

Approved 2/3/08

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

January 27, 2009  
6:30 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

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

Chief Farnsworth: The Chief responded to a memo from the Board regarding notes received from the Highway Superintendent regarding snow plowing operations. The Chief and the Highway Superintendent disagree about the timeliness and responsibilities as it relates to notification of conditions to the Superintendent. The Chief thinks obligations were met and the Superintendent does not agree. The Board would like to see call sheets, as they relate to the days of the storm and understand if official police business is being conducted, then certainly snow duties may suffer. There was a day that the Chief agrees the proper procedure was not performed and will address with the officers on duty.

The main concern of everyone is that notification is given at the proper times to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

The Chief then discussed the department's fleet and what purchases would be necessary next. The thinking is that the Explorer will be rotated out of regular service, held for conditions demanding a four-wheel drive vehicle, the Chief's car would be rotated into the regular fleet for front line service and purchase an administrative car.

Tax Collector and Town Treasurer: The Collector and Treasurer were asked to respond to some tax collection questions and the Collector responded that what she has seen to date is fairly typical of what she has seen in prior years and that our cash flow is fairly typical of what it has been in the past.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to go into Executive Session at 6:55 pm with return to Open Session to finalize the Chief's contract, second by Vinnie Villamaino.  
VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green, yes.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to leave Executive Session at 7:30 pm with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

Park and Recreation: Rick Kapinos, Bob White, Huck House and Mark Goosen came before the Board to discuss the TWB floor replacement. Rick Kapinos stated that the

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original thought was that the problem stemmed from the ceiling, but current thinking is that it stems from the age of the floor alone. The gym has been used to full capacity all through the week as well as on weekends. The floor is wearing down, there's no tread, no traction, that mopping of the floor has to be done constantly between games. Park and Rec Commissioners feel that it has become a safety issue for everyone who uses it. Many adult groups use it for basketball, volleyball and wiffleball on weekends.

The Board does support the replacement of the floor, but of course do understand that there are other capital issues that need to be addressed as well.

Tiles do come loose, and Rick Green stated that someone will get hurt if improvements are not made. This issue will be brought forward to the Town Meeting for a town vote.

Coaches from surrounding towns have stated that they will not come back next year if the floor has not been replaced.

Park and Rec Department talked about cancelling home games next year if the floor is not replaced.

The town offered to have the Board of Health do an environmental study and the school has now stated that they will perform a test on the floor. The school has worked with a company in the past and will contact the company within the next few days.

The gym floor is part of a very large capital asset; used by a large percentage of the population, and the Town needs to protect a valuable asset.

John talked about the facility that is used by the kids at the school; and perhaps the school would lose its accreditation due to a gym floor being unsafe to play on. John wants to ensure the group knows how to best advocate for the floor project.

At a meeting John attended, Noel Pixley had a list of 33 items that are deficient at TWB which he provided to Dr. Gagliarducci. The school parking lot is in terrible condition, the generator is unable to handle much beyond water running.

John Flynn supports Larry Forrest and the other Commissioners in their positions as advocates for the park properties and programs. It is their job to advocate for these things and it is the Selectmen's job to advocate for the entire town and all of its needs.

The committee working on the building needs includes Brian Garbecki, John Flynn, Mary Ellen Shea, Ed Cenedella, Glennice Flynn, and Gary Courtney. Charlie Schmitt, town resident has offered to write the specifications for the floor. The bleachers may become an item for discussion.

The Board agreed that an article for the gym floor will be held on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting.

Correspondence:

1. Advisory Meeting Schedule: See attached.
2. Regional Selectmen Meeting: Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at Ludlow Town Hall
3. Howlett Hill Road Status: Dave Martel, Town Counsel will attend a pre-trial hearing on January 29<sup>th</sup> when the Superior Court judge will review all documents previously submitted.
4. Conservation Commission Appointment: The Commission has requested that an appointment be made, but the Board has questioned whether the appointment should be for an Alternate position or as a full member. The Board will contact the commission for an answer.
5. Minutes of January 20, 2009: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve with a change, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
6. Executive Session Minutes of January 20, 2009: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve with a change, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
7. Riso Machine: The Board received a letter of request relative to the Riso copying machine in the Melville Room from the Council on Aging. The copying machine, most often used by the COA and Park and Rec Department will undergo a maintenance check.
8. Violation Form: The Board has forwarded its current violation form previously printed for the Police Department to Town Counsel to ensure it meets all requirements as set forth from the Courts. Once approved, the forms will be printed to be used to enforce a number of violations.
9. Scenic By-law: The Board will ask that Connie Witt, from the Historical Commission take the proposed by-law to the Planning Board for their review prior to the Selectmen voicing an opinion on the bylaw that the Commission would like on the Town Meeting Warrant.
10. Chamber of Commerce Outlook Luncheon: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:45, Chez Josef at the invitation of Town Counsel, Dave Martel. The Board will attend.
11. Constable Position: The vacant constable position needs to be filled to ensure availability at all times.
12. Thornton W. Burgess School: The Board received a letter from Noel Pixley, principal at TWB in response to a memo from the Police Department written to notify people using the school and setting off alarms that charges would be incurred after three false alarms. The Board will forward the notice and letter to the Park and Rec Department so everyone is aware to be more careful. The Board will also make note that town buildings will not be charged for alarm calls.

Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace: The Board wanted it noted that DEP released their regulations on the operations of OWBF which are in concert with what has been established already through the town's Board of Health.

Septage Haulers: The Board of Health recently sent letters to septage haulers who do business with portable facilities. One of the haulers sent in a check for \$50 for a permit.

Building Clerk Position: The Building Inspector has requested a job review for the Clerk's position so it is more adequately compensated. The job description will be sent to Tabor Consulting for their review.

Academy Hall: This office will contact the Town of Monson relative to painting Academy Hall since Monson recently had painting done at their town building.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc

## Advisory Budget Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Department</b>
1/26	6:10 – 6:30	Assessor's
	6:30 – 7:00	Town Clerk/Tax Collector
2/2	6:10 – 6:30	Planning Board
	6:30 – 7:00	Cemetery
2/9	6:10 – 6:30	Library
	6:30 – 7:00	School Department
2/23	6:10 – 6:30	Parks & Rec
	6:30 – 7:00	COA
3/2	6:10 – 6:30	Police
	6:30 – 7:00	Fire
3/9	6:10 – 6:30	Highway
	6:30 – 7:00	Selectmen