

Approved 8/27/07

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

August 20, 2007
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino
The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Guests: Chief Peter Hatch, Sgt. Joe Henry, John M. Flynn, Arthur Booth, Mike Gorski, Rachel Smith, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Ed Gorski

6:00 pm Public Safety Building Meeting: The Board invited former Selectmen, John M. Flynn and Arthur Booth to meet with them and other town officials to serve on an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibilities of combining the Police and Fire Departments and housing both in a Public Safety Complex. Police and Fire will deliver a list of needs/wants and distribute to the members and plan on meeting with the Selectmen again on September 10th. It was agreed that with new decontamination issues, training needs, MEMA requirements, expansion needs ,etc. it makes sense to combine the departments. The committee will meet on the 10th to discuss their findings, possible locations, and funding opportunities. It was agreed that in the past, this community has always been receptive to capital improvements in town and there is no reason to think that this proposal would be received any differently.

John Flynn will contact Gary Weiner to draw a plan showing town owned property, and location of existing buildings so the next meeting can include the location discussion.

Scantic River: Mike Gorski, resident and Director of DEP, Western Division was asked about the conditions of the Scantic River. The Board has several areas of concern, notably by the old dam, and the bend by Bond's property. Mike stated that the Conservation Commission should be approached first to see what their recommendations might be. Once that is done, an Army Corp of Engineers permit may be required as well.

Rick Green will set a meeting date with Mike Gorski, Art Booth, and will ask Charlie Schmitt to attend as well to do a site visit and assess the needs for clean up.

6:30 pm Dave Martel, Esq., Town Counsel: The Board invited Dave in to meet new Selectman, Vinnie Villamaino as well as give an update on ongoing projects.

The Howlett Hill Court case awaits a record of review by the court, once done, Dave will let us know the outcome.

Wood Stove Furnaces: The Board has learned that the DEP will not be issuing any regulations before spring of 2008. Dave presented regulations passed in Longmeadow and the Board will be reviewing surrounding community's regulations with Lori McCool at the Board's meeting on 8/27. At that point, they will make a determination whether to go forward with local regulations, with the possibility for revisions once DEP issues their regulations.

7:00 pm Vinnie Mandolini: Resident Mandolini came before the Board to discuss the drainage issue on Fernwood Drive and questioned if the recent report distributed came from an engineer at Tighe and Bond. The response was that the report was done by an engineer and all potential obstacles were delineated with associated costs, potentially reaching \$50,000 prior to the start of construction. The Board asked if the work could be done as an act of maintenance of the existing drainage and were advised to seek a request for determination from the Conservation Commission.

Beth Burger, also a resident of Fernwood Drive attended to explain the conditions as she has known them from the time she moved to this street and noted that the drainage goes down her driveway, into a swale and then into a swamp. The swamp is at maximum saturation and the water has no place to disperse to, which prevents the road from properly draining.

7:15 pm Reserve and Dispatcher Interviews: Sergeant Henry came before the Board to recommend the appointment of Mike Lynch, former Reserve Officer and John-Michael Mikkola, current Dispatcher for positions as Reserve Officers. Mike Lynch has rehabilitated from an injury and is ready to go back into service and John-Michael Mikkola has some road experience and is ready to serve on the Reserve Force.

A motion was made by Rick Green to support the recommendation made by Sgt. Henry to appoint Mike Lynch as a Reserve Officer, effective August 20, 2007 through June 30, 2008, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Rick Green to support the recommendation made by Sgt. Henry to appoint John-Michael Mikkola as a Reserve Officer, contingent upon completion of training, for a probationary period of six months, effective August 20, 2007 through June 30, 2008, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Sgt. Henry then introduced Robert E. Lauer, Jr. as a candidate for a part time dispatcher's position. Bob is a resident of Hampden and currently works as an auxiliary police officer in Springfield. Officer Cooney did a background check on Mr. Lauer and found all to be in order.

The Board stated the importance of the Dispatcher's position as being the first interaction a resident has with Police and emphasized the need for good communication skills and a willingness to assist. Bob Lauer concurred with that direction.

A motion was made by Rick Green to appoint Robert Lauer as a Part-Time Dispatcher, contingent upon completion of training, for a probationary period of six months, effective August 20, 2007 until June 30, 2008, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Police Car Detailing: The Board discussed the possibility of detailing the Explorer to match the new cruisers details and came to the conclusion that it was not worth the cost to make the change.

7:30 pm Personnel Committee: The Board asked the Personnel Committee to review the step raises and merit raises currently used for budgeting purposes for non-bargained Town employees. In reviewing the chart, employees were getting and step raise as well as a merit raise and both groups want to ensure that increases are done in a fair and equitable way. The current 2.5% increase covers the cost of living increase and Personnel will meet again to discuss possible ways to reward job performances above and beyond the requirements of the job description. Rick stated that the salary survey that has been done for years does not work as it currently stands. Bill Gouzounis suggested that a step increase might be granted over a two year period rather than an automatic one year period, and exceptional performance could be rewarded by granting the step increase over a one year period instead. It was agreed that the only person capable of giving a performance review is the immediate supervisor and not someone from the Personnel Committee. John would like the information available prior to the budget meeting to be held in November. The Personnel Committee will let the Board know when they meet so a Selectman can attend a meeting.

8:00 pm Board of Assessors: The Board came in to discuss some recent changes in the law regarding Chapter lands. These lands allow for a different classification for the property which reduces their tax obligation if used for agricultural use, forest land, etc. Dawn Barnes, new clerk to the Board presented the change to the Selectmen which gave the Town (through the Board of Selectmen) a one year timeframe in which to act on their right of first refusal to purchase the land. 61A and 61B is an annual filing due October 1st. The Board decided that should someone convert the property, and change the tax classification, that the date the tax rate changes, will be the initiation of the timeframe for the Town's right of first refusal. The Assessors were asked to provide a list from their office to the Board, on an annual basis, allowing this Board to send out courtesy notes to the property owners letting them know they are on notice of not having filed in Chapter land.

8:30 pm VFW Turkey Shoot Discussion: VFW Commander Charles Wood and Jr. Vice Commander Dave Bennett came before the Board to request dates for their annual turkey shoot. As in past years, there are certified range officers, safety personnel and volunteers to assure posted rules are followed and the tarps will be hung to help deafen the sounds.

The VFW would like to run the Turkey Shoot for 10 weeks starting 9/16/07 to 11/18/07. A motion was made by Rick Green to grant a permit to allow the VFW to host the Turkey

Shoots on Sunday, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, 9/16/07 through 11/18/07 contingent upon no alcohol allowed outdoors and no guns allowed indoors, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Other:

- Minutes of August 6, 2007: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: all in favor and so voted.
- Revenue Sheet: The revenue sheet provided by Cliff Bombard, showing updated numbers for FY2008 was reviewed.
- Arts Festival: Members of the organizers requested permission to place certain signs in town to promote their event. The Board declined their request to place a sandwich board on the traffic island on Main Street, but suggested that a sign be placed at the corner of Allen Street and Wilbraham Road. Also requested was placement of progressive signs starting at the Scantic Pub down to Town Hall with the permission of the property owners.
- Academy Hall Repairs: The Board received a letter from Linda Krawiecz with possible solutions to the bat problem. The Board agreed that the best solution would be to allow Gus Mancuso to resolve the problem as soon as his time allows. The Board received another letter from Beryle Doten regarding the general conditions of the building and requesting attention to these concerns. The Board will respond to her letter stating some of the improvements have already taken place.
- Town House Fascia Repair: The Board received three quotes for the fascia/coping repair needed at the front of Town Hall. Damaged pieces will be removed and replaced with pre-cast concrete coping. Scaffolding will be provided by the Town once quotes are secured and awarded. The quotes were from Rich Chambers from Ludlow, in the amount of \$9,600, David Markham from Hampden in the amount of \$9,200 and Joe Grant, from Hampden, in the amount of \$8,700. A motion was made by Rick Green to award the contract to Joe Grant and to start the project as soon as scaffolding is secured for the job, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Board of Health Variance: A plan was submitted by the Board of Health Agent requesting a variance for the location at 86 Thresher Road. A perc test could not be done due to the high water level, so a soil analysis was done instead. Lori McCool recommends the variance. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the variance for a soil analysis at 86 Thresher Road, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Plumbing Inspector Alternate Appointment: Lance Trevallion, Building Inspector recommended the appointment of Bernie Sears as the Alternate for the Plumbing Inspector. A motion was made by Rick Green to appoint Bernie Sears as the Alternate for Plumbing Inspector effective August 20, 2007 until June 30, 2008, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Notice of Intent: The Board received a notice from Conservation regarding a Notice of Intent at 42 North Monson Road. A hearing will be held.

- Planning Board: The Board received a copy of a letter of resignation from member Laurie Niles who will submit the letter to the Planning Board at their meeting on August 22, 2007. Planning Board will then post for her replacement.
- ABCC Seminar: The Board received notice of a seminar on August 28.
- Capital Asset Management Notice: The Board received a notice regarding proper procurement procedures relative to the generator bids.
- MTA Tourism Grant notice: Representative Mary Rogeness submitted a grant notice from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. The Board will not submit an application.
- Infrastructure Improvements, Projected Costs: The Board again reviewed the project list for any changes, final numbers.

A motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn at 8:40 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. Vote: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc