

Approved 6/22/09

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

**MINUTES**

June 15, 2009  
6:30 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green  
Absent: Vincent J. Villamaino was unable to attend.

Municipal Hearing Officer: Dick Patullo has agreed to train for this position which would allow for appeals of decisions rendered by the Building Inspector and any violations cited by the Fire Chief. The training focused on time spent on documenting evidence and preserving a paper trail since these could be appealable to Housing Court. Forms are not yet available but will be forthcoming. John asked if the decision is appealable or if the appeal goes back to the original citing of the violation. Funds for this position can come from the revolving fund that ticket money goes into. Money can go into the General Fund to be earmarked for...

The position is one that needs to be certified. The Fire Chief had requested that this position be created to handle violations of the fire codes. Dick will come before the board again when he has additional information.

Minnechaug Land Trust: Sherry Himmelstein came before the board for two issues. The first is to acquire the signatures of the Selectmen on Conservation Restrictions on property owned by Loribeth Sterling on Chapin Road. The Town will have a one half interest in this restriction at the cost of \$60,000 agreed to at the April 2008 annual town meeting. The funds will come from the Community Preservation Act funds.

A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the purchase of a one half interest at a cost of \$60,000 for a Conservation Restriction over property owned by Loribeth Sterling, approved at the April 2008 Annual Town Meeting, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Goat Rock Property: Sherry presented a proposal for the purchase of Goat Rock and 40 acres. The Land Trust will work on getting an appraisal and setting pins for the property. Rick asked about using the Conservation money for other projects such as Housing, Historical Preservation and/or Recreation. John responded that generally those that make the proposals for Community Preservation Act funds receive what has been requested. He suggested that other people could benefit if they came forward with a proposal. It was left that if this property could be purchased by spending the minimum required through CPA, the board would support the proposal. Sherry will contact the board once she has additional information.

Dispatchers Union: IBPO Representative Bob Dickson and Radcliffe Kenison came in for an initial meeting with the board to start contract negotiations. There were no specifics discussed, so therefore no need for an executive session. Bob Dickson will meet with the four dispatchers to get a list of those items of concern as well as identify some articles within the existing contract that need to be better organized to improve the flow of the contract.

Racky feels that dispatchers are underpaid when compared to other communities. Rick reminded him that the same issue was raised three years ago, yet that information was never compiled by the dispatchers. It was determined that the next meeting would take place on Monday, June 22 at 7:30 pm.

Reserve Officer Interview: Sgt. Bill Joy reintroduced the board to a current dispatcher, Mike Meaney, who has been recommended to serve as a Reserve Officer. Mike currently works at Home Depot, has been through the Police Academy, went to Minnechaug RHS, received his Associates Degree at STCC and is currently attending Westfield State College. The Board reminded Mike that community policing is the important piece of Hampden police work, and that being polite and respectful should be the goal of our officers. Mike came highly recommended by Sgt. Joy. A motion was made by Rick Green to appoint Mike Meaney to the position of Reserve Officer, for a probationary period of 60 days, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Police Negotiations: Brett Purchas and Tawrin Seega were scheduled to come in to finalize contract negotiations, but Tawrin was sick and Brett was out on a call and was unable to get in.

Minutes of June 8, 2009: The Board reviewed the minutes and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The Executive Session Minutes of June 8, 2009 were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Fire Department: A transfer request came in for the Fire Department to cover repair costs to the siren. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the request to transfer \$3,000 into the Fire Department operations account from the Reserve Fund, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: all in favor and so voted. The request will be submitted to the Advisory Board for approval on June 29, 2009.

Sign Request: A resident from 115 Stafford Road submitted a letter requesting a review of the intersection of St. Germain and Stafford roads. The Board discussed and forwarded the request to Sgt. Joy, Police Safety Officer for his input.

MIIA: Our insurance provider has contracted with new contractors for the drug testing of the Highway Department.

The town received credits in the amount of \$4,253 for good practices and the credits will be applied to next year's premium.

Main Street Culvert: The Board has received additional information on the properties where the culvert is now located to determine if any restrictions might interfere with future plans or if new easements will be required.

Superintendent's Search Recommendation: The Board forwarded its recommendation for Martin O' Shea to become the new superintendent to the School Committee.

Senior Center Volunteer Recognition Date (July 10)

Departure of Outreach Coordinator, Sue LaMondia: Becky will advertise for someone to replace Sue in this position.

Miscellaneous:

- Howlett Hill Road/Markham Case: Status report, awaiting action.
- Community Smoking Intervention Project (no longer doing compliance checks)
- Planning Board Minutes: reviewed without comment.
- Hampden Housing Authority Appointment: received letter from State thanking the Board for their recommendation.
- Massachusetts Extended Benefits Program (Unemployment Insurance Extension)
- Chapter 61A Update
- Veterans' Service Officer: Interviews to be conducted on 6/17.
- Hot Dog Social
- Voter Registration
- June 20, Fire Department Dinner

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc