

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

January 29, 2007
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

6:30 pm Walk-Ins

6:45 pm Hunting Bylaw Discussion with Chief Farnsworth and Environmental Police Officer, Tony Tranghese: The Board received a letter of concern from a resident, regarding hunting permits in Town. Some of the issues raised were:

- Trespassing
- Hunting close to homes
- Instituting annual renewal of permits
- Minimum of five acres
- Permit shall be signed by landowner/taxpayer

Tony Tranghese stated that when the hunting bylaw was enacted, foot patrols were done by him and Police Officers during hunting season. Most of the concerns raised by this resident are enforcement in nature, and not a result of the language of the bylaw needing revision.

The Board discussed the need for an annual renewal of the hunting permit and the requirement that the landowner should file with the town. The landowner should also be able to stop any hunter and the hunter should then provide the proper authorization. If hunters do put up tree stands, they should identify who they are owned by as well.

State Law exists that if a landowner asks, the hunter must provide identification. Tony stated that the bigger problem exists when one landowner allows hunting, but an abutting landowner does not. If property lines are not clearly delineated, it is difficult for all parties to determine where hunting is permitted, and where it is not.

Chief Farnsworth suggested a two year renewal period rather than annually as it would stagger the process so the staff is not inundated with people attempting to permit in a short time frame.

The discussion then centered on the process of permitting and if in other town's landowners come in to fill out permission slips to allow hunting. In some towns, the Town Clerk administers the permitting with the landowner doing the necessary paperwork.

The Chief talked about the need to balance the rights of hunters with those opposed to the sport. He did note that there were minimal complaints this past year, and thought there were 3-5 complaints in total.

Additionally the group discussed possible changes to be implemented:

- Parked car would have to post a permit
- Note and identify ownership of a tree stand
- The need for funding for officers to patrol the woods, perhaps on opening day and 2 Saturdays during the season
- Possible administrative processing fee for the permits
- Pains and penalties for perjury
- No permanent tree stands, portable and temporary only

7:00 pm John Matthews, North Monson Road: John came before the Board to discuss the possibility of forming a committee to review the home occupancy permit process. The Board suggested that John speak directly with the Planning Board.

Warrant Review: The Board reviewed the status of the warrant and made some revisions.

Salary discussion: The Board discussed the question raised by Chief Farnsworth regarding the grade level of the department's secretary.

Green Meadows Septic Plan: Mike Messier from the School District is working on the proposals for the repairs to the system. A motion was made by Rick Green to authorize the Regional School District to accept the bid proposal made by Civil Engineering Associates from East Longmeadow to repair the septic system at Green Meadows School, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Tabor request: The Board would like to meet with the Personnel Committee on 2/5 to discuss the plan for additional job reviews being done by Tabor Associates.

Board of Health: The Board of Health received grant money for additional signs at the Transfer Station as well as some changes to the placement of containers. The Board received quotes on new signs and will move forward on them.

At 9:00 pm, a motion was made by Rick Green to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing ongoing litigation, without return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Duane Mosier yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant
/pbc