

Approved 11/6/06

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

October 2, 2006
7:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: Duane E. Mosier, John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Duane Mosier.
Guest: Doug Farmer, Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Green Meadows Bond: The status of the audit and bond was discussed by the Board. There are some outstanding items that will be reviewed by the State to determine whether they are eligible for reimbursement. John Flynn will contact Lori Lombard from Eastern Bank to confirm the final amount for the bond. The \$200,000 used for TWB boiler replacement and voted at town meeting, has been handled.

Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent: Dana came before the Board to discuss his contract.

A motion was made by Rick Green to go into Executive Session at 7:20 pm for the purposes of discussing the Highway Superintendent's contract with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Duane Mosier yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

A motion was made by Rick Green to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 7:50, second by John. VOTE: Duane Mosier yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

The Board then discussed the suspension policy that the Personnel Committee has been working on. The Board will pursue giving some additional information to the Committee so they can finalize the language.

Howlett Hill Road: The Board then discussed the issue of the maintenance of Howlett Hill Road. The Board sought the advice of Town Counsel as how best to proceed with discontinuing the maintenance of Howlett Hill Road. Dave Martel, Town Counsel suggested that maintenance could be discontinued if a hearing is held and it is determined that the road is abandoned and unused for ordinary travel. The Board will proceed with the hearing as soon as possible.

South Ridge Road: The Board discussed the condition of South Ridge Road. Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent was asked to get cost estimates for clearing existing

drainage (swales) since the Highway Department cannot do the work. Material needs to be dug out of the swales and hauled out. Dana is working on a scope of services and will then get these out to various contractors for estimates. The plan may be to re-establish the drainage and then do some patching of bad areas in the road to get us through for plowing. In the spring some test borings could be done to determine if the cleaning of the swales is enough to repair the drainage or if additional corrective action will need to be taken. The funding could be provided through State Aid, as long as the road is a public road, but the entire road would have to be repaved to get authorization from the State. The work would have to be contracted out since the Highway Department does not have the staff to handle the job. Drainage could be paid for with state aid, but temporary patching of the pavement would not be allowed. At the very least, the swales must be cleaned out now, (funding to be handled at Special Town Meeting with a warrant article). Patching of the road's worst areas would then be done and the road would be monitored to see how it weathers over time with a final determination to come at a later date.

Police Department

Chief Farnsworth: Chief Farnsworth came before the Board with Mike Lynch, his candidate from the Reserve Officer ranks to fill the full time student officer's position in the Department. There was some discussion as to when Mike's full time status begins, and it was agreed that he falls under the IBPO status once he successfully completes his Academy training. He does have some time accrued from his full time dispatcher's position and it was agreed that he will use those vacation days prior to completing his training at the academy.

The Reserve candidates met with a group consisting of Carol Fitzgerald, Personnel Committee, Duane Mosier, Selectman, Officer Henry, Police Sgt., Tawrin Seega, Police Officer and Chief Farnsworth. Michael Lynch finished first in the interview process. A motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Michael Lynch to the position of a student officer on the Police Department, effective when the necessary waiver is received from the State, was seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so moved.

As a result of Mike moving from the dispatcher's ranks, the Chief will need to hire a replacement for the vacated dispatcher's position.

Prior to Mike Lynch attending the next class held at the Academy, the Chief will need to get a waiver from the State which will allow Mike to work as a full time officer with the appropriate certificate from the State.

Phone System: The Board then discussed the status of the phone system used by the Police Department and some complications that have arisen when the power goes out. The APC system went off during a power outage, and the phones went down, and although the generator came on line, the phone system did not. An electrician needs to wire a circuit from the generator directly to the phone system. The Board will contact Eddie Poulin to do the work. The police do have a separate secure line coming in to the station for computer access (that stays up during a power outage).

Budget: The Chief discussed the budget which is in good shape overall, right where it was projected to be.

Police Fleet: The Board discussed the purchase of a 4-wheel drive Chevy versus a Ford and the Chief reported that the Chevy is more expensive. The Board then talked about which car should be used as the court car and the most cost effective vehicle to use. The Chief will come back with some numbers and a plan as to how best proceed with the fleet. The warrant article at Special Town Meeting will be for a 4-wheel drive vehicle at this point.

Warrant: The warrant was reviewed one last time and will be forwarded to Town Counsel as well as the Town Moderator for their comments.

Minutes of September 19, 2006: After reviewing the minutes, a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as corrected, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Executive Session Minutes September 5, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of September 25, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as corrected, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Transfer Station Inspection: The Transfer Station was inspected by a consultant from Tighe and Bond on Saturday, September 30th. Overall, his review stated that the operation was well-run and needed only slight modifications. He would like to see documentation of cars going through the station (which we monitor through permits sold). He would also like to have recycling available every week, to coincide with the days that the transfer station is open. The Board will review further to see the cost effectiveness of additional hours and costs versus added revenue.

Flu Clinic: The Board of Health will hold the flu clinic on November 17 at the Senior Center. The Board will contact Karen Hoyt, MD to secure her signature for the purchase of supplies.

Building Permit Process: The Board discussed the establishment of a checklist for applicants going through the permit process in Town to ensure all departments sign off on necessary approvals prior to an applicant going through the process and missing a particular permit. John Flynn will start by contacting the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Hillside/Ridgeline and the Building Inspector to get their suggestions on the checklist.

55 Ames Road: The issue of 4' x 4's placed in the Town's right of way, on the road pavement was brought to the attention of the Board and a letter will be reviewed by Town Counsel before contacting the homeowner.

Roundtable: Rick Green was visited by Donald Dorn from River Park Drive about a tree in the river that he wonders if the Town could remove. Rick will check with Ken Lefebvre and report back to the Board.

A motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn at 9:20 pm, and was seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc