

Approved 9/22/08

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

MINUTES

September 8, 2008
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn
Guests: Katie Breault, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Ed Gorski, Bill Scibelli
The meeting was called to order by Rick Green at 6:30 pm.

T.W. Burgess: Gina Kahn came before the Board to discuss TWB security issues. The monitor system will be replaced with grant money, but a new alarm system needs to be purchased. Gina believes that we could be reimbursed for 50% of the cost, with an estimate for the total cost being approximately \$5,400. This will be a warrant article for Special Town Meeting on October 27th.

Road Detail Work: Dana S. Pixley, Highway Superintendent and Jeff Farnsworth, Police Chief came before the board to discuss the issue of using police officers and/or flaggers for road detail work. It has been a topic of conversation in town as well as around the state. After much discussion, it was determined that when projects are being considered, the Highway Superintendent will review a construction zone safety plan with the Police Chief to determine the best way to handle the traffic. Should they not agree on the approach, the Board of Selectmen will meet to make the final determination. It was noted that flaggers would have to go through a certification process, but could be residents and hired as casual labor which would alleviate the need for prevailing wage rates.

Part of Dana's concern was that language might be inserted into the police union's contract mandating that any work over 4 hours would be controlled by the Police Chief, but he was assured by all board members that that would not be the case.

Rick was going to put together some bullet points to forward to Dave Martel, Town Counsel and ask that he draft an ordinance to be put into place.

Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent: Dana presented the board with new information relative to an escalation in costs as a result of the rise in cost of liquid asphalt (a component in the paving material). The Baldwin Tract work has been completed, at an additional cost and the Allen Street project will increase in cost as well. The Board wants to ensure that the Treasurer has accounted for costs expended and future costs for the year to ensure the board allocates for the bond payment accurately.

This led to the need for an increase in Highway Maintenance line item for repair work for various projects around town. The board agreed that this should be added as a warrant article for Special Town Meeting and will add it once Dana gives them a necessary amount.

There was further discussion about the fact that the Highway salary line has never been fully funded and remains unfunded for 10 weeks out of the year, so that Dana has to seek funds from other sources (school projects like the Green Meadows parking lot project, etc, and state projects). The Board agreed that this should be a discussion for Annual Town Meeting.

The discussion turned to the Snow and Ice Account and whether or not the funding for that would be increased in the budget process. In addition, Dana mentioned that salt prices are rising and from last year's price of \$60/ton, they have risen to \$100/ton. (Hampden joins with other communities for better pricing, will open bids sometime in late October.)

Jeff Farnsworth, Police Chief: The Board wanted to discuss communication issues, particularly relative to some information they heard after the fact. Jeff explained the situation and the board was satisfied, but wants to ensure they are kept in the loop before they are asked on the street about a particular issue.

Laughing Brook: Mass Audubon is planning a grand re-opening of the trails on September 27th and John wondered if there is any community policing money left. Jeff's response was that there won't be community policing money left for the "Big H Arts Festival" on 9/21 and 22.

Advisory Committee: Next meeting on September 15th

Town House Cupola Status: Dave Markham met with Earl Harris to schedule a crane for the cupola removal and installation of the new. It should be happening within the next few weeks.

Transfer Station: The Board of Health received a proposal from Mike Framarin who has monitored the transfer station for years. The proposal was for the October 2008 monitoring phase for the landfill. The proposal includes Con-Test fees of \$3,290 and sampling, scheduling and documentation by Mike Framarin in the amount of \$3,550 for a total proposal of \$6,840. A motion was made by John Flynn to accept the proposal from Mike Framarin for the October 2008 testing phase, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Main Street Flooding: Connie Witt came before the board to discuss the recent storm and subsequent flooding on Main Street. Her complaint was that something needs to be done to alleviate the problem. She cited the infrastructure bond that was passed at ATM which was designed for this sort of project. Since Dana Pixley was still present, he explained to Connie that while the culvert does need replacing and a bigger culvert would better serve

the area, it will not solve every problem of flooding there. Given the low lying area, if enough water is present, and rises above the culvert, flooding will still occur. In addition, the Hazardous Mitigation Plan recently approved at a public hearing by the Board, puts the town in a better position for funding through a grant process. This office has been in contact with a MEMA representative who offered her services to help with the grant writing as well as navigating the process through which we must go to seek the funding from FEMA. That will be vigorously pursued.

Connie also suggested the use of a loudspeaker in the event of another occurrence, so residents are aware of exactly what is happening in the area.

It was also recommended that the Police put to use the "Connect CTY" system to send announcements to particular residents on certain streets if storms are imminent. The Police assured everyone that they would make use of the system the next time.

The Board wants to know exactly what monies have been expended for the town house improvements, what estimate we have for the town house maintenance costs for accuracy in the warrant. We will check with Ray Andree regarding the improvement costs.

Academy Hall: The painting project will be put out to bid in the next week.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc