

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

July 17, 2006
7:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: Duane E. Mosier, John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green
Guests: Ed Gorski, Doug Farmer, Wilbraham-Hampden Times

7:30 pm Donald Dorn: Mr. Dorn came before the Board to discuss the installation of his neighbor's septic system. Mr. Dorn went before the Conservation Commission to discuss this issue and has gone to court seeking a resolution to the drainage problem in his back yard. The river water is held on his property and Mr. Dorn contends that it is a condition created by the septic installation approved by the then Board of Health Agent, Glenn Riddle. Mr. Dorn has an attorney and stated that the Board would be contacted by him. The Board will send a letter to our insurance company notifying them of the situation. The Board will research necessary certification for Board of Health Agents.

7:45 pm Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant: Cliff came before the Board to discuss the status of the Town's free cash. Cliff remarked that the overview of our financial status is very good. Cliff expects that the Town performed well as a result of good budgeting practices by the Treasurer, Tax Collector, vehicle excise collection and the State budget..

Sumaria Software Status: Cliff also discussed the status of the changeover to a new software system for accounting purposes. The Town will continue with our current company, B&H for the time being as the new fiscal year has already begun. The budgeted amount of \$10,000 should remain a good number for the Sumaria software purchase. The treasurer's module, (payroll is not included in that) and the tax collector's module can be purchased at a later date. We will also be able to integrate 4 year's worth of history into the new system. Cliff is planning to have the system up and running by September 30th and will coordinate the installation and training of all departments for the new system.

8:15 pm Fire Chief, Peter Hatch: The Chief came before the Board and discussed the need for fire alarm replacement. The Board will get prices for repair versus replacement and will proceed with the installation.

The Chief gave November/December as anticipated delivery date for the new truck.

This office will also contact Brian Fitzgerald from Emergency Management Committee for a NIMS training update for the Fire Department.

8:00 pm Russ Morton: Russ Morton was supposed to attend this meeting to give the Board a status report of his work on South Ridge Road and the construction of a common driveway. Russ called in the afternoon to state he would not be able to attend. The Board will send a certified letter to Russ requesting that he come to the next meeting with a stamped plan certifying the completion of the work. The letter will be reviewed by Town Counsel, Dave Martel and then be sent out.

8:30 pm Transfer Station Bid Spec Presentation

- Mark Barba
- Mike Shea

The Transfer Station Study Committee came before the Board to discuss the specs for privatization they formulated. The question was raised as to whether we want to keep current operations as is, or to have a private company expand the operations to attract additional users. The Town anticipates more households utilizing the Transfer Station as a result of increased cost for private haulers. The town is currently reviewing the size of our containers to reduce our expenses of hauling charges by reducing the frequency of haulers coming to the site.

The Board asked what the advantages and disadvantages would be as a result of a private company?

Any changes made to the current operations would require a DEP approval from the start to finish process, which the group was told would be a 9-12 month process. The town would have to fund that process as well. The Board question whether that DEP process would be necessary, as the use would not change for the Transfer Station.

The purchase of a compactor was discussed. Changing equipment would not involve the DEP. Perhaps we would use larger covered containers, as we currently get a good rate for hauling charges.

Everyone present agrees that we need to be efficient and provide a good service to the residents and the Study Committee is doing their homework to ensure the best way to go Duane will contact Waste Management to get costs associated with purchase versus lease for equipment.

The study group will work on some different cost scenarios and come before the Board again.

Police:

- Review Vehicular Pursuit Policy
- Employment Agreement
- Extra Duty Function Approval
- Reserve Officer Resignation

The Board chose to reserve their discussion about the above items for a time when the Chief is available to meet.

Minutes of June 19, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve minutes as corrected, and seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Executive Session Minutes, June 19, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as corrected, and was seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of June 26, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as corrected, and was seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Street Lights: The Board discussed available money budgeted at Town Meeting to turn on additional lights. We can turn on approximately 15 more than are currently on. John Flynn has asked National Grid to bill the three lights currently paid for by the donor from last year to the Town. The Board will request that Chief Farnsworth review the list of inactive lights and give a priority list at the next meeting.

Memorial Park, Spray Park: The Spray Park project was discussed it terms of the contract signing. Park and Rec will be in charge of the project and the Town will not enter into a contract with the vendor since it is not a "Town" project. This board will not sign the contract, nor should Park and Rec. Rick will contact Chris McDonald to discuss the matter. The Board does need a copy of the DEP permit allowing the pond to be drained and wants to ensure that the Board is kept abreast of the status of the project.

The Board then discussed the tree trimming work that needs to be done on the access road to the park. Since the property was surveyed, the abutter is aware that trimming will be done. No trees have been cut as of yet. The road should be scraped back to expose the road surface. Highway does not have the manpower right now to do the trimming. The project may wait until winter.

VFW One Day Permits: A motion was made by Rick Green to grant a one day liquor license to the VFW to sell alcohol in the Pavilion on July 22, from noon to midnight and on July 30, from noon to midnight, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Vacation: The Board received a letter from the Highway Superintendent that he would be away on vacation the week of July 17th.

Thomas J. O'Conner Contract: Rick Green attended a meeting at the Thomas J. O'Conner Animal Shelter. The shelter is trying to achieve a non-profit status and would like Thomas J. O'Conner board members to do some fund raising. The Town's usage is relatively low and in light of the discussion at Town Meeting, the Board will contact other communities to see how they handle animal control. We will check with other

towns as to the costs they incur. We will make sure the Police direct any residents to call the dog officer directly.

Cable Contract: The Charter Cable contract is due to expire 12/07. The Board will contact the Cable Committee to start reviewing the current contract and to inquire as to other companies interest in serving the community.

Council on Aging Appointment: The Council on Aging sent a letter to the Board recommending the appointment of Deanna Vermette to the COA board. The BOS will send a letter to the Council on Aging, in support of their choice, but requesting that in the future, the BOS be a part of the process earlier. The BOS will invite Brian McLeod and other members in to discuss this. Rick Green made a motion that Deanna Vermette be appointed to the COA Board to fill the vacant position, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Board also discussed the \$100,000 granted by the State for the Senior Center and the stipulation that the money be used for capital items/improvements.

Committee Resignation: The Board received a letter of resignation from Mike Shea, Water Commissioner. The Board will speak with volunteers interested in serving.

Fall Town Meeting: The Board discussed the Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 30th and what needed to be covered at that meeting. There are outstanding bills for TWB septic repair and GM septic repair, the purchase of a new cruiser, money to go into the Reserve Account, Stabilization Account, infrastructure issues, Smart Growth grant money that must be used, and the proposed Stormwater Bylaw.

South Road Kibbe Chapter 61A property: Members of the Land Trust would like to discuss any options available to help protect open space.

249 South Road, Chapter 61A Kibbe Property: The Board reviewed the submittal and determined that the submittal was not complete. There was no plot plan, or purchase and sale agreement. The Board will contact Sherry Himmelstein and ask that she review the entire package and give an opinion on it meeting necessary criteria, as well as if there is any interest on the part of the Land Trust in acquiring the property.

Air Conditioner Maintenance: A technician from Superior assessed the unit on the roof and made a few minor adjustments. Necessary maintenance had been performed and the system is up and running for the season.

Police/Fire Group Accident Coverage: The Board reviewed a letter from our insurance carrier stating that all fire fighters (includes Fire Dept. and Highway Dept.) have life insurance coverage under the recent McNamara legislation.

Status:

- Green Meadows Bond: The Board will schedule a meeting to discuss bonding for Green Meadows. Steve Nembirkow is leaving the business manager's position for the District.
- Cell Phone Tower: The VFW has been approached by a cell company who would donate a flag pole and would then install an antennae on it. The Board will check with Gridcom to check on the issuance of a bond.
- Town Hall Phone Conversion: Verizon is in process of changing service.
- Chapin Road Bridge Status: The Board will send a letter to Pam Prentiss from the State to give her a status report on the Town's progress.
- Town House Building Committee: The group will meet again to prioritize needed repairs.

A motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn at 10:25 pm and was seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc