

Approved 3/27/07

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

March 13, 2007
7:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: Duane E. Mosier, John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

6:30 pm Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent: Dana came before the Board to discuss replacing/adding an employee to the highway department. His department has the available funding for this position. He would like to hire someone on a probationary basis, at the necessary time (when one current department employee starts on public grounds work). After some discussion, a motion was made.

A motion was made by Rick Green, to support the Highway Superintendent's recommendation to hire an additional member for the Highway Department, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Other Items: The Board also discussed current fuel consumption and the status of the gas account as well as the snow and ice account.

7:00 pm Connie Witt, Drainage Issue: Connie came before the Board to discuss ponding on the front of her property. She feels that the problem has been exacerbated by the recent repair of a septic tank by an abutter. Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent reviewed the situation and thinks that due to the frozen ground, there is no ability for the water to percolate through the soil and noted that this situation occurs on numerous properties at this time.

The Board responded that the Board of Health Agent would review the situation again to offer possible remediation measures, but the Town is not responsible in what is a civil issue. The Board stated that the abutters should work to stabilize material on their property with seeding.

The Board will ask Lorri to draft a letter regarding recommendations for the Renn's to alleviate the existing problem.

Garden Club: Connie presented the Garden Club's idea to purchase a bench to place in the planting garden at the front of the Town House. The Board was supportive of the plan, but wants to see pictures of what the Club proposes to place.

Historical Commission: The Board received a letter of resignation from member, Melissa Lail-Trecker wish to thank her for her years of service to the Town.

Connie presented a letter recommending Thomas Foster as the replacement for Melissa Lail-Trecker on the Historical Commission. A motion was made by Rick Green to move forward with the recommendation, naming Thomas Foster as a member of the Historical Commission, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

7:15 pm Hampden Arts Weekend: Dorothy Fritts and Patricia Pomeroy came before the Board to present their plans to hold an “Art’s Weekend” on September 22 and 23rd. The group has scheduled the annual exhibition of the Scantic River Artists, The Historical Society’s exhibits, as well as the theater performance of “The Music Man”, performed by the Hampden Theatre Guild. The Board is very supportive of the festival, and suggested that tables from Academy Hall could be used for outdoor set-up and the Town House lawn could be used to set up a tent in the event of inclement weather. There was discussion about possible police assistance with traffic control, and the group will ask if community policing money could possibly fund this. The Town Hall will be reserved for indoor displays.

7:30 pm Town Accountant, Revenue Sheet: Cliff Bombard came before the Board to discuss the revenue sheet which gets printed as part of the “green sheets”. Cliff will work on the revenue sheet generated by the Advisory Committee. Cliff noted that a few changes need to be made and committed to having the final copy ready to go to print on the 13th.

The Board then discussed various transfers anticipated prior to year end and Rick suggested that the Board meet with Advisory and the Town Accountant to discuss final numbers.

The Board mentioned that it has committed to seek funding for the Park and Rec Department to help bear the cost for the roof replacement of the RAH building... The Board discussed the Enterprise Fund warrant article on the Town Warrant which, if passed, will alleviate the need for the Transfer Station revolving account. The Board asked about fees associated with reviews done by the Fire Chief and Cliff explained that those monies are deposited and expended through the Building Department’s revolving account. The Board will send a letter to Fire Chief, Peter Hatch regarding deposits to Building Department. The money will now be submitted to the Building Inspector Clerk, Jane Budynkiewicz who will then deposit with the Treasurer.

There was further discussion about money left from the establishment of the Water District as well as CPA funding for historical renovation of the Town House. Proposed funding would require a vote at Town Meeting.

John Flynn left the meeting at 8:10 pm.

- Regional Selectmen's Meeting, March 22: The Board will host a regional meeting of area Selectmen and focus on discussing the regionalization of particular staffing positions; i.e., Emergency Management, Board of Health Agent, Human Resource Director. The meeting will be held in the Town House in the Selectmen's office at 7:00 pm.
- Calendar: The "green sheets" have gone to print, to be mailed prior to the Advisory Hearing.
- Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust, Outstanding Invoice: The SVRHT has posted Hampden's health insurance balance as having been in arrears by approximately \$30,000 for many months. This has been reported to the Selectmen, passed on to the Treasurer, who, according to her records, states that the account is not past due. The Treasurer of the SVRHT sent an email stating that the error has been his, through all these months, and sends his apology.
- Town House Repair Estimate: The Board will seek quotes for fascia repair of the Town House.
- Green Sheets: Final Warrant Review
 - Final Budget Review
- Unemployment Claim: A claim was submitted by a former Police Dispatcher, and the claim was denied.
- AFSCME Union Issues: The Police Dispatcher's Union Representative, who is also the representative for the Highway Department is retiring and has requested an extension for a meeting date, once his replacement has been named.
- Council on Aging: The Board will forward the job description for the Outreach Worker to Tabor Associates so the grade and description can be reviewed.

At 8:45 pm, Rick Green made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc