

Approved 1/27/09

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

January 20, 2009
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Guest: Timm Marini, Advisory Committee

Timm Marini, Advisory Committee: Timm has asked that budgets be developed level funded as of last year, as well as one with a 5% decrease in the budget. John informed the Board that state budget will probably not be set until June. Should we more clearly define level funded? Timm will speak with Advisory to determine if they want to go forward with three budgets, or two. Warrant articles were discussed and have been submitted by the Board of Assessors and the Library. Requests have been made by Park and Rec and Historical Commission to come before the Board to discuss proposed warrant articles. They will attend the Board's next meeting.

Tracy Sicbaldi, Town Treasurer: Tracy approached the Board to request possible borrowing from the Stabilization Fund for our operating budget, not to exceed \$175,000. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to allow the Town Treasurer to borrow up to \$175,000 for operating expenses, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

National Grid Pole Petition: Lisa Jasinski from National Grid came before the board to present the plan showing the proposed pole placement near 148 Scantic Road, property owned by Robbie Ober. This will enable the company to move the power line so it will miss the tree that it currently hits. R. Ober's service will be protected as will the line.

Robbie's only concern is that the location lies within his access drive to his fields. He would like the pole's location moved 5-10' towards South Monson Road. John wondered if both poles are situated directly across the street from each other, only 3 feet off of the road that it could narrow the road unnecessarily. He was assured that the poles are far enough off of the road so as not to impede the roadway in any way. The Board asked if the resident's concerns had been addressed and they had.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the pole placement near 148 Scantic Road, once location has been agreed to by property owner, Robbie Ober, and contingent upon the proper documents with a plan showing such location, being forwarded to the Board of Selectmen's office for signature, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Security Camera Update: Bret Purchas gave the board an update on the security camera installation. There was some issue with an invoice not having been paid. It was requested that

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the invoice be forwarded to this office and payment would be approved. Bret will take care of that. Once paid, the company will ship the camera (since it is special order, they require payment up front.)

The camera installation for Memorial Park has not been completed since the FCC has not released particular band numbers. At this time we do not have a receiver/transmitter yet and if we order a different one, it would cost much more. The Board will send a memo to Park and Recreation Department notifying them that when the release is granted from FCC that we will inform them and proceed with the installation.

Discussion Items:

1. Grievance Response: The Board reviewed the response to the grievance submitted by Officer Todd Ely. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the letter as written, supporting the Chief of Police's position, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
2. Scantic River Request: A letter was reviewed and approved to be sent to Senators Kennedy, Kerry and Representative Neal requesting assistance with the flooding issues of the Scantic River.
3. Warrant Articles: Articles have been received from Assessors, Library and the Historical Commission for a proposed Scenic Bylaw to be discussed at our next meeting. John's recollection from years ago was that the idea had been raised before and not supported. The Board will discuss with Connie Witt at the next Board meeting. Park and Rec also want to bring a warrant article forward to improve/redo the gym floor at TWB. The recent estimate for the project is \$100,000.
4. Budget Review: The Board did a quick review of the Highway Department's budget.
5. Minutes of December 29, 2008: The minutes of December 29, 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.
6. Executive Session Minutes of January 13, 2009: The Executive Session minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve with a correction, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
7. Hampden Housing Authority: A letter of interest was received for the recently vacated position left by Miles Hapgood's passing.
8. Highway Memo: The Highway Superintendent submitted a memo regarding some issues he had dealt with during the most recent set of storms. The Board will meet with the Police Chief after sending memo with cover letter to them and ask that he attend a meeting to discuss these issues.
9. Cemetery Plowing Quotes: The Board will ask that the Highway Superintendent review the quotes received from Ed Norman for plowing services at the cemeteries. It is a requirement by the State that quotes are sought correctly prior to a contract being awarded. The Board discussed outstanding invoices presented by the Cemetery Commission and Billy Bond for plowing services already incurred. After some discussion, a motion was made by John Flynn that the outstanding invoices from Billy Bond would be processed for payment, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Although the contract has not yet been awarded, the work has been

done and the Board feels it only right to pay for those services. They will pursue the procurement process outside of the Cemetery Commission.

10. Annual Report: We will seek quotes for three different amounts to print; for 250, 275 and 300.

Veterans' Service Officer, Bob Mathison: Rick Green has an appointment to meet with the Veterans' Service Office in Boston on January 30th to review the outstanding issues relative to reimbursement due the Town.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to go into Executive Session at 7:45 to discuss contract negotiations with the IBPO representatives, Bret Purchas and Tawrin Seega, without return to Open Session, second by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc