

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

September 24, 2007
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino

6:30 pm Hunting By-Law: Tony Tranghese and Chief Farnsworth came before the Board to discuss possible revisions to the existing hunting bylaw. The biggest concern appears to be the renewal timeframe. Currently, hunters do not come in on an annual basis for “permission to hunt” slips but may have one that does not even reflect the current property owner. The consensus is to require a permission slip be renewed every two years to ensure accuracy.

The conversation then went to the need to take this before a Town Meeting vote. The other item needing revision is language to mirror the State guidelines as stated in Chapter 140, Section 121.

Tony and Jeff will revise the bylaw for review by Town Counsel, Dave Martel.

6:45 pm National Grid Tree Removals: Dana Pixley came before the Board to discuss his letter detailing National Grid’s tree removal program which will pay for necessary trimming and full removal and disposal of trees. Out of the many trees marked, four in particular are noted by Dana as they are town trees and he wanted the Board to know of their pending removal. All four are located on Main Street in highly visible areas. The tree located in front of 453 Main Street generated opposition from two residents who don’t want the tree removed. The Board however will support the arborists for National Grid’s recommendation, as well as the recommendation of our Tree Warden, Dana Pixley. The residents have asked that the tree companies do their best not to damage surrounding trees and Dana will take that concern to the tree companies.

Rick Green made a motion to authorize the removal of trees as recommended by National Grid and supported by the Tree Warden, the total removal cost to be borne by National Grid, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Highway Issues:

Department Member Review: Dana made the Board aware of the 6 month review for recently hired Lauren Comstock, and as a result of it being favorable, a salary increase being due L. Comstock.

Chapin Road Bridge Maintenance Agreement: The Executive Office of Transportation (formerly known as MA Highway) sent a maintenance agreement to the Town for signing our assent to maintain the bridge (that the State has agreed to re-deck for the Town at no cost to us). The agreement requires the Town to use Chapter 90 money for any maintenance of the bridge that is required as a result of a state inspection. After discussion, it was agreed that the maintenance agreement will be signed and returned to the EOT.

7:00 pm Stormwater Committee: The Board invited the Stormwater Committee in to get a sense of what the status of the plan is for this year, the status of reported and how we'll go about getting the new bylaw (passed at last Town Meeting) in correct form. It was agreed that there are editorial changes the Attorney General's office would like and it will be brought forward again at the Annual Town Meeting in April.

The current members are: Joe Kruzel, current Chair, Bruce Libby, Dana Pixley, Duane Mosier, Neil Flynn, Phil Grant, Karl Sternberg. Stormwater Committee will schedule a meeting in the near future to work on this year's plan and discuss appointing a new chairman. An annual report will also be submitted in the next month or so.

LPVEC Natural Gas Bid Results: The gas bids are in, with only one bidder and the rates came in slightly lower than last year.

Outdoor Wood Fired Boilers and Furnaces: The Board reviewed the regulations again and made the distant requirements for a site plan at 300 feet. The Public Hearing for these regulations will be held on Monday, October 1st at 6:30 pm.

Minutes of September 17, 2007: The minutes of September 17, 2007 were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

COA Annual Report: Becky Moriarty, Director for the Council on Aging submitted an Annual Report to the Board, showing what she submits to the State.

COA Usage: The Board received a number of requests from residents requesting a change in hours for classes. These were sent to Becky Moriarty for her review and response. She would love to add additional hours, but unfortunately the budget is set to accommodate a set number of hours and there is no money in the budget to add to those hours.

AMR Contract Signing: The Board received the necessary documents requiring their signature for our Ambulance Contract between Hampden, East Longmeadow and American Medical Response.

Casino Study Committee: Local communities have formed a group to study the casino proposal. A motion was made by Rick Green to appoint John D. Flynn as this Board's

appointee for the Casino Study Committee, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: all in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Richard R. Green as the Alternate Appointee for the Casino Study Committee, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Town House Boiler Emission: The DEP had requested reporting from the Town on our Town House Boiler. Ed Cenedella from the School District was good enough to come to the Town House, get online to generate a response to satisfy the DEP and convince them that with such small emission, we shouldn't have to do such reporting in the future.

Generator Bids: Rick Green made a motion to award the bid for the 2 generators to ML Schmitt, being the low bidder for the specs and 3 addenda, motion seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Hollow Road: The Highway Superintendent was called by the Wilbraham's Town Engineer, Ed Miga to discuss conditions at Hollow Road. The Board was then contacted by Town Administrator, Bob Weiss about scheduling a meeting with both Boards to discuss illegal dumping that has taken place on the portion of closed road owned by Wilbraham.

Mass Health Reform: The Board will have to vote to adopt the Section 125 documents which is a mandatory Health Reform program for the State. Once done and adopted, forms will go to all employees requesting specific information on the status of their insurance.

Town Hall Scaffolding: Rick contacted Lynn Ladder regarding the start date for scaffolding for the cupola. He has also contacted Joe Grant to get started.

Green Meadows Septic: Langone Pipe (who did the septic installation) is requesting additional money for backfilling the system. They claimed there was no real significant native topsoil, there were lots of boulders to deal with and the job required additional soil and seeding. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve an additional \$2,000 for the additional work done by Langone Pipe, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant
/pbc