

Approved 4/22/08

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

April 14, 2008
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

Wilbraham Selectman, Jim Thompson: The Board invited Selectman Thompson to the meeting to discuss a couple of issues; outlined below:

- School Resource Officer: The Board wanted to discuss the role of the School Resource Officer, the funding of that officer, the amount of time the officer would be at the school, as it has recently been covered by the press. As Jim Thompson explained, the subject came up and is still in discussion stage only as the Wilbraham Board has these same questions. Currently there is an officer at Minnechaug and some of that cost is absorbed by a Community Policing grant and the other is shared by the Wilbraham and Hampden communities. The School Committee and both boards are supportive of an officer on site to ensure the security of the students and school. Jim stated they are in the early stages of reviewing costs, and the allocation of the officer's time. Currently, there is no clear distinction between time at the school and time spent out on the road by the officer. The Board will seek additional information and once gathered both parties will discuss the issue. One of the key pieces is funding the position. Jim Thompson made it very clear that the issue has not been "decided" and it is in the discussion stage only.
- Hollow Road, Discontinuance of Maintenance: The Board wants some time parameters determined for the removal of the barricade, the installation of the gate, what the key protocol will be, and when the debris will be removed. Jim assured the Board that he would get the answers to these questions and get back to them.
- Communications: Both Boards agreed that the relationship between towns was a good one, and wanted to ensure that it stays that way. A street sign in Hampden was knocked down by a Wilbraham DPW truck and Hampden was never notified of the incident.

Board of Health – Public Hearing: The Board of Health held a public hearing to discuss minor modifications to the existing regulations relative to Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces. Minutes of that hearing are attached.

TWB Building Committee: The Board has asked for various volunteers to serve as a building committee for Thornton W. Burgess School, to determine the current needs and future needs of the building. Those volunteers are: Ed Cenedella, Gary Courtney, Brian Garbecki, Glennice Flynn and Mary Ellen Shea. The discussion centered on the existing generator and its capacity. It currently serves to run lights and refrigeration.

The Board thanked Ed Cenedella for the work he has initiated with the gym floor, but there is some concern about whether the floor care protocol has been followed. It is important that the process established, continues to be followed as the fine particulate problem has been solved.

There was discussion about removing the partition in the gym and replacing with a drop curtain.

The gym floor, generator, and partition are all problematic now and will only get worse with time. Bleachers too are an issue, but they can be used again through the remounting process if a new floor is installed. There will be debt falling off in the future which would allow for borrowing at that time for these repairs/renovations. John asks that the group come up with a list of priorities with some estimate of potential costs.

Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent: Dana came before the Board to discuss a number of topics, the first being the Green Meadows School site clean up. There is currently \$13,000 in available funds to clean the material left from construction of the septic system. There was discussion about a few residents who have shown interest in the material and the Board would like anyone interested to contact Dana or the Board so the property would be cleared, allowing for a final clean up. The Board will also put a notice in the paper informing people of the opportunity to take this fill for free.

There was further discussion about whether any of this material/fill could be used to shore up any of the banks of the Scantic that have eroded due to the '05 storm event. The Board will invite Mike Gorski, who works for the DEP in on the 22nd to discuss possible remediation.

Contract Issue: A motion was made by Rick Green at 7:04 pm to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Highway Superintendent's contract issue, with return to Open Session, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

A motion was made by Rick Green to leave Executive Session at 7:07 pm with return to Open Session, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

2009 Infrastructure Improvement Plan: Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent started the discussion with a list of all existing towns in Highway Districts 1 and 2, and noted that Hampden is the only town on the list to have spent all Chapter 90 money as granted by the State, where many others on the list revealed large sums of money left in the coffers for whatever reason.

The Board reviewed the list of potential projects on Dana's list and agreed on the following work:

- Allen Street Paving and Related Work (from Circle View to the Town line, including the intersection of Stony Hill Road)
- Baldwin Track Paving (Woodland Drive, Ridgeway Road, Baldwin Drive, Crestwood Drive and Sessions Drive)
- Town Hall Parking Lot
- Chapin Road Bridge (funded through the State)

Minutes:

- The minutes of March 24, 2008 were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Rick Green abstained from the vote as he was not in attendance at that meeting.
- The minutes of March 31, 2008 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.
- The minutes of April 7, 2008 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.

Used Car Dealer's License: An application for a used car dealer's license from Chris Hircys (who has received Planning Board approval) was before the Board. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve a used car dealer's license to Chris Hircys, of Thresher Road with conditions as stated and approved by the Planning Board, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

VFW: A request was made by the VFW for a one day liquor permit for the pavilion. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the permit for May 10, 2008 from 5 pm -12 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. – Motion to approve by Rick Green, second by Vinnie Villamaino.

Transfer Requests: A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the transfer request from the Reserve Account into the COA utility account in the amount of \$600.30, to be forwarded to the Advisory Committee for their approval, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the transfer request from the Reserve Account into the General Highway Account in the amount of \$450.00, to be forwarded to the Advisory Committee for their approval, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the transfer request from the Reserve Account into the Veterans' Benefits in the amount of \$1,932.00, to be forwarded to the Advisory Committee for their approval, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Vacation Schedules: The Board reviewed vacation schedules for the summer months.

Hampden County Retirement Vote: The Board attended a meeting at which other communities were voting to change the investment management company for the

Hampden County Retirement Funds. There was a request for the Board to sign off on their support of such change, but given recent news of Massachusetts retirement management, the Board held off on the signing.

Property Donation: A resident, Al Joyce submitted information on property he owns and would be willing to donate to the town, as he saw a notice that the town would appreciate access to the river by landowners. The Board will seek additional information as this must be presented at town meeting prior to it coming to fruition.

Charter Contract Status: Rick is reviewing and will bring information forward for review.

Academy Hall Painting: The Board will ask that the Historical Commission attend the next meeting on April 22 to get them involved with the bid process for the painting.

Adopt-A-Road Kick Off: Participants will be invited to attend the BOS meeting on April 22 to discuss the Adopt-A-Road.

Academy Hall Bat Clean Up: The work is scheduled for April 17 and 18.

Town House roof/drain cleaning: The work is scheduled for April 25.

With no further business to attend to, 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