

Approved 6/23/08

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

June 11, 2008
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn
Guests: Katie Breault, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Ed Gorski

Police Department, Full Time Officer's Appointment: The Chief of Police, Jeff Farnsworth recommended the appointment of Bill Jacques as a full time officer, as he received the highest test score of those taking it.
A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Bill Jacques as a full time police officer, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

COA Board Members: Virginia Schneider, Al Ouimet, John Shay, Pat Clark, Deanna Vermette, Kathy Foster, Shirley Gouvan, Dick Gouvan, George Vermette, Rita Vail came before the Board for an annual review of the COA and where the Board sees the Senior Center going in the coming year. Brian MacLeod and Karen Leger were unable to attend.

Rick opened the meeting by stating that he did not know the bylaws of the COA Board, but did note that the present Chair, Brian MacLeod had served for 8 years. Patricia Clark said that his chairmanship has been determined largely by default, as no other members have stepped forward to take the position. Pat offered to take the chair position for a one year term only. Rick thinks this is the best way to handle the situation now. Once the year is up, Brian could then move into the Chair's position again. This will allow the review of the bylaws to see if changes need to be made.

The bylaws have not been reviewed since 1993, and all agreed that with the amount of time having passed, it would be worthwhile to have them reviewed. It was determined that Pat Clark, Vinnie Villamaino and Becky Moriarty would work together on this. There are three members whose terms expire this year, and 3 members under 60 now.

As far as recommendations for Becky, the Board would like for her to be more visible to those at the center, rather than working on projects in her office. Board members currently bring suggestions in for programs, speakers on a particular topic, etc. Pat Clark feels that the board does its job, as established.

Rick asked if there is an interest in seeking tax abatements for volunteers who work for the center. Both East Longmeadow and Wilbraham have adopted this program. It is something that the Board will discuss.

In response to the topic of more volunteers coming to the center to work, Pat brought up the fact that those currently employed at the center are emergency certified, and John responded that if anyone new comes on board, they would have to be certified as well.

There was then discussion about the center serving as a cooling center as had been done with the recent heat wave. Rick said we would work on the CTY program to alert seniors to the center being open extended hours for this purpose. This system used by the Police allows for a designated group of people to receive targeted phone messages about a particular issue that concerns them.

The question came up about the feeding of those who come in. Rick will look into stocking a pantry at the center and Kathy Foster suggested a food drive as a way for the public to participate, but do not have the time to do so at the center. Rick asked for a list of those items that would be needed to stock a pantry.

Pat then extended an invitation to the Board for the COA Board meeting held on the 2nd Tuesdays of the month at 8:30 am.

The Board will send a letter to the COA Board members who are up for reappointment to ensure they wish to serve another term. Those members are Brian MacLeod, Rita Vail and Virginia Schneider.

Fire Department: Chief Peter Hatch and Deputy Chief Chuck Beaver came in to meet with the Board. A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session at 7:03 with return to Open Session to discuss an ongoing investigation, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Rick Green yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

A motion was made to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 7:35 pm by Vinnie Villamaino, second by John Flynn. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes and Rick Green yes.

Cemetery Commissioner: The Board of Selectmen reviewed the appointment made for Edward Norman as Cemetery Commissioner and agreed that the appointment should run until the next election, with the opportunity to complete two additional years in the term. John Miller, Raymond Drive resident: Mr. Miller had an issue that needed to be handled in the Planning Board Meeting and was directed to that meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of June 2, 2008 were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, second by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. John Flynn did not vote as he was out of town for that meeting.

Highway Project Request Signing: The State Highway Contract is now effective for a ten year term, as opposed to a new one being signed and returned on an annual basis. We are

now in the second year of that ten year term and the Board signed the project request to be submitted to the State.

Town Hall Parking Lot: The Board discussed the issue of additional parking at the town hall and agreed that it would be discussed on the 16th with the Highway Superintendent, Dana Pixley.

Intersection Modifications: The Board reviewed a letter from Dana Pixley proposing modifications to the existing intersections within the Baldwin Tract. The Board supports the modifications and will confirm that at the meeting on the 16th.

PVPC Alternate Commissioner: The Board was notified by the Planning Board that they decide who shall be the PVPC Alternate. It was recommended by Planning that new member Robert Howarth serve in that position. A motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Bob Howarth as the PVPC Alternate Commissioner, for the coming term, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. A letter will be forwarded to the Planning Board to that effect, which will then be forwarded to the PVPC.

Academy Hall: The town received two bids on the insulation of Academy Hall. Given the fact that a deadline had not been stated, the contractors will be asked to resubmit for the June 23rd meeting by 6:30 pm. Those new bids will then be reviewed and awarded.

Town Hall: The Board reviewed the two bids received from Urban and Sons (\$5,350) and Gilbert and Sons (\$4,400) for the installation of insulation in the Town Hall. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to accept the bid and award the contract to Gilbert and Sons in the amount of \$4,400, with no opportunity to come back for prevailing wage, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Security Camera Purchase: The cameras have been ordered and invoiced and Park and Rec will pay for their share of the bill (\$2,600) and the selectmen will pay the rest of the invoice through town house improvements.

Charter Cable Contract: Rick has pursued other cable companies, but there was no interest from any contacted. Due to the equipment belonging to Charter there would be a huge charge for the overbuild. We will seek a three year contract only with Charter. Send note to Tom Cohan stating that we support Channel 22 and would like to see it remain on cable access.

Vacation Request: The Chief notified the Board of his upcoming vacation.

Chief's Contract: The Board will ask that Jeff define certain areas in his contract he would like clarified, dates to coincide with new fiscal year, etc.

Matching Grant Funds: There is grant money available to the Board of Health and the Board questions whether past improvements (in town hall energy efficiency lights) are eligible for reimbursement or we must spend on new improvements.

Hollow Road: The Board questioned whether they have received a response from the Wilbraham Board relative to the Hollow Road closing. This office has not, and the matter remains in the hands of the Wilbraham Selectmen.

School Resource Committee: Bob Weitz, Wilbraham Administrator requested one of our board members to participate in a committee to review the issue of a School Resource Officer. The School Committee does not want to change the procedure that currently exists, as it has worked well in the past. John would like to continue to participate in this capacity.

Note: Liquor License Hearing: A public hearing for the Blackhorse Tavern will be held on June 23 @ 7:00 pm in the Auditorium of Town Hall.

Summer Hours: The Board will review summer schedules to determine the meeting schedule.

John Flynn made the motion at 8:40 pm to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the School Teacher's contract negotiations, without return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc