

Approved 11/20/06

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

November 6, 2006
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

6:30 pm Vincent Mandolini, 17 Fernwood Drive: Mr. Mandolini came before the Board to discuss the ongoing drainage issues on his street. He came before the Board a few years ago requesting that the drainage be restored and was told at that time, there was no money in the Highway budget for such repairs. He has asked that the Board once again consider the work on that street, as part of the overall road projects that should be done. The Board explained that Fernwood was part of the infrastructure plan compiled by the Highway Superintendent last year, that was defeated at Town Meeting. The Board then discussed the establishment of a capital account that could be funded on a yearly basis, so some of these “smaller” road projects might be done on a priority basis.

6:45 pm Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant: Cliff came before the Board to discuss the Sumaria software installation. The Board discussed the timing of the installation and whether a server was required. He and John Flynn will discuss the specifics outside of the meeting.

Cliff also asked about the Financial Management Review done by DOR and when that would be discussed and how recommendations would be handled. The Board responded that it was their intent to review and discuss with department heads at the meeting planned for Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 pm.

7:00 pm Jeff Farnsworth, Police Chief, Peter Hatch, Fire Chief: The Chiefs came before the Board to stress the importance of and the need for a new generator in the Town House. There were a few times during the last weeks when power has gone out and the emergency radio systems have gone out. It was suggested that the transfer switch could be replaced for the time being, prior to bringing the article up at Annual Town Meeting in April. We need to find a technician who can look at the unit, give us some options. The Town has a standing request with MEMA that should any funding and/or equipment become available, the Town would be very interested. The tech from AR will be contacted to look at the generator.

Philip Lord, Appointment to Full Time Dispatcher: The Chief would like to appoint Phil Lord, currently a part-time dispatcher, to a full-time dispatcher position. With the recent appointment of Mike Lynch to a Student Officer's position, the full time dispatcher's position will be vacant. A motion was made by Rick Green to appoint Philip Lord to the position of full-time dispatcher for the Police Department, contingent upon the Chief receiving necessary certification from the State (expected 11/17) for Mike Lynch to be certified to act as a Student Officer, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

John-Michael Mikkola, Permanent Part-Time Dispatcher: The Chief would like to appoint John-Michael Mikkola to the position of a Permanent Part-Time Dispatcher. A motion was made by John Flynn to appoint John-Michael Mikkola as a Permanent Part-Time Dispatcher, contingent upon Phil Lord moving into the full time dispatcher position, second by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

David Goodrich, Reserve Officer /PT Dispatcher Appointment: The Chief brought a new applicant in to meet with the Board for an appointment as a Reserve Officer. David was formerly employed by the Town, but he left the area for some time and is now interested in coming back to the department. Officer Cooney and Sgt. Henry have recommended that he be added to the roster to fill the position left by Mike Lynch. He is currently employed by the Hampden Country Sheriff's department.

A motion was made by Rick Green to appoint David Goodrich as Reserve Officer/Part-Time Dispatcher for a 90-day probationary period contingent upon all proper certification required for the appointment of Mike Lynch, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Chief submitted the flag inspection reports showing that all town flags are in good condition. He also reviewed the department's budget year to date, and stated that it is in line where it was projected to be.

A motion was made at 7:25 pm by John Flynn to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues for the police department, with return to Open Session and was seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Duane Mosier yes.

A motion was made by Rick Green to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 7:35 pm, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Duane Mosier yes, Rick Green yes, John Flynn yes.

7:30 pm Hampden Housing Authority: Cece Melville, Bill Olmstead, Miles Hapgood, George Stone, and Christine Evans came before the Board at the Board's invitation. The Selectmen wanted to know if there was anything they might help the Housing Authority do. There is CPA money available for the use of housing and the Housing Authority was asked what the result was of the feasibility study done. The Housing Authority learned that given the age of the system no expansion would be allowed. The Board then inquired about the conditions of the existing buildings. The

Housing Authority responded that due to their preventive maintenance plan, things were in good order and they are not forced to go into crisis mode. Their 2007 budget submission will occur in March. The buildings have always been well maintained, roofs and windows are approximately 10 years old. The fire alarm system was hit by lighting in July. There are no carbon monoxide detection systems, but no combustibles on site. The Board has talked about pursuing additional property for additional housing for the seniors. The state does have a program that allows for feasibility of certain properties for the seniors. People must be 60 years old or handicapped. Should the BOS hear about property that might be well suited for senior housing, the Housing Authority will be notified.

The Housing Authority stated that they have no issues with emergency response and that police and medical always respond promptly. They work with Mike Framarin, who is the water operator for the housing development. They also have a community center that is available for shelter should residents need one and should a pandemic occur, residents could stay in place, rather than being moved anywhere else.

Bill Olmstead asked if we have any idea what the need/desire is of residents to be housed in the community. Christine Evans noted that the waiting list is very extensive.

8:00 pm Town Inspectors: The Board invited the inspectors in to see how the inspections are going in town and to inquire if there are any concerns they need to be aware of.

Building Inspector: Mark Feeney reviewed the approval process that he compiled for residents to follow prior to seeking a building permit. He organized the process in the order in which approvals should be sought when an applicant is seeking a building permit.

Electrical Inspector: Bob Lague is resigning from the position of Electrical Inspector, but will back up the current alternate inspector, Gary Courtney. A Motion was made by Rick Green to appoint Gary Courtney as full time electrical inspector, with Bob Lague as the alternate inspector, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Board then thanked Bob for the ten years of service he provided to residents.

The Board asked about the fee schedules and whether the inspectors feel they are adequately compensated for their jobs. The only real concern raised was Bob Lague's concern with homeowners being allowed to pull electrical permits for themselves and the number of repeat visits that are necessary as a result of that. The Board agreed to look into other communities to see how permits are handled.

Minutes of September 27, 2006 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented and was seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of October 2, 2006 were reviewed and a motion to approve as corrected was made by John Flynn and was seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of October 10, 2006 were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as corrected and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of October 16, 2006 were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of October 23, 2006 were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green and seconded by Duane Mosier.

Highway Department Sander Purchase: The Board discussed the request from Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent to purchase two sanders for this winter's use. Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant wants to go on record that he disagrees with the plan to purchase the sanders out of the Snow and Ice Account.

Rick Green requested that a letter be drafted to Cliff Bombard stating that during the annual equipment maintenance review done by the Highway Superintendent prior to the snow season; it was noted that there is the potential for an emergency situation, and the Board feels it is prudent to move forward with the purchase of the sanders.

A motion was made by Rick Green to authorize the Highway Superintendent to proceed with the order and purchase of the two sanders as requested, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

BOH Items

Resident Russ Morton applied to have a number of percolation tests done and cancelled a number of them. Jane B. has asked for direction as to how to proceed with a refund the perc's not done. Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant has asked that the Board establish a policy relative to the refund of these fees. Rick Green made a motion to refund the perc fees for the tests not done, and seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The discussion turned to the issuance of permits for someone who has a Cease and Desist order issued against them. A motion was made by John Flynn, that no permits shall be issued to any applicant with a Cease and Desist order against them until the Cease and Desist is resolved and signed off, second by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Transfer Station Modifications: The Board of Health is looking into some revisions to the layout at the recycling center and into pricing for bag purchases.

Flu Clinic: The Board discussed the parameters for flu shots in town. Rick Green made a motion to open the flu clinic to Town Employees, and anyone 50 years and older, subject

to vaccine availability and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Russ Morton Cease and Desist: The Board will contact Russ Morton to come before the Board with a certified as-built plan for the common driveway. No further permits will be issued prior to the completion of the common driveway.

Senior Center Grant: The Board will work through the Central Register for the generator bid.

Senior Center: Duane will follow up with Mike Framarin to ensure the final sign off has come in from DEP.

Town House Roof Bid: The bid date has been extended until November 20th at 12:00 pm.

South Ridge Road: The core test results should be in by week's end.

Green Meadows Septic System: Percolation tests have been performed as needed. The maintenance department at the school will pursue design plans, etc. The question that remains is why is the fluid not percolating through the sand. A sieve analysis will be performed on the Title 5 sand. We need to have a design in place by January.

Dog Hearing: The Somers Road inspection has been completed and we are awaiting the report from the Dog Officer, Octavia Mackey.

Cemetery Road Addition: The Board will check with Dana Pixley and Hank Dunwoody as to the status of the drainage review.

Department Head Budget Meeting: Thursday, November 9th will be the kick off meeting for budget preparation.

Annual Tree Lighting: The Board will contact all those involved for the December 3rd event.

Rick Green made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc