

Approved 12/15/08

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

December 8, 2008
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Rick Green.

6:30 pm Open Session

- Minutes of December 1, 2008: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented, second by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Vinnie Villamaino abstained from vote as he was not in attendance on December 1, 2008.
- Selectmen's Schedule: The Board will make reschedule a few Monday night meetings to Tuesday night meetings to accommodate one of the Selectmen's schedule. The revised dates are as follows: Tuesdays, January 13, January 20, January 27, February 3, February 10 and February 17, all with a 6:30 start time.
- Radio Frequency Request: The Highway Department received a request from West Springfield Police Department to release its radio call signal to them. The Board asked Chief Farnsworth his opinion, which was with federally mandated changes pending, he thinks it best to hold on to the signals we currently have.
- School Committee Meeting: The Minnechaug Girl's Soccer Team is Division One State Champions and will be recognized by Hampden and Wilbraham's Boards of Selectmen at the next meeting on December 16, at 7:00 pm.
- Budget Roundtable: The Board has been invited to the first HWRSD Budget roundtable meeting at the MRHS Media Center on December 18, at 7:00 pm.
- State Aid Cuts: The Board reviewed an article in the news in which House Speaker Sal DeMasi predicts a 5-10% cut in State aid for FY10. The article will be forwarded to the Advisory Board.
- Pay Rate Schedule: The Board reviewed the 15 Step Plan drafted by the Personnel Committee and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve the salary schedule for FY10 dated 11/28/08, which includes a 2.5% increase for those at step 15, maximum step, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

- Town Meeting Discussion Item: The Board discussed cemetery funds and will seek clarification as to how they can be used.
- GASB 45: The Town must proceed with a GASB study to determine what our liabilities are relative to retirees, long term employees and their benefits, etc. Cliff Bombard mentioned a software program that he would research, and there are a couple of other companies who perform the work. This office will get estimates from each to determine the best way to proceed.

Town Treasurer: Tracy Sicbaldi came before the Board to discuss the need to borrow money to pay the school assessment due on Monday, December 15th. She would like to borrow from the Stabilization Fund rather than borrow outside. It would save the town interest fees and the money will be paid quickly with taxes being paid. John Flynn made a motion to allow the Treasurer to borrow \$500,000 from the stabilization account to pay the HWRSD assessment due on December 15th, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Board did ask that Tracy get a recap and forecast of the stabilization account for the next meeting on December 15. They would like it to include a history from approximately one year ago to where we currently are and beyond.

Jeff Farnsworth, Police Chief: The Board briefly discussed the status of the department's fleet and how Jeff would like to proceed. His recommendation is to keep the four-wheel drive vehicle and park it in the lot for use in inclement weather and to purchase a new cruiser that he estimates will cost \$38-40,000.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session without return to Open Session at 7:05 pm for the purpose of discussing contract issues and personnel issues with the Police Chief, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc