

Approved 7/21/08

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

July 7, 2008
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

6:30 pm Chief Farnsworth and Chief Hatch: Jeff and Peter met with other members of their departments to discuss some changes to the practices and procedures of the Fire Department. Some of the items discussed are as follows:

- Jeff requested that a list be compiled of the trucks that belong to the department to be distributed to the Police. It would help avoid confusion when calls come in and the trucks are manned and dispatch would have a better idea as to what is out there.
- A concern exists about the volume of conversations heard over the Fire's frequency. There is a high level of noise on the airways and when it continues, the dispatcher may turn the radio down in order to concentrate on his other calls. The concern is that the radio does not get turned up again and calls are not heard when they next come in.
- The frequency currently used by the fire department is a low-band frequency that will not be allowed by FCC within three years. The frequency will have to be changed to a high-band frequency.

Antennae Placement: The group discussed the possibility of placing an antennae for police/fire use on any of the cell towers in town. The tower at the transfer station does allow for an antennae installation.

Additional Discussion:

Carbon Monoxide Calls: Peter Hatch asked if Police personnel could become involved with responding and/or investigating carbon monoxide calls. Sgt. Henry explained that it would be a contractual issue and require training as well. Tim Evans explained the relative simplicity of the testing process.

Rick suggests sending a letter to invite the Police Union president to the meeting on the 21st to discuss the issue of the carbon monoxide calls.

Fluid Spills: The issue of fluid spills clean-up was discussed; as to when the fire department should be called and when it should be the responsibility of the tow company responding to a car accident. The fire department will get the criteria to Jeff Farnsworth as to what party should be responsible for the clean up. Spills that are not fuel should be handled directly by the towing company.

Rick requested that the fire department meet every couple of months with the Board to keep communications open, make sure needs are being met, etc.

Peter mentioned that the cable hookup to the station has been interrupted and we will contact Charter to come in and check it out.

The Fire Department left the meeting and Chief Farnsworth presented a revised policy on the "Use of Force". The Board reviewed the revised policy and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the policy as written, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Hollow Road: John Wilkinson, Jr. and John Wilkinson arrived at the meeting to again discuss the discontinuance of maintenance on Hollow Road, as intended through the process started by the Wilbraham Board of Selectmen. The Wilkinson's concern at this point is the condition of the road should an emergency arise and travel become necessary on the road. Along with the condition of the road, is the condition and maintenance of the culvert that exists to funnel the water coming off the top of the mountain. John Flynn is going to attend a Wilbraham Selectmen's Meeting and will bring this issue to the Board's attention. Hampden Selectmen agreed that a schedule of dates was necessary prior to their signing the letter of concurrence regarding the road closure.

Minutes: The minutes of June 23, 2008 were reviewed. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the minutes of June 23rd as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The minutes of June 30, 2008 were reviewed. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the minutes of June 30th as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Holiday Clarification: The question about holiday benefits was discussed again relative to a Friday holiday. It was determined that if employee works over 20 hours per week, and the holiday falls on a Friday, the employee receives the holiday benefit.

Entertainment License: The Board discussed the issue of entertainment licenses and who currently holds them in town. They will be reviewed at our meeting on July 21st.

Veterans' Services Meeting: A meeting has been scheduled with Representative Stephen Brewer for Friday 7/18 at 9:00 am in the Monson Town Hall to discuss the recent issues regarding reimbursements and the services provided by our current agent, Bob Mathison. At this meeting (on the 18th) Rick will get the new breakout for our share of the operating budget now that Brimfield has voted to leave the district. Our share will increase as a result.

Police Transfers:

Chief Farnsworth requested a transfer from the General Salaries account into the Election Account for \$50.00 (due to a sergeant having to take the detail). The Board supported the request and will present it to the Advisory Committee when they meet on July 8th.

Chief Farnsworth requested a transfer from the General Salaries account into the Cruiser maintenance account in the amount of \$1000. The Board supported the request and will present it to the Advisory Committee when they meet on July 8th.

While the parking lot is being paved and the dumpster has been temporarily placed in another location, John Flynn suggested moving it to a location that would free up room for cars exiting the parking lot (in particular, the cruisers). It was determined that we would seek input from the Highway and if need be, the Fire Department.

The cell towers in town were discussed relative to the police and/or fire putting equipment on them. The conversation turned to the bonding for these towers should they need to be taken down. The tower at the Transfer Station does have a bond in place, which will be turned over to the Treasurer, Tracy Sicbaldi. A note will be sent to the Building Inspector, Lance Trevallion to see if such a bond exists for the tower on Commercial Drive on NormTurnberg's property.

A motion was made at 8:00 pm by Vinnie Villamaino to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Chief Farnsworth's contract, without return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc