

Approved 11/24/08

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

November 17, 2008
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn
Guests: Ed Gorski, Katie Breault, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Park and Recreation Commissioners

Building Maintenance/Building Committee: Ray Andree came before the Board to discuss a change to the next improvement in town hall. There have been heating issues that need to be investigated and addressed as soon as possible; that can be done in conjunction with a new air conditioning system. It was agreed that Ray will have the engineer come back to review the needs for both systems. Ray stated that he (engineer) can be here mid-December, and should have information for us by January/February. Initially it was thought that we not change out the ductwork, and that we install a two zone system. At this time, we have the funding for the engineering study and will perform that. That will allow us to put the work out to bid prior to Annual Town Meeting to seek the necessary funding.

The ductwork is one of the major issues and the project will be reviewed to replace the old and install what will best serve a new system. Ray was asked if he needed help at this stage but does not feel it is necessary at this time. In the future, he would like additional people working on this. He also suggested the use of solar panels which led to the discussion of the need for weatherproof windows.

There may be an opportunity for Federal funding through a grant application. Ray will return in early December with applications to be submitted.

Park and Recreation: The Park Commissioners (Larry Forrest, Huck House, Bob White, Rick Kapinos and Assistant, Deb House) came before the Board to discuss the needs of a maintenance person to handle park grounds. The work includes trash removal, maintaining spray park equipment (flushing of the system and chemical treatment), and painting and cleaning of the bath house at Memorial Park. Some of this work had been done by the Highway Department, but years ago that budget was cut and only the mowing and trimming continues to be done by Highway.

The Commissioners would like the Board's opinion and support in going forward to Advisory to increase their budget to fund these issues. They have determined that approximately \$3,000 would be necessary for a job entailing 2-3 hours a day/per week from mid June through September.

They are looking for consistency in maintaining the equipment at the spray park which is an investment of approximately \$100,000. The Board suggested they meet with Advisory (perhaps on the 24th) to discuss their intent.

John commended the commissioners for coming forward and advocating for the parks. The Commissioners thanked the Board for their ideas and support with the proposal.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations for the Police Union with return to Open Session at 7:38 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

A motion was made by John Flynn to leave Executive Session at 8:19 pm and return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

Police:

Parking Ban: It was requested that the Chief announce the winter parking ban in effect over the Connect CTY system.

Vehicle Needs: The Board will request that the Chief notify them of needs of the department regarding a four-wheel drive vehicle for the coming year.

Other:

Department Head Budget Meeting: All elected and appointment department heads will be notified of the annual budget meeting held by the Selectmen and Advisory scheduled for December 1 at 7:00 pm.

Building Use: Town Hall has been available used by a number of different groups recently and due to the custodial needs as a result of that usage the Board has agreed to institute a \$50 refundable deposit for any private group using the space. It has been requested that anyone using the space leave it in the condition in which they find it.

GASB 45: John Flynn brought up the need for the Town to adhere to the requirements of GASB 45. This demands that a town determine its total liability for potential retirees, not only in retirement dollars, but also for sick day buy-backs, vacation days, etc. The Board suggested we contact Thomas J. Scanlon & Associates to find out what is required of us. We will copy Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant on the letter.

Minutes of October 20, 2008: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve the minutes of October 20, 2008 as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so approved.

Minutes of November 10, 2008: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve the minutes of November 10, 2008 with corrections, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so approved.

Correspondence:

- Update on Worker's Compensation – Patrick Markham, Highway Worker
- Planning Board Minutes
- Scantic Road Clean up Response: DEP noted that minor spill has been cleaned to their satisfaction.

Next Meeting, November 24th:

- Jack Burke, WMECO Transmission Line Upgrades
- The Board would like to meet with Larry Moriarty to do minor repair work in the town house.
- Board of Assessors - Assessor's Assistant's grade adjustment, Assessor's legal contact, Tax Hearing

Transfer Station: The Board will do a site visit at the Transfer Station to review options for the placement of a building for the Recycling worker.

A motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc