

Approved 12/01/08

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

November 3, 2008
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

Title V Permit Extension: Resident, Russ Cable requested a permit extension for his property at 5 Ridge Road as the property has not been inhabited since the permit was granted. Board of Health Chair, Vinnie Villamaino will speak with Lorri McCool, BOH Agent prior to signing the extension.

Personnel Committee: Don Collins and Bill Gouzounis appeared before the board to discuss a proposed step system for town employees and raises. The committee has extended the steps from the current 6 steps to proposed 15 steps. This would allow a more equitable increase to be granted over 15 years of service and prohibit an employee from maxing out at year 6. The Board suggested that a Cost of Living Adjustment be looked at on an annual basis, and a longevity bonus could be used for those employees that have maxed out in the steps. The discussion turned to the existing system which has allowed for a COLA and a percentage increase at the same time. Rick suggested that we use the lesser of the two numbers; COLA or 2.5%. John has a spreadsheet that the proposed numbers could be plugged into and reviewed by both groups. John will forward that census sheet to the Personnel Committee showing employees and hours worked, etc. It was agreed that a longevity bonus will be incorporated into the system after year 15. Rick and the entire board thanked the committee for working so diligently on this and arriving at an equitable solution.

Contract Negotiations: IBPO President Brett Purchas and Vice President, Tawrin Seega came before the Board to start negotiations for the Police contract.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session for the purposes of negotiating the Police Union contract at 7:52 pm, with return to Open Session, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to leave Executive Session at 8:00 pm, and return to Open Session second by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

Hampden Theater Guild: Mark Giza and Rick Rubin came before the Board to discuss additional custodial costs as a result of the theater group rehearsals and productions held

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in town hall. It was also noted that there are times that the children involved in the productions are not always well supervised creating disturbances for employees. Mark and Rick both agreed to monitor the situation more closely. The Board thanked them for bringing theater to the town and that the use of the building for this purpose was exactly as Mrs. Melville had intended.

Cultural Council: Rick Rubin discussed the appointment of two candidates to be added to the group. Elizabeth Howarth and Kathleen Mahoney are both interested in participating in the council. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Elizabeth Howarth and Kathleen Mahoney to the Cultural Council for a three year term, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Correspondence:

Police:

The Chief submitted a memo to the board notifying them that he would be out of town attending a conference from the November 7th to the 14th. Sgt. Henry will be in charge in his absence.

The Police Department received a letter of thanks from the stabbing victim's parents thanking the police for their quick action in helping their son as well as apprehending those suspected of committing the crime.

Budget Request: The Board wants to ask the Chief about the status of the department's fleet, particularly a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Parking: The Board has received various notes detailing parking prohibitions, etc. from the police department. Rick asked that the Board review and jot down their notes so the issue of ticketing can be handled once and for all. The Police will be responsible for the ticketing process.

Town Counsel: Dave Martel was contacted regarding subcontracting work done in town and whether selectmen are allowed to perform such work. A response will be forthcoming.

Streetlights: John has asked that National Grid (Jim May) review the timing of the sensors for the lights, in that they are sometimes on well after daylight.

Minutes October 16: The minutes dated October 16, 2008 were reviewed. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve with one correction, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Executive Session Minutes: The Executive Session minutes of October 16 were reviewed. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

NOTE: The Police Chief's contract will be revised to reflect the items discussed in Executive Session.

Correspondence:

Longmeadow Ambulance Service: The Board received a letter from the Longmeadow Fire Chief, Eric Madison stating that the cost for the ambulance service for our firefighter injured on duty would be taken care of as a professional courtesy to the town.

Chapin Road Bridge: The Board received a letter of concern regarding the new bridge under construction, relative to its poor design and poorly engineered traffic flow. The State held a public hearing in which all residents were welcome to attend and voice their concerns about the design prior to the start of construction. As a reminder, this bridge is being constructed entirely with State funds, at no cost to the tax payers of Hampden.

Town Accountant: The Board received a copy of a letter to the Board of Assessors regarding the DLS recap sheets. One of those fees is for the Veterans' Agent's operating budget. Since one of the towns dropped out of the group, our annual cost has increased (4 towns participating versus 5 towns). It was suggested that given less work being done by the Agent, the salary should be reduced commensurate with the work reduction.

Affordable Housing: The Board received a letter regarding affordable housing. Rick has called Habitat for Humanity to find out what they might be looking for, for potential building sites. Hampden is below the 10% state average for affordable housing, and Rick would like to identify potential lots that might be bought with CPA money. The letter received will be forwarded to Hampden Housing Authority to pursue. We will also forward any Habitat information to them.

COA Clerical Assistant: Becky Moriarty has drafted a new job description for an assistant for the COA. The description will be forwarded to Tabor for their review of grade level.

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Camera System: Ed Poulin has started the wiring for the system, the camera posts are up, and two outside cameras will be installed this weekend. The camera for the front door has not been purchased yet, but the \$1,500 appropriated at STM on the 27th will fund the camera and wiring.

Memorial Park: The camera is installed to monitor the spray park; the transmitter and receiver is currently on hold, as the manufacturer needs FCC approval before shipping.

NOTE: Mutual Aid Dinner, November 5th at 6:30 pm

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc

