

Approved 11/13/07

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

October 29, 2007
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino
Guests: Ed Gorski, Rick Rubin, reporter for The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by John D. Flynn.

6:00 pm Cliff Bombard – Town Accountant
 Tracy Sicbaldi – Town Treasurer

The Board invited the Accountant and Treasurer in to discuss the status of the new accounting system, Sumaria. There has been a learning curve with the system, but both parties feel comfortable with the progress that has been made. John inquired about some bills that are overdue and the invoice processing and timing was reviewed with the Board. This office will date stamp the invoices so we can determine where the problem lies in the process and provide better tracking.

A motion was made at 6:25 pm by Rick Green to pause the meeting so the Board can attend the Advisory Hearing, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

6:30 pm Advisory Hearing – Melville Room: The warrant articles were reviewed with the advisory committee and explained so everyone is comfortable with the monies requested.

7:00 pm The meeting was returned to order at 7:00 pm to continue the Board's agenda.

7:00 pm Stanley Wisenburn: A resident from Ridgeway Road came before the Board with some suggestions for the Board to look into. He suggested that the gas station in town have a generator to ensure the residents could get gas in an emergency. He then wondered if the dam could be used for a hydroelectric plant for power for the Town. Rick stated that years ago there were 3 mills in town, but at that time the river was 20 feet deep. Rick went on to explain the huge cost associated with the construction of such a plant as well as the difficulty in permitting. Rick did say he would look into the possibility of such a project.

Minutes of October 22, 2007: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as corrected, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Contract Signing for ML Schmitt: A motion was made by Rick Green to authorize John D. Flynn to sign the contract for the generator purchase and installation, as approved by Dave Martel, Town Counsel, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Change Order #2: A change order was issued in the amount of \$4,400 to downsize the size of the generator from 100KW to 80KW at the Senior Center. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the change order issued by ML Schmitt in the amount of \$4,400 for the Senior Center generator, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Backhoe Quote: The Board had requested a quote for the addition of a backhoe attachment to the Bobcat Dana Pixley had received a quote on. This will go on the ATM warrant.

Drainage Request: Another property owner on Ridge Road, Mike Goldrick requested approval from the town to go forward with some modifications to the drainage swale. He has been told that should those modifications affect the operation of the swale in any way, his improvements would have to be removed to the satisfaction of the town at his cost.

A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the modifications as allowed by Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent, and was seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

American Medical Response Ambulance: The Board received a letter from Chief Farnsworth regarding his concern with the response times of the AMR ambulance when servicing an emergency call. A letter will go out from this office seeking an explanation for the delayed response of these specific calls.

FY08 Cultural Council Allotment: The State sent a form to be signed by John Flynn allowing for the disbursement of cultural council funds to the Town. Rick Rubin explained that the amount expected was \$4,000 for the fiscal year. Rick Green made a motion to authorize John D. Flynn to sign the form for the allotment, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Outdoor Wood Furnace Regulations: The Board reviewed some possible revisions to the regulations as previously drafted. Rick would like to continue a moratorium on any new stoves until regulations before the Department of Environmental Protection are approved.

John D. Flynn made a motion to continue the existing moratorium on any new stove installation, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

There was further discussion about setbacks as stated in the regulations before the DEP and the Board would like to allow anyone who currently meets the setback requirements be allowed to burn their stove now (pending compliance with other requirements). A motion was made by John Flynn that anyone who meets the setbacks as stated, be allowed to burn their outdoor wood furnace now, (pending compliance with other requirements), second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

When the Board attended the Regional Selectmen's meeting, Rick was able to review the East Longmeadow regulations which contained language relative to a "nuisance", which speaks to the quality of life. He wants to ensure that it is contained in our regulations. There also exists a setback requirement in our regulations stating that the location of the wood furnace can be no closer than 50' from the home that it is servicing. The Board would like to run that by the Fire Chief to get his opinion on the matter. Rick was able to speak with Peter Hatch this evening and Peter would prefer to keep the restriction as is, rather than go with manufacturers recommendations (which are at a reduced distance).

Hazardous Waste Day: We received results from Arlene Miller, coordinator of the HWD and will be sent a bill once final details are worked out.

MRSA: The information sent from the School District has been posted on the website, with questions and answers as well.

Police Detail Response: The Board reviewed the police detail letter and whether or not the town has a policy in place. The Board stated that on lesser traveled roads in town, the highway department may conduct their own traffic control and on the larger projects where traffic is heavier, these projects should be reviewed first by the Board. The Board will ask that we get information from other communities as to their standard practice.

Disclosure of Financial Interest: Phil Grant, member of the Conservation Commission has submitted a disclosure due to his involvement with an on-going conservation issue in town. The Board will ask Dave Martel to review the issue and get back to us with an opinion.

NOTES:

Charter Cable: Senior Discount language received should negotiations continue.

LPVEC Gas Pricing: Price reduced from last year.

Stormwater By-law Revisions: Revisions are currently with Dave Martel. Need further clarification on revisions and whether Town Meeting approval must be sought.

Town Hall Repair Work: The cement forms are made and have been poured. Joe Grant is ready to do his work on the front of the town house.

Chief Farnsworth out for training 10/27-10/30

Green Meadows Meeting, 11/2: John D., Doug Boyd, Duane Mosier, Beth Regulabuto
CTY Press Release

Veterans' Breakfast, Senior Center, November 9, 9:00 am

A motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn at 7:45 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc