

Approved 6/18/07

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

June 4, 2007
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino
The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by John Flynn.

6:30 pm Becky Moriarty, COA Director: Becky came before the Board with the Formula Grant the COA receives every year for funding the Outreach Coordinator's position. Rick Green made a motion to recommend the signing by John Flynn, seconded by Vinny Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Board then discussed year end transfer requests for COA for utilities. Becky will submit as soon as final invoices come in.

Becky recently completed a COA Director's Certification Course, and will continue on an annual basis through Continuing Education Units. She is one of few directors in the state having received this certification. The Board commended her for the training and added that future courses may be reimbursed by the Town.

6:45 pm Donald Dorn, River Park Drive: Mr. Dorn came before the Board voicing his concern about certain farming activities, (and/or pipe laying) on property within wetland boundaries (his own determination). The Conservation Commission has investigated actions over the last month or so and found nothing prohibited by by-laws or DEP regulations.

Mr. Dorn requested that ConComm investigate the area again, and John Flynn stated that it is not the Board's area of jurisdiction, and that he would contact Charlie Schmitt (Chair, ConComm) directly for an update. He would then contact Mr. Dorn to give him the status of the situation.

Mr. Dorn spoke with a representative from DEP. Mr. Dorn contends that the property owner has developed a roadway from the Carmody Road access and has also installed pipe along that road.

Rick stated that a plan needs to be developed and filed by the property owner for a legitimate commercial farming/agricultural use.

7:00 pm Town House Building Committee: Ray Andree, Gary Courtney, Gilles Tanguay and Bob Burger, members. Ray and Gilles attended the meeting to discuss next set of priorities for Town House improvements/renovation. Ray also suggested that John Matthews has an interest in serving on the committee, and is well versed in areas of HVAC and phone systems.

The next renovation to be scheduled is the cupola repair which the committee will seek quotes for once Gilles reviews the existing conditions.

Ray stated that he planned on scheduling the next meeting and will be back before the Board on July 9th.

7:30 pm Chief Jeff Farnsworth:

1) Traffic Hazards: The Board discussed the issue of potential hazards caused by various objects in the road, such as moveable basketball hoops left in the road. The Chief's opinion is that a stationary item on the side of the road is the responsibility of the driver to drive around and not the homeowners. He also mentioned having difficulty in finding true boundary markers on some roads, making it difficult to determine the Town's property from a property owner's parcel.

2) Department Cleaning/Floors: The Chief has requested additional custodial work be done in the department, as well as floor cleaning to be done immediately. This office will review the town house custodial issues and submit to the Board.

3) Uniform Policy: The Chief submitted a policy for review for new uniforms and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve the new uniform policy, as submitted by Chief Farnsworth, seconded by Vinny Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

4) Response to Active Shooter: The Chief submitted a policy for Response to Active Shooter and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve the policy as presented by Chief Farnsworth, seconded by Vincent Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

5) NIMS reimbursement: Rick Green to pursue reimbursement requirements with the presenter of the NIMS course.

6) Police Grievance: The Board shared the opinion letter received from our labor counsel, Stan Weinberg and will send a letter of response to the aggrieved party.

7) Snow and Ice Enforcement: The Chief wrote a letter of response regarding the enforcement issue of snow and ice being plowed out of a driveway and left on the town's roads. The Highway Superintendent has asked that the Police enforce the removal of snow and ice and the Chief feels that a bylaw needs to be passed before any enforcement can be done by the Police Department. This issue is currently being reviewed by Town Counsel. The Chief will get a copy of the current bylaw in Monson.

At 8:00 pm a motion was made by Rick Green to enter into Executive Session to discuss the pending grievance issue from the IBPO, with return to Open Session, and was seconded by Vinny Villamaino. VOTE: Rick Green yes, John Flynn yes, Vinny Villamaino yes.

Rick Green made a motion to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 8:30 pm, seconded by Vinny Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Vinny Villamaino yes.

Highway Superintendent Correspondence:

1. South Ridge Road/Driveways: The Board discussed the letters sent by Dana Pixley regarding culvert work and installation and reimbursement due the Town. The letter follows past practice in Town.
2. Traffic Hazards: The Board discussed the issue of potential hazards caused by various objects in the road, such as moveable basketball hoops left in the road. The Chief's opinion is that a stationary item on the side of the road is the responsibility of the driver to drive around and not the homeowners. He also mentioned having difficulty in finding true boundary markers on some roads, making it difficult to determine the Town's property from a property owner's parcel.
3. MIIA: Our insurance carrier will seek reimbursement for truck repair.
4. Sidewalk Repair: The Board will ask that Dana proceed with grinding the sidewalk to the front of the town hall.
5. Driveway: The Board agreed that any damage done to the roads under construction will be the responsibility of the building inspector, should they occur after the CO is issued, it is the Highway Superintendent's responsibility.

Bi-Weekly Meeting Schedule: The Board will meet every two weeks in the summer, July 9 and 23 and August 8 and 20.

Steak Dinner at Fire Department: The Board members will attend the annual steak dinner.

A motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Vinny Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc