

Approved 10/20/08

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

October 6, 2008  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn  
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Richard R. Green  
Guest: Ed Gorski

Massachusetts Smart Plan: Karl Kroner represents The Great-West Company who offer the State's plan for deferred compensation for municipal employees. This is a voluntary contribution plan for employees and the other is a mandatory plan (called OBRA) to be used by seasonal or part time employees, in lieu of paying into the Social Security program. The Deferred Compensation Plan is an IRS 457 plan which allows pre-tax dollars to be used for investment purposes.

Using the State's plan, the Town gives up its fiduciary responsibility, in that the State has already performed the bidding process to secure the best possible package for employees. Employees are allowed to contribute up to a certain percentage for retirement savings. The costs are the lowest the Town has been presented with, the online services are comparable to others presented and overall, this appears to be the best program available to town employees.

There is a call center in Massachusetts, as well as two others in the country, should the local one become inundated with calls.

The town will have to sign an agreement stating that we will agree to go with the state fund. The rollover from Nationwide to this plan would be fairly easy, with little to no involvement by employees.

Minutes of September 30, 2008: The minutes of the meeting dated September 30, 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.

Town Hall: The balance of the account for Town Hall improvements (\$20,000) approved at STM will be checked with the Town Accountant. The work funded was for the façade work and the new cupola.

Board of Health:

Transfer Station Bags: Jane Budynkiewicz got three quotes for the purchase of bags for the transfer station. A motion was made by John Flynn to award the bid to Mansfield

BOS 081006

Paper in the amount of \$10,520 for 400 cases, subject to Special Town Meeting approval of the revised 2009 Enterprise Fund budget, second by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Outdoor Solid Fuel Furnaces: The Board reviewed the revision to the regulations for outdoor furnaces. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve Section 8 of the regulations for outdoor solid fuel furnaces, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The final document will be sent to DEP for their final approval.

Composting Bins: Jane Budynkiewicz researched the purchase of composting bins to offer to the community at a reduced price. A motion was made by John Flynn to purchase 25 composting bins out of the Board of Health revolving fund, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. When the notice goes into the newspaper, there will also be information relative to the availability of rain barrels for rainwater collection.

Bulk Pick-Up Day: The town will offer the services of a vendor for bulk item pick up on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Transfer Station. The vendor will post informational signs.

Public Hearing: A hearing was posted for a variance request for development of property on Commercial Drive. All of the abutters have been properly notified. Gary Weiner from EcoTec presented a plan for applicant, Dan Burack for Lot 8. Mr. Burack is looking to develop the parcel for office/warehousing of some kind. The plan calls for a variance both for septic placement due to the existence of wetlands. Two percolation tests were performed and the septic plan designed would fall within the required 50' buffer (at 35'). It would also have to be a raised system which caused concern as to where the water would run (onto neighboring properties)?

Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent explained that if the plan was approved by this board that it would still require approval by the DEP. It was also stated that if this variance was granted, the applicant would still have to be approved by Conservation Commission as well as the Planning Board, after DEP approval.

After much discussion, a motion was made by John Flynn to deny the variance, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

135 East Longmeadow Road: The Board reviewed a plan requiring a variance for a reduced distance from septic to well, from the required 100' to 95'. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the plan, to grant the variance, subject to a positive water test at 135 East Longmeadow Road, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Bond Spending: A recap will be requested of Dana Pixley for final numbers spent out of the bond this year, so the Treasurer will have accurate numbers for which to borrow. We have received running totals from Dana as projects have progressed, but this will ensure a total to be borrowed this year.

Mass Highway State Aid: The documentation required for our MassHighway reimbursement has been completed by Dana Pixley and needs to be signed by the Board members. The Allen Street reclamation/paving project will be reimbursed by State Aid, in the amount of \$196,991 which should be received within six to eight weeks.

HVAC Unit: Ray Andree was before the Board to give an update on the HVAC system. B&G Mechanical will look at the duct work to accommodate the new air conditioning. The insulation has not been done, since the existing duct work will need to be pulled, new will be installed and the insulation will be done around that work. The original quote was for \$44,860, but this price is subject to change.

Correspondence:

- Senior Resource Officer: Further discussion to be held with Wilbraham Board of Selectmen. Letter from School Committee Chairman, Scott Chapman requesting that the Board's come together for a resolution to the situation and the value the Chairman sees in the officer's presence in the school system.
- Reid's Corner: A beer and wine license request came in from the proprietor of this establishment and the Board has responded with a letter stating that the use is not considered right for a liquor license of any type.
- Poulin Letter: A letter was sent to Thomas Poulin assuring him that the Firefighter's disability insurance would take care of all bills associated with his injury of May 13, 2008.
- Planning Board Minutes: Reviewed.
- Personnel Committee Minutes: Reviewed.
- Public Water Supply: The Board received a letter acknowledging the excellent results of the efforts of our Water Commissioners and Water Operator for our Public Water Supply.
- Notice of Release: The Department of Environmental Protection sent a notice to the Board regarding a release of a spill of hydraulic oil (which has been cleaned to the satisfaction of the DEP).

Notes:

COA Update: The Bylaw committee continues to work on revisions to the existing bylaws and will meet again on October 10 at 9 am.

Cupola: The cupola is complete and has been installed. A lantern will be purchased to hang in the cupola and Dave Markham stated that the space will be sealed to keep the heat in the attic space.

Road Details: There was further discussion of the road detail policy drafted by and approved by the Board. The question of prevailing wage was researched and it was determined that it would apply if town employees were working as flagmen. Before any employees or flaggers are allowed to work, they must be certified through Mass Highway for that work.

The question was asked of Dave Martel as to whether or not the vote on this policy could be rescinded. The response was that a vote could occur to suspend the existing policy until certified flaggers are available.

A motion was made by John Flynn to suspend the Road Detail Policy for sixty days for further review, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

**NOTE:** Rick Green stated that the request made by Dana Pixley for road detail work was made in a timely manner but the detail was not filled by the Police Department until 11:00 am that morning.

Tree Lighting Event: The Board discussed the annual tree lighting ceremony and agreed to have the event on Sunday, November 30 to allow for a full month of lights.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn at 8:15 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc