

Approved 7/6/09

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

June 29, 2009
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Advisory Committee: The following transfers were discussed with the Advisory Committee:

- Council On Aging: A transfer of \$2,000 from the Reserve Fund to COA Utilities was approved. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the transfer, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Planning Board: A transfer of \$46.16 from the Reserve Fund to Planning Board Clerical was approved.
- Town House: A transfer of \$316.00 from the Reserve Fund to Town House Custodial was approved. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the transfer, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Longevity Account: A transfer of \$200 from the Reserve Fund to the Longevity Account was approved. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the transfer, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Veterans' Benefits: A transfer of \$944 from the Reserve Fund to Veterans' Benefits was approved. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the transfer, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Gasoline: A transfer of \$536.84 from Building Utilities to Gasoline account was approved. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the transfer, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Assessors: A transfer of \$22.50 from the Reserve Fund to Assessor's expenses was approved.
- Fire Department: A transfer of \$1,540.43 from the Reserve Fund to Fire Department Operations was approved. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the transfer, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Fire Department: A transfer of \$3,000 from the Reserve Fund to Fire Department Operations was approved. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the transfer, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The transfer needed for Pat Markham's retirement payout will be discussed as to funding to come from the Highway Department or from Employee Benefits.

Board of Assessors, Tax Collector and Town Accountant: The members came in to discuss the following issues:

Overlay Accounts: The status of the funds in these accounts was discussed with an interest in determining if the funds could be released to the general funds. The establishment of the Assessor's Stabilization account was discussed along with the history and current amount in the account.

There is \$40,000 in the overlay account for 2006 and the Assessors will return to this office to explain the details of that account. The assessors will have a rundown of all years' overlay accounts to determine what monies may come back to the General Fund. This information will be ready in time for the Fall Town Meeting.

During the discussion, John Flynn suggested that the Board of Assessors come up with a boiler plate article to "vote to take money out of the Assessor's stabilization account". This could be voted, or a vote to take no action could be voted as well.

This office will check with Town Counsel, Dave Martel on how we might collect on personal property tax; is there a threshold for small claims court?

COA Board Members: Rita Vail, Karen Leger, Patricia Clark, Al Ouimette, COA Director Becky Moriarty were before the board with their recommendations for additions to the board.

The new bylaws allow for up to 7 members over 60. Shirley Gouvan moved recently and the interested parties for the open positions were: Andree Crowley, Raymond Crowley, Bill Olmstead, Ed Norman, and Tiny Burt.

There were no interested candidates for the under sixty position.

The board members interviewed the candidates separately and then voted their choices separately. They are: Ray Crowley and Andree Crowley.

A motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Al Ouimette, Ray Crowley and Andree Crowley to the COA board for three year terms, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Flower Boxes: Ginny and Larry Blake came in to discuss the idea of installing flower boxes on the Chapin Road bridge. The neighborhood has agreed to do the upkeep and may keep them through the winter and decorate with holiday decorations. The board thanked them for their interest

Police Chief, Jeff Farnsworth:

Gasboy system: The board reviewed the inaccuracies in the gasboy (gasoline accounting) system by the department.-

Cooney payout: Officer Cooney has 5 holidays held that were not used and has asked that his time to use them be extended. The board agreed that he can extend the time for sixty days (to be used by August 31) and will be compensated at the current contract rate.

Traffic Control: The Board will continue the conversation at the next meeting.

Pay Increases: The Chief asked about increases for Kathy Zanetti and the Reserve Officers.

Stop Sign on St. Germain: We received a response from Dana Pixley regarding State regulations for sign installations. This will require further research and discussion.

TWB reimbursement: The reimbursement for alarm repair is pending (and may come sometime in October). The budget has \$5,000 for school repairs that was not used for this and the board discussed using the money for gym repairs.

Floor Information: Jeff brought in information on flooring that will be installed which reduces static charge. There are 3 offices that are not covered by the grant. When the estimate comes in the board will review and consider it for next year.

Transfer Request: The board reviewed the request to pay for the computer for the police department. A motion was made by Rick Green to transfer \$2,581.44 from the Reserve Account to New Equipment #015577, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Status of Fleet: Jeff reported that the cars are in good working condition with no issues pending.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session at 8:00 pm regarding the implementation of the Chief's contract, with return to Open Session, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

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

Minutes of June 22, 2009: The minutes 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.

Minutes of Executive Session were tabled until the next meeting. A motion was made by Rick Green to table review of ES minutes of June 22, 2009 until the July 6, 2009 meeting. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Academy Hall Painting Project: Bid specs were put together and reviewed by the Board. This office will solicit 3 bids for the project.

Chapin Road Bridge Project: During the planning process for the bridge, the residents (Bellows/Goldberg) on Main Street were told their fence would be reinstalled once the project was complete. The board will ensure the fence is taken installed.

Highway Topics:

Paving History: Dana put together a historical report of the roads and their paving history.

Markham Buyout: The board reviewed the buyout numbers for Pat Markham's retirement.

Dispatcher's Response: The board reviewed the topics the dispatchers would like to discuss at the next meeting.

With no further business, a motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc