

Approved 9/3/08

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

MINUTES

August 4, 2008
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

Guests: Ray Andree, Bill Olmstead, Ed Gorski, Katie Breault, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Town House Building Committee: Ray Andree came before the Board to discuss the progress on the HVAC equipment. The system originally in discussion for the Town Hall has been rethought and a 17 ton unit will allow the system to serve a larger capacity if needed. It also allows for the output of only 10 tons, if that is what is needed in a given circumstance. There is the need to remove old material from the attic and the need for additional vents. When asked about the cost for the ductwork, Ray responded that the HVAC manufacturer can do the venting and the cost will fit inside the projected number established originally.

Fire Department: Peter Hatch came in at the invitation of the Board to discuss a bookkeeping change for the Fire Department. At a previous meeting, Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant suggested that the funds received by Chief Hatch should be in an individual account specifically for the fire department.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to establish a revolving account for inspection fees for the fire department, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Board then discussed two trees that need to be taken down at the Fire Station. One had been noted by Dana Pixley previously and another came down onto the gutter at the station during a storm. The Highway Department will handle the clean up of the trees as they can fit it into their schedule. Rick Green asked about the damage to the gutter and whether Peter Hatch had gotten an estimate for insurance purposes. Peter is to pursue that.

Council on Aging: Bill Olmstead is in to meet with the board regarding a position on the COA board. Bill feels strongly that the board needs “new blood”, new ideas, should be a liaison to the community, and provide support services to the director and would like to be named as a member by the Board of Selectmen. He also thinks a good number of people in town would be happy to volunteer their time at the center (to recruit new

members, write job descriptions, (there is no budget committee, no planning, as in building and grounds committee).

Bill also suggested a senior survey to determine the needs of the senior population, what might be missing that could serve to help them. The Selectmen will discuss this further.

Northwestern Mutual: Brian Hill and Bill Gombatz came before the board to discuss their plans for management of the deferred compensation funds currently managed by Nationwide. The Board is seeking a more involved group to handle the investments of those accounts for town employees. The guests inquired about census data on participating members currently (how many employees, how much do they contribute, etc).

Bill is a brokerage for over 150 plans in the northeast and explained that if they came on board, they would bring in a team of people to explain to employees how to use their system to access their accounts, to make investment choices and changes and acknowledged that there would be a fee to the town for this service. They will come back with a proposal once they receive the census information from the town.

Council on Aging: Brian MacLeod was invited in to discuss his position on the Board for the COA, due to Bill Olmstead's desire to become a member. Brian set the record straight in that he is an under 60 board member and could not be replaced by an over 60 member.

When asked about how he sees the role of the COA board, Brian responded that the COA works as a support system and allows the director to do what she needs to do to accomplish those goals.

There was discussion about volunteers being in the building to allow for extended hours at the center, but no final determination was made.

He did agree that a survey were sent out, a good question would be, "If more programs were offered, what would you like to see?"

Finally, the debate about the chair position on the board was settled. Patricia Clark has agreed to take the position for one year, to relieve Brian from the task that he takes as a result of no one else wanting it.

Cemetery Commission: The Commissioners; Ed Norman, Dick Hatch, and Judy Hatch were invited to the meeting to discuss particular needs; clerical needs and software needs specifically. Also present was former Selectman, Jim Smith who is acting as a consultant regarding the software needs of the commission. Rick suggested that the conversion from paper records to computer input be a one time budget adjustment for the time needed for data entry which could go before Special Town Meeting. The data conversion would have to be submitted as a warrant article for voters. Once the conversion work is done, a revised budget amount will be used in the budget process.

Jim Smith has been asked by the commission to evaluate packages for mapping, etc., for the cemeteries and estimates an initial cost of \$7-8,000 with a maintenance charge of \$2-3,000 added to that. Jim will work on this to get it together in time for fall town meeting.

Also discussed was the “buying back” of lots (that have room for 10 graves) that had sold in the past, but owners are coming forward wishing to sell the lots back to the town as plans change with their families. There will also be an additional 800 new lots becoming available with existing land.

Next discussed was the fencing talked about at the last town meeting. The only number discussed is \$9500, but the Selectmen need to ensure the bidding process is adhered to. Rick asked about the use of perpetual care funds and was told that there is a restriction on the use of that money, that it is to be used for maintenance only, not for any capital purchases.

The last item discussed was the request for a water line at the cemetery, rather than using the tank that is there. The Board suggested that the Cemetery Commissioners contact the Water Commissioners directly as they have the authority over the Water District.

The Commissioners also told the Board that their new clerk is Shalina Stymiest.

Entertainment License: The Board requested a letter of opinion from Town Counsel, Dave Martel relative to the extension of hours for entertainment from the Hampden Country Club. Attorney Martel’s response was that there is no requirement for a hearing. The Board however, would like to give those residents who might have an issue, a chance to voice their opinions at the next Board meeting on the 18th of August. John feels that if residents have an issue with the noise, then they deserve the chance to be heard. The Board will wait to hear public comments before rendering a decision.

Land donation: A town resident sent a letter to the Board stating they would no longer pay taxes on a parcel of land they own. The Board defers to the tax collector.

Hampden Country Club: A resident of Wilbraham Road questioned the location of the crossing provided for golfers at the HCC. The Board responded that the location and crossing had been reviewed by the Police Department’s Safety Officer who approved the location. A call will be made to the resident.

School Resource Officer: The two towns are still discussing the school resource officer for Minnechaug to determine the assessment for each town.

Note:

Chief Farnsworth’s performance evaluation
Personnel mtg. on the 8/23; will request another meeting with the Board in September.
Invite Bart Lipkens in to discuss position on Conservation Commission
Municipal Law Seminar (9/26 at Log Cabin)
Unregistered Cars – get press release out for change in bylaw
Academy Hall painting; seek qualified painters
Laughing Brook re-opening
Contact Becky Moriarty for COA Board bylaws

Insurance Information: Draft ID to be used by firefighters should medical attention be needed, to include: Name, town seal, company name, policy number

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc