

Approved 12/17/07

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES**

December 3, 2007
6:30 pm

Wilbraham Road
Thornton W. Burgess School

Present: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino
Advisory: Timm Marini, Doug Boyd, Carol Fitzgerald, Jeff Smith
The meeting was called to order by John D. Flynn at 6:30 pm.
Town Counsel, Dave Martel, Esq. arrived at 6:50 pm.

6:30 pm The Board discussed a number of topics prior to the start of the meeting.
No votes were taken.

7:00 pm Special Town Meeting Warrant Review: There was a motion from Eva Wiseman, to accept nominations for a Town Moderator to conduct the Special Town Meeting. A motion was made by John D. Flynn to nominate Dick Jones as a temporary Town Moderator for the purpose of this Special Town Meeting, seconded by Rick Green.
VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The warrant was read and Rick Green presented the explanation for the need of the warrant article. It serves to further clarify the purpose of the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund. After a short discussion, the town voted to approve the article.

The Board stayed for the Assessor's presentation for the tax classification.

7:15 pm Tax Classification Hearing: Diane Hildreth, Assessor presented the information relative to the allocation of taxes for the community to the Board. The three votes determine a residential factor, a residential exemption and a small commercial exemption.

The residential factor of 1 allows all properties, commercial, industrial and personal property to be taxed at the same rate.
A motion was made by Rick Green to set the residential tax factor at 1 and was seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The residential exemption is typically used in a community with a high percentage of rental properties. In town, more residential properties are owner-occupied.
A motion was made by Rick Green to not allow for residential exemptions, and was seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The third decision is to allow a commercial exemption. This exemption would not benefit a large number of businesses in town, as the exemption applies to the property owner, not to the business owner.

A motion was made by Rick Green to not allow for commercial exemptions, and was seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

7:30 pm Chief Farnsworth: John Flynn opened the discussion with commending the Chief on the outstanding job he and his department had done with a recent incident in town, assisted by forces from the State Police. The sentiments were echoed by Rick Green and Vinnie Villamaino. The incident concluded with an arrest and no injuries. The discussion then turned to contacting the Board by the Chief during future emergency situations. It was agreed that the situation/emergency is of paramount importance and as time allows, contact can then be made to the Chairman of the Board and information can be disseminated from there. It is not a function of the Chiefs to alert each Selectman separately. The only exception to that would be a MEMA emergency, as Rick Green is the Emergency Manager and asked to be contacted as well as the Chairman.

Minutes of November 20, 2007 and November 26, 2007: The review of the minutes was deferred until the meeting on December 11, 2007 at the Senior Center.

BOH Variances:

- 87 Stony Hill Road: A request was before the Board for a variance to allow the placement of the septic system less than the required 100 feet from a well. The distance will only be 97'. Vinnie Villamaino made a motion to approve the recommendation made by Lori McCool, BOH Agent and allow the variance, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- 19 Forest Hills Road: A request was made to allow a soil analysis test in lieu of a perc test as the soils were too wet to perc. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the recommendation made by Lori McCool, BOH Agent to allow the variance, and was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

BOH-Wood Burning Furnaces: The Board discussed the permit application fee to install a wood burning furnace. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to charge a permit fee of \$50.00 for wood burning furnaces, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant