

Approved 12/01/08

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

November 24, 2008
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

Transfer Request: The Board discussed the need for a transfer from the Reserve Fund to fund the payments for Police detail work on town highway road projects. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to transfer \$2,000 from the Reserve Fund into line item 59.0 Parking Clerk, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The request will be forwarded to the Advisory Board for their approval.

Town Accountant, Cliff Bombard: The Board asked about the Assessor's stabilization account which is used for the revaluation of properties in town, done on a triennial basis as well as the 9 year field review. Cliff will run a year-end report for the board to see. Reserve account balance can be found in the ledger as well.

DARE funding was discussed. Cliff suggested that it be incorporated into a line item for the police budget, but the Board would like to keep it separate prior to a town meeting vote so it can be better tracked. Cliff will close out the 08 funds for the DARE program. Rick then gave Cliff a heads-up about the need for a new plow for the Highway Department in the amount of \$6,700. Cliff questioned the use of this account (Snow and Ice) for such expenditure. He stated that the account is to be used for unexpected expenses. Given the timeframe, and lack of availability in mid-winter, it is recommended that the purchase be made now to ensure receipt of the equipment prior to an emergency need.

The question was asked of Cliff as to whether the Conservation Commission can use the funds in their revolving fund to purchase a new computer. Cliff answered that those funds can be used for such purchases. It can also be used for part time salaries.

The Board will send note to ConCom to let them know that the purchase is viable.

The Board then asked Cliff about the need to do a GASBE 45 study. This is an actuarial study to determine the liability of the town for retirees to include all associated benefits. We will need to draft an article for Town Meeting to approve expenditure.

Western Mass Electric: Jack Burke and Scott Newlan came before the Board to serve notice that they are in the early stages process of re-routing transmission lines carrying high voltage power for WMECO. The lines currently run along the East Longmeadow border from Somers, CT and any new lines would run through the ROW (which is

approximately 300 feet wide). This is intended to solve reliability issues along the corridor (to conform to Federal standards).

If this route is used, it is possible that a Notice of Intent may have to be applied for through Conservation Commission.

They will need a certified abutters list to send notices to all abutters. They will be required to clear approximately 20-30' of additional trees for the installation of the new poles.

The anticipated timeline for local public hearings will be in December of this year for work to start in the second quarter of 2009.

There are two routes being considered; the one affecting Hampden is the route less preferred by WMECO. The Board will send a letter to the Emergency Federal Sighting Board in support of the northern route.

Larry Moriarty, Repair Work: The Board reviewed the projects and minor repairs that need to be done in the Town Hall. Larry will come in on an as needed basis to take care of items noted by various departments.

Board of Assessors:

The Boards set the date of December 15th for the annual tax classification hearing. The hearing will be held in the Selectmen's office at 6:30 pm

Wire and Pole Tax: The Board asked the status of the wire and pole tax on these improvements not previously taxed. It has not been determined if Verizon will seek an abatement on these charges, so the Assessor's will hold \$22,500 in the overlay account in the event that happens.

Personnel Committee: Don Collins, Bill Gouzounis, Dick Ayer, Carol Fitzgerald and Tom Argenio came before the board to discuss the proposed pay scale they have worked on. They have expanded the steps from the current six steps to 15, allowing for further growth and more equitable increases.

It was suggested that these three items be taken into consideration:

- Step increases should be granted at the discretion of BOS
- De-emphasize COLA to reduce exposure
- Institute longevity increases for those at Step 15 (2.5% longevity)

Other:

Highway-2008 Completed Construction Projects: Dana Pixley provided the board with his list of completed road projects for the 2008 season.

Highway Snow Plow Request: Dana Pixley submitted a request to the Board to purchase a plow needed for a Mack truck. The Board discussed the purchase with Cliff Bombard (see above) out of the Snow and Ice Account. It is an acceptable expense out of this account. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase a new plow in the amount of \$6700, second by John Flynn.

VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Library-Budget Impacts: A memo was submitted by the Library Trustees noting the effect of budget cuts.

Minutes of November 17, 2008: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the minutes as presented, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

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

Unregistered Vehicle Notices: Certain residents have been notified by the Board of unregistered vehicles on their property, prohibiting any more than one unregistered car unless a permit has been issued by the Police Department. The Board will meet with Dave Martel, Town Counsel to determine its next step.

VOTE: Used Car License: The Board received a request from Fred McMahon, that due to retirement, he would like to transfer his existing license to sell used cars to his son of the same address. The Planning Board has met with the McMahon's and has no issue the current business. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the transfer of a Used Car License from Francis McMahon to Peter McMahon, contingent upon all fees and appropriate bonds being in place, second by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Correspondence:

- Ludlow-Regional Selectmen's Meeting: Respond that the board can meet any nights other than Monday or Tuesday.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc