

Approved 2/17/09

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

February 3, 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 by Rick Green at 6:30 pm.

Guests: Lance Trevallion, Building Inspector

6:30 pm Building Inspector: Lance Trevallion came before the Board to discuss particular issues related to sign-offs requested of the building inspector, most often from a bank, asking if lots meet particular building regulations, etc. permits, etc.

6:30 pm Historical Commission: Connie Witt came before the Board to discuss her desire to introduce a Scenic By-law at Annual Town Meeting in April. John questioned whether this was a zoning bylaw, or a general bylaw. This would require approval for a driveway cut, and limit its size, etc.

Connie mentioned the removal of trees by the utility company, and misstated it as having come at the request of the town. Rick corrected her that these trees were removed at the decision of the utility companies and not at the direction of the town's tree warden. Rick stated that he is not in favor of the scenic by-law; thinks this could lead to an historic district, mandating what people can do with their property. He also stated that she should bring it forward as she is the one seeking its approval. John spoke of his concerns as well but also feels that Connie has the right to bring this forward at Town Meeting.

The Board will leave space for the warrant article to be inserted into the warrant.

Hampden Housing Authority: George Stone, and Jackie Weissbach came before the board to discuss their recommendation that Lucretia Hembdt be appointed to replace the vacancy left by Miles Hapgood. Ben Bump was unable to get to the meeting due to the snow storm. The two boards discussed the recommendation and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Lucretia Hembdt to finish the term on the Hampden Housing Authority left vacant by Miles Hapgood, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted by both boards.

IBPO Negotiations: Executive Session

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to go into Executive Session at 7:55 to discuss contract negotiation issues, with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn.

VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

Police Chief's Contract: The Board reviewed the final contract and a motion was made to approve the contract as drafted, subject to signing by the Chief, second by John Flynn.

VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Two originals were signed, one retained by the Chief and the other retained by the board.

Violation Form Review: The form was reviewed and the Board will request that Jeff Farnsworth place the order for numbered tickets.

Candidate for Constable: Art Booth suggested that Charlie Wood, the current commander of the VFW be appointed as constable, for the remainder of Miles Hapgood's term. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Charles Wood as a town constable for the remainder of Miles Hapgood's term, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Vote on Cemetery Plowing Bid: A recommendation was made by the Highway Superintendent to award the contract to the lowest bidder, Billy Bond. A motion was made by John Flynn to award the bid as recommended to Billy Bond, low bidder for the cemetery plowing and sanding, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Postage Funding: A request was made for a transfer into the postage account to get us through the end of the fiscal year in the amount of \$4,848. A transfer request will be prepared for signature to be forwarded to Advisory Committee.

Minutes of January 27, 2009: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

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

Correspondence:

Unfunded Mandates: The Board discussed the Regional Meeting they attended last week and the discussion involving unfunded mandates. A letter will be drafted to be sent to legislators, Candaras, Petrolati and Ashe, as well as all Select boards in attendance at the regional meeting.

Howlett Hill Update: A response is due to the court by March 6th from Markham's attorney, and Dave Martel then has 30 days in which to respond.

Minnechaug Building Committee: A vote will take place in October for the new school. Both communities will incur debt, with an almost 70% reimbursement rate. The committee visited the school in Ashland and with a few adjustments could use this as their model. The Superintendent's office would be included in the building and the costs will become part of the total cost as well.

Conservation Commission: The Board received a recommendation to appoint Judy McKinley Brewer, as a voting member of the Conservation Commission. After some discussion, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Judy McKinley Brewer as a full member of the Conservation Commission, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to go into Executive Session at 7:55 pm to discuss contract negotiations with the IBPO with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 8:15 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

MIA Credit: The town received a credit in the amount of 1100 dollars from MIA for keeping our insurance accounts in line.

Letter of Recommendation: The Board received a letter regarding a reserve officer recommended by the Holyoke Police Chief.

*Arbitration for Officer Ely: We received notice that arbitration is to be initiated February 17 (20 days from 1/28). The Board and the Union will choose from a list of arbitrators, the two then compare their choices, and if they cannot come to some agreement, the arbitration board then makes a decision.

*Chamber Lunch: February 9th at 11:45.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant