capacity; and the water then flows to the second basin which is handling the water flow. There are some sump pumps which are piped into the Town's catch basin which exacerbates the problem that exists. There is no money available in the highway maintenance account to resolve the problem which Dana thought initially might be as little as \$2,000. Doing a more formal review of the situation, Dana suggests that additional money is required for a resolution (\$5,850) for (180 feet of pipe plus labor and other expenses). He will look at available money in the spring to do the project. It would definitely be a spring project and there might be money available that would have been used to repair potholes, etc from the winter conditions. He does not consider it to be a huge safety hazard as the water is being handled by another catch basin. The water table is estimated to be 2' higher than other years. The residents suggested that water is coming up through the cracks in the road, but Dana does not recall having seen water bubbling up. One resident suggested that a portion of the road has erosion underneath. Robbins' home has the sump pump funneled into the catch basin, although Dana has no recollection of any homeowner being granted permission to do so. Dana was asked if the new development might have any affect on what they are experiencing now and he thinks not. He hopes that by mid to end of April to have some information on the budget, and to get that to Craig Krejci by April 14th. Dana will also go to the site again to look at the erosion that has occurred.

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7:45 pm Emergency Management Meeting: The Board met with the Police Chief, Highway Superintendent, and interested residents to discuss resurrecting the emergency management team. Those residents are Melissa Lail-Trecker and Brian Fitzgerald. New federal mandates will require training, etc and any expense will be funded in place of the existing Civil Defense line item. Brian spoke at length about surrounding communities and the need at the very least for a plan for emergency evacuation. James asked if other communities might share their information, but Brian suggested that since every community is different with a variety of resources, it really requires an individual plan. A book does exist for procedures on how to handle emergency situations, and given our small town environment, tabletop exercises would be a good idea. Springfield will be having a drill soon at Carew Street and that would be an opportunity to observe their procedures.

Jeff stated that an Emergency Manager needs to be designated to coordinate all the different facets and departments required.

We need to start by identifying what we need and the event of a natural disaster is the first place to start.

The group discussed big snow storms and the need to educate the community as to what to expect relative to power outages and the town's ability to respond. In order to provide access for power companies to respond on a timely basis, the roads would have to be cleared and those on the outskirts of town will not be cleared as quickly as main routes in town. Those living in the outskirts of town should know they may be stuck with major snowfall and need to be prepared for that event.

The issue of seniors in our community with critical needs was discussed. The Council on Aging should have a list of those seniors with critical needs should they lose power. This will be discussed with Becky Moriarty, Council on Aging Director.

The Board will need to come up with a modest budget to fund attendance at classes, etc. The group will meet on 2/28 at 6:30 pm in the Selectmen's office.

8:15 pm Bill Tragakis and Sebastian Siniscalchi and the Hampden Country Club: Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent reviewed the plan presented showing proposed crossing of Wilbraham Road for golf carts. Dana has no concerns with the design. He deferred to the Police regarding any safety issues. In the event a curb cut needs to be made, they can speak with Dana directly. Officer Joy has reviewed the sight line and sees no issues with the plan, but did suggest a sign be posted alerting drivers of golf carts that they must yield to car traffic. John suggests that speed bumps be added to the cart path to slow carts down. Chief feels that this is doable and sees no problem. The Board asked what will happen with existing tunnels. The owners responded that the tunnels will remain for walking traffic and pull carts.

A motion was made by John Flynn to allow Hampden Country Club to establish the golf cart crossing as shown on the plan presented at the BOS meeting on 2/6/06, and reviewed by traffic safety officer, police chief and highway superintendent to allow cart traffic to cross Wilbraham Road, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Jeff Farnsworth was before the Board to discuss the Sgt.'s promotional policy. Candidates will be tested on police law knowledge, general laws, constitutional law, test large liability issues. The testing company he wants to use is International Public Management Association for Human Resources. They would post a study list for the test.

Jeff stated that there are 5 potential candidates and he would like to go forward with existing criteria rather than changing the requirements now. We will need to employ a proctor for the test. The notice of the exam date must be posted 60 days prior to the exam. The Chief would post an interest sheet at the same time as the exam date with a cutoff time stated (14 days to sign up). The Board agrees with Jeff's proposal to work with IPMA-HR for testing, etc.

Also discussed was the need for some renovation of the police dispatch area for the new 911 update to the system which is part of the total cost of \$12,000.

Infrastructure Action Committee: James Smith introduced the idea of establishing a committee to work with Dana Pixley to prepare a presentation for annual town meeting. The intent of the presentation is to inform the public of existing conditions by showing actual sites where the infrastructure is failing and in need of immediate repair. Dana will work on compiling a list of area residents knowledgeable in the necessary work who would be interested in assisting with this project. Dana will also take photographs of those sites in the interim so the presentation may be prepared.

Budget Review: The Board reviewed numbers currently listed in the work-in-progress budget before meeting with Advisory to review with them.

Warrant Articles: The Board reviewed the warrant articles to ensure accuracy for submission in Town Report.

A motion was made by John Flynn at 11:00 pm to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

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