

Approved 3/2/09

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

February 23, 2009  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn  
Guests: Cliff Bombard, Ed Gorski

Dana Pixley, Budget Review: The Board reviewed the various budgets prepared by the Highway Superintendent prior to meeting with the Advisory Committee.

Advisory Meeting - Highway Budget Review: The Snow and Ice account has always been underfunded and the Highway Department has always paid four weeks of payroll out of the snow and ice account. The other 10 weeks of payroll are not funded are derived from the Chapter 90 highway funds. If funding was provided for the highway payroll, it would lessen the overage in the snow and ice account. This would only include the regular department members for their regular (not overtime) hours. This amounts to approximately \$15,242.

The ten weeks of payroll billed against Chapter 90 money is \$32,637. Carol Fitzgerald asked why the board is not requesting the additional money to benefit the Highway Department, rather than the Snow and Ice account. Rick responded that if the timing is appropriate and the advisory committee is in support it could be discussed further. Cliff noted that this transaction (reducing the overage in Snow and Ice) will not affect the amount of free cash.

New Line Item: Rick brought up the use of flaggers and/or police for road work details. Rick explained that a new line item needs to be added to the budget to fund road detail work.

Open Trench Law: Lance Trevallion came before the Board to explain the newly enacted law, effective March 1, 2009. A permit has to be filed in town prior to any trench work being done. No inspection is required and the liability will fall on the permittee. Lance feels that it would be prudent to include septic holes as well as cellar holes, foundations, water lines. Dig Safe will have to be notified and a certificate of liability of insurance must be submitted in the amount of \$300,000.

Lance feels that one permit per excavator would be the way to proceed at a proposed fee of \$50.00. If a trench is unattended, the permittee will be in violation and the Department of Public Safety (out of Boston) will be called. For the time being, Lance agrees that it could be handled through the Building Department and then ultimately handled by a Trench Inspector. The fees can be run through the building department. Someone will be required to handle the application and insurance liability portion of the job and an

enforcement officer will be sought since that will soon become part of the process as well. The Board will run an ad in the paper but first will approach Deb House to check her level of interest as well as Dennis Chaffee (current Plumbing Inspector) for the enforcement position.

Building Department Clerk: Jane Budynekiewicz works as the clerk for the Building, Electrical and Plumbing Inspectors and the position is being studied to determine an accurate grade level from Tabor Associates.

1. Massachusetts State Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan: The Town will sign an agreement for the SMART PLAN to become our new deferred compensation plan. The implementation will take place over the next few months.
2. Minutes of February 10 and Open Session and Executive Session Minutes of February 17 were reviewed.
3. Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust: Rick Green will attend the meeting of our health trust and seek reduced costs for the health plans currently offered.
4. Emergency Plowing and Sanding of Private Properties: Dana Pixley submitted proposed costs for emergency plowing and sanding and the Board questioned the cost.
5. Fire Department Application: Dave Martel, Town Counsel responded to our request for a review of the current application. Those revisions have been forwarded to Mike Gorski, Fire Chief who will make the changes so applications will be updated. This board will send a note to Tom Cohan at Charter asking that the cable installation occur as soon as possible so the Fire Station can be up and running.
6. Conservation Commission Minutes: Minutes reviewed without comment.
7. PVPC Metropolitan Planning Organization: PVPC is establishing a new organization and a number of selectmen are interesting in chairing the group. John Flynn will attend the meeting; Jack Villamaino from East Longmeadow is running for the position.
8. Recovery and Reinvestment Act Update: The Board received an update from Lt. Governor, Tim Murray regarding the status of the list of shovel ready projects.
9. Regional Selectmen's Meeting: The next meeting will be held in East Longmeadow on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Vinnie will not be able to attend.
10. Town Owned Property: The Board will review town owned properties for the possible National Grid use and Habitat for Humanity use.
11. Budgets: Cemetery, Tax Collector, Conservation Commission, Water Operator.

Seeing no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm was made by Vinnie Villamaino, and seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc