

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

December 17, 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 6:30 pm.

Town House and Senior Center Generators: Gary Courtney came before the Board to discuss the status of the generators' arrival and the fact that the Senior Center generator has been downsized. A change order has been signed but the engineer is requesting a letter drafted by the Board granting the approval of the change. The ship date for the town house generator is December 18<sup>th</sup>. To alleviate time delays, all future communications between contractors and engineers will be done through Gary Courtney.

6:30 pm      Chief Farnsworth: The Board met with the Chief to discuss the following items:

Disposal Costs for Deer: John Flynn asked Tony Tranghese how the town might more effectively and with less expense, deal with the number of deer that are in traffic accidents and then transported to Thomas J. O'Conner Animal Shelter. There is a fee involved for disposal as well as the time it takes for the Highway Department member(s) to transport the animal. Tony Tranghese researched the laws and found that the Board has the authority to appoint someone in town to handle the problem for us. At this time of the year, our annual budget (\$300) for these costs is almost gone. Once further information is gathered, it may be offered to the driver first, and if it is on homeowner's property, the owner would be offered the deer.

Snow Notification Policy: Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent has requested compliance by the Police Department on the directive issued by Chief Stone in December of 1991 directing the Police Department to be the entity responsible to notify Highway of snow and ice issues affecting the public's safety. When the roads are covered by snow, Dana has requested that a call be made to him notifying him of the conditions so he can make the proper determination as to what services are needed. The same notification system applies when the Police are aware of icing conditions. The Chief would like to re-work the directive from Chief Stone to omit the portion that states a Sergeant or officer in charge must make the call. He also had re-worked the document into a policy that did not quite mirror the original directive. The Board reviewed his draft and asked that a

revision be made prior to the Board signing off. The Chief will do so and submit for final approval.

Snow Removal Procedures: The Board requested information on how best to notify property owners of snow and ice left on public roads. Dave Martel, Town Counsel responded with options, suggesting that the Police Department would have sufficient basis to instruct owners to remove piles of snow in the public ways. The discussion continued with the idea of Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent drafting a letter and both departments keeping track of those offenders so could be sent to letters of reprimand could be sent.

Vacation Schedule: The Chief submitted his vacation schedule for the holidays, leaving Sgt. Henry in charge in his absence.

7:00 pm Cemetery Commission: The Commission had requested time with the Board, but no one showed for the meeting.

7:15 pm Representative Rogeness: Ms. Rogeness reported that a group of Republicans are starting a grass roots movement to get the State to return money not granted to the towns during lean years. Ms. Rogeness presented the difference between the state's stabilization funds versus the town's stabilization funds. She stated that this will require the support of school committees, as well as local municipalities. Currently the state has \$2.3 billion in stabilization fund now.

The Board will draft a letter to go to Senator Candaras and Representative Rogeness and the MMA offering its support of the request for a share of the stabilization funds.

The State has also passed a law to allow towns to participate in the State's Health Insurance plans. This would require bargaining for some employees.

The State is also allowing any retirement plan to be handled by state retirement board. Longmeadow is currently working on doing a presentation involving this to allow towns to make their decisions. Rep. Rogeness can notify her husband to do the presentation at a Regional Selectmen's Meeting.

8:00 pm Dispatcher Kenison: Racky came before the Board requesting help in getting a rotation on the shift scheduling that would allow him to work a few shifts as a reserve (which puts him over the 40 hour work week and entitles him to time and a half). The Chief is trying to stay within budget with the current schedule. Racky thinks that according to the Department of Labor, the Police may have some obligation to offer this to him, seeing it as one job for the police and not two, which is how the Board interprets the issue. This office will pursue an explanation through the Dept. of Labor and get back to Racky with its findings.

Generator Payment: A motion was made by Rick Green to approve partial payment to ML Schmitt for the work done to date, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Highway Department: A letter was submitted by Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent explaining a complaint received in the Board's office from the resident at 77 Glendale Road. There will be further discussion with the Board and the Highway Superintendent.

Minutes for Review: The minutes of December 3, 2007 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.

Election Calendar: The Town Clerk submitted an election calendar to the Board and its assistant to reserve specific dates for the upcoming year.

Tabor Schedule: John Flynn spoke with Don Collins from the Personnel Committee who recommended that no new steps be taken this year, but use the Tabor numbers at 95% of recommendation. This completes the two year process of bringing the municipal salary back on track with the Tabor Associates tracking of private sector wages. In addition, the Personnel Committee will look into a modification of the step structure for the following fiscal year.

A motion was made by Rick Green to send a memo to department heads with the recommended salary increases for the upcoming fiscal year, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Roof Drainage Work: A call has been made to one vendor and another will be made to have someone inspect the town hall roof drains to ensure we don't have a problem with them this winter.

A motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc