

Approved 1/22/08

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

January 14, 2008
6:30 pm

Town House
625 Main Street

Present: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino
Guests: Robert Rocheleau, PVPC, Michelle Aveyard, Wilbraham-Hampden Times
The meeting was called to order by John D. Flynn at 6:30 pm.

6:40 pm Pioneer Valley Planning Commission: Robert Rocheleau from PVPC came before the Board to present the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan that PVPC is currently working on. The Commission is seeking endorsements from municipalities as well as businesses to work with them to have energy audits performed on public buildings, to assess where improvements can be made for long term energy solutions. The audits would be done at no cost to the town and where deficiencies exist, an energy contractor would pay for improvements and the town would then reimburse on a monthly basis while realizing a savings in utility costs. Windows, boilers, insulation, etc. would all be assessed.

Rick asked about water power and harnessing that as suggested by one of our residents for the Scantic River. Rob's response was that someone from PVPC could review the site and give an answer to that.

The Memorandum of Agreement for Promoting and Implementing the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan was presented for signing by Robert Rocheleau.

A motion was made by Rick Green to sign the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Agreement, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

7:00 pm Historical Society: Linda Krawiec came before the Board to discuss remediation for the bat problem that has been ongoing for years. Resident Gus Mancuso was good enough to go into the attic to assess the work needed, and determined that the problem has escalated over the years and the remediation needed includes removing and discarding old insulation that has been filled with bat dung, re-insulating, cleaning, screen work and repair as well as installing a pathway of plywood for accessibility while working.

Linda is wondering if there is any grant money available to do the work and Rick asked if there is CPA money that might be used. The Board will look for a contractor to take care of the bat problem.

There was also discussion about painting the building sometime in the near future and Linda agreed to investigate the cost for that work.

7:30 pm Outdoor Wood Burner Furnaces: Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent came before the board to talk about the town's regulations regarding the operations of these furnaces. Most of the owners of these heating units have gone through the proper channels to comply with the regulations, but there are a few homeowners who have not. The Board reiterated that these regulations are in place to regulate any potential health issues as well as quality of life and/or nuisance issues. There are residents who are opposed to the regulations and who wish to discuss the topic at Town Meeting. The Board will request that Dick Patullo, Town Moderator review the information and give his opinion as to the validity of the request. Should any changes be made to these regulations, the Board will again follow the process required by the DEP.

The Board of Health will also follow up with those owners who have not submitted the necessary paperwork for full compliance with the regulations.

The Town Inspectors (Building, BOH Agent, Plumbing and Electrical) performed a site inspection at a homeowner's over the weekend to become more familiar with what each discipline is looking for and those coming into compliance will all be inspected as well.

Board of Health: Cigarette Compliance: The Board discussed the need for a cigarette compliance class for all retailers who currently sell cigarettes to ensure minors are not being sold tobacco products. Rick will check with the State inspector about conducting such a meeting at town hall and making it mandatory for all retailers to attend. Rick will also check on what kind of permit is issued to those retailers, as we currently do not permit the sale of tobacco products through the town.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session at 8:00 pm to discuss School Contracts, with return to Open Session, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

At 8:10 a motion was made by Rick Green to return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:10 pm.

8:10 pm Chief Farnsworth: The Chief came in to discuss a number of items with the Board:

Budget: The Board reviewed the budget to date, and the department is tracking on projection.

Car: There was discussion about the next vehicle to be purchased for the department and the need for another 4-wheel drive vehicle. There will be further discussion on this.

Chief's Evaluation: There was further discussion about a format for evaluating the chief's performance, as one has not yet been found.

Vacation Request: The Chief requested authorization to carry over vacation days. A motion was made by Rick Green to allow Chief Farnsworth to carry over 2 vacation days to be used by April 10, 2008, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Policy: The Chief presented a revised policy for winter conditions and the Board requested yet another revision. The Chief will make the requested change and re-submit for the Board to sign.

The Board then asked how policies are presented to the staff of both full time members and reserves. The Chief responded that every time a new policy is approved, he sends an email to all department members and receives an acknowledgement back stating that the recipient has read, reviewed and understands the policy as stated.

The Board asked that Jeff check on the policy related to the Highway gate as there seems to be some confusion among the department as to how it should be handled.

Dispatcher/Reserve Officer Issue: The Board will research the conditions of the appointment issued for Radcliffe Kenison in the position of Reserve Officer to resolve a pending issue.

At 8:55 a motion was made by Rick Green to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Chief's evaluation and increase for 2009 with return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

Minutes:

January 2, 2008: The minutes of January 2, 2008 were reviewed, and a typographical error was corrected. A motion to approve with the change was made by Rick Green, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

January 7, 2008: The minutes of January 7, 2008 were reviewed. A motion to approve as presented was made by Rick Green, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

January 7, 2008, Executive Session: The Executive Session minutes of January 7, 2008 were reviewed. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Warrant Preparation: The following topics were reviewed for inclusion in the annual warrant:

- Regional School Committee Stabilization Account Warrant Article
- Hunting By-law

- Unregistered Cars By-law
- Snow Removal By-law
- Stormwater By-law
- Academy Hall Repairs
- TWB Floor

Budget Review Schedule:

- Police and COA scheduled for January 28, with COA starting at 6:30 pm.
- Highway scheduled for February 4 at 5:30 pm.

Wilbraham Public Hearing – Discontinuance of Maintenance, Hollow Road
Monday, February 4th at 7 pm

Maintenance/Repairs:

- Bathrooms
- Insulation in cupola

Phone Installation: Scheduled for January 22, 2008.

Sign: Presidential Primary Warrant (February 5).

Generator Update: The Board has received a status report; the generator is in at the Town Hall.

Executive Session: School Contract was discussed.

A motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn meeting at 9:45 pm, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc