

Approved 3/27/06

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

March 13, 2006  
6:30 pm

Town House  
625 Main Street

Present: James D. Smith, Duane E. Mosier, John D. Flynn  
Advisory Committee: Kathy Pessolano, Carol Fitzgerald, Timm Marini and Doug Boyd.

6:30 pm      Meeting with Advisory Committee: The Board met with the Advisory Committee to discuss recommendations of board members and committee members relative to the Budget and Warrant in preparation for the Advisory Hearing on March 20, 2006.

Park and Recreation: Larry Forrest came before the Advisory Committee to discuss the budget request made by the Park and Recreation Department.

Kathy Pessolano opened the meeting by asking each member to state their position as to how they would like to see various departments and capital expenses funded.

Carol Fitzgerald thinks that Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent needs full support of the infrastructure plan he has put together for the next ten years. The warrant contains an article requesting a debt exclusion bond for the next ten years to fund the three million dollars necessary for road and drainage improvements proposed by Dana Pixley. She does not believe the Town will support an override which had been discussed when Advisory and Selectmen last met.

Timm Marini stated that if Cliff Bombard's revenue projections were to come to fruition, he would support full funding of the requested budget.

James Smith's position is that it is the responsibility of the Board members to look at the budget long term, rather than on a year-to-year basis. He believes that those services that were denied funding during the last budget process should remain unfunded during this process unless there is an override to create long term additional funding. He believes there exists a structural deficit in our budget that must be addressed or the town will be forced to revisit the same scenarios year after year. James again stated the need for an override vote to get the budget back in line, allowing some money to go into a reserve account.

Doug Boyd agrees with James' view of the financial situation and is not comfortable supporting funding to fully requested levels and sees the need to save some money for reserve accounts. He would like to see the senior center and library re-opened.

John Flynn would like to see a restoration of services within the budget and any capital improvements funded by an override vote.

James Smith reiterated his position that the management of the budget is a long term situation, and not one to be reviewed only on a yearly basis.

Duane Mosier believes that without a revenue flow we cannot work on wants when there are so many needs that have to be met.

Kathy Pessolano believes that partial restoration of services should be done, but not full funding for all.

7:00 pm      Howlett Hill Pole Petition: This hearing is continued from the first meeting on February 21, 2006 at which time, Bob Majkut and Lisa Jasinski were to meet on site to agree with the pole location.

Bob Majkut, Lisa Jasinski, National Grid Representative, and Mr. Markham, property owner were present for the continued hearing.

Lisa presented the plan for the pole installation for the Board to review. Lisa stated that Dana Pixley preferred a different location (10') from position presented, but Bob Majkut is satisfied with the pole and guy wire placement. Fred Markham has cleared some of the necessary trees. Lisa stated that the power company would be willing to relocate the pole should it become necessary in the future.

Bob Majkut's house is currently located 74' off the edge of the road and he made it clear at this meeting that should the road be widened in the future, his house would be non-conforming relative to setback requirements.

The question was asked of Lisa Jasinski as to when poles are placed for free. She stated that the utility allows 150 feet for a residence without charging a pole fee installation.

A motion made by Duane Mosier to approve the pole petition as submitted and shown on the plan for Howlett Hill Road, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant brought copies of the audit results in for the Board. A copy will be sent to the School District Treasurer, Donna Easton-Vicalvi for the School District so that she can reinitiate the bonding process that was halted in October of 2005.

Peter Hatch, Fire Chief came before the Board with information on the fire truck on order. He has learned that Ford manufacturing shut down and he can no longer get a 2006 model for the cab and chassis. He will have to wait until 07 for these parts to be manufactured at the quoted price.

James mentioned the need to include a delivery date in contract bid packages to avoid losing time or money on delivery. In the future we should include a penalty fee for late delivery.

Duane Mosier offered his congratulations to the Chief for his efforts along with those of his department on the award they will be receiving from the Red Cross for their work during the flood event in October.

Chief Farnsworth, Awards Policy: The Chief submitted an awards policy he would like to institute for officers in his department, and the Board asked to postpone discussion until they have had a chance to review.

Permit Fee Changes: The Board reviewed changes to the fee structure as presented by the building inspector, as well as those from Peter Hatch for fire inspection fees. The Fire Chief has also requested a fee for the annual inspection at Mary Lyons (for state inspection) (3x a year, \$50/each). The Board determined that for Fire and BOH, the town would get 20% of the permit fee. The fees for Building, Electrical, Plumbing, and Gas will allow the town to receive 20% of the fee. Duane Mosier made a motion to make the fee changes effective April 1, 2006, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Board will change the language relative to Liquor Licenses Change of Ownership under an active liquor license. The Town will charge an administrative fee of \$100.00 for the change of license. A note will be added to the fee schedule that no license will be pro-rated.

Zoning Enforcement: John Flynn presented the need for zoning enforcement in town. He has discussed the issue with Charlie Schmitt, Conservation Commission, Chair and Board of Appeals Chair, Dick Patullo.

Minutes of March 6, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as corrected, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session to discuss IBPO negotiations, the dispatchers pending negotiations and the Chief's contract with return to Open Session at 8:30, second by James Smith. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Duane Mosier yes, James Smith yes.

Return to Open Session at 8:50 pm.

Roundtable Discussion:

The question was asked by John Flynn as to the town having a policy regarding ATV use on Town property. Certain town properties have been posted prohibiting the use of ATV's.

TWB: The Board received an update from Duane Mosier on the renovation work at TWB. The boiler was ready to be fired up.

Town Hall Energy Use: At the request of John Flynn, a technician from National Grid did an energy review of Town Hall and sent a proposal to town regarding their energy efficiency report. It would be an 80/20 split for the town at a cost of approximately \$1400 dollars for a total cost savings of approximately \$1500/yr. The school will receive its audit during the next vacation.

Street Lights: Duane Mosier asked about the possible purchase of street lights rather than leasing. The Board discussed the idea. John Flynn and James Smith agree that the lights locations are appropriately positioned. They were appropriated determined when they were first installed and they continue to be in the appropriate locations today.

Budget Discussion:

James Smith remains steadfast in his position relative to the budget recommendations. He feels that some short term capital costs (for smaller items) need to be built into the annual budget on a yearly basis. James feels that it would be a disservice to the town not to attempt for an override vote.

John Flynn said new growth will help out in the next year, and for future years, along with PURD developments.

James responded that the school budget increases has come in historically is 6-7% or \$300,000 versus the \$50,000 this year and fears that that number will reappear in the next year.

John responded that the budget is for operating expenses, not for the funding of capital improvements.

Duane Mosier asked about the overlay account from the assessors which has been set at \$45,000 and how that might play into the budgeting process.

In order to be on the election ballot, an override question must be posted by Monday, March 27, 2006.

John Flynn believes that any override should be for capital expenses only and James Smith and Duane Mosier believe an override vote should serve to “correct” our current financial status and fund services.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc