

Approved 7/13/09

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

July 6, 2009
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vinnie Villamaino.

Minnechaug Land Project: Sherry Himmelstein came before the board to get signatures for a grant application for Goat Rock. Sherry explained that the cost would be approximately \$8,500/year for the town, should the article pass at Annual Town Meeting in 2010 to come from Community Preservation funds. A motion was made by Rick Green to sign the application for the Goat Rock land purchase through the Conservation Commission, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The board then discussed the issue of affordable housing and how the town might be better served in this area. Sherry mentioned a few properties in town that would have been ideal for expansion of elderly housing, such as Simkin's property or the Gran Prix Farm. Rick stated that he would contact the Housing Authority to get on their agenda to discuss this.

Conservation Commission Appeal: Camilla Desmarais, a resident and former member of the Conservation Commission sent a letter to appeal the decision made by the commission on property on Commercial Drive. Bonnie Geromini was here as well. Camilla came before the board to discuss the points made in her letter, notably allowing development within 25' of the wetlands, no review of the septic design. The board can let Con Com's decision stand, or send it back for reconsideration. The board would like the issue revisited by Con Com and will send a request to them with Camilla's letter and ask for a review.

Police: Chief Farnsworth came in to discuss a number of items, as follows:

Smoking Intervention: The board was notified by the State that funds are no longer available for the compliance checks that were done from time to time on the sale of tobacco products in our town. The board has asked that the police run checks to help monitor the situation to ensure our retailers remain diligent in their sales.

Stop Sign: There was a request from a homeowner on St. Germain Road to install a stop sign due to the difficulty she has exiting her driveway due to oncoming traffic. The Safety Officer reviewed the site and agreed that a sign would help, and Dana Pixley was asked what the next steps were. He provided information regarding state regulations

regarding sign installation; one of which is to determine how many accidents and what citations have been issued as a result non-compliance of the YIELD sign that currently exists in that location.

Transfer Request: Jeff requested a transfer in the amount of \$220 from the general salaries line into general expenses to cover end of year expenses due to the cost of Officer Cooney's uniform replacement. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the transfer request of \$220 into general expenses, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Floor Replacement: Jeff is getting a grant to replace the main dispatch area with an anti-static material at a cost of approximately \$7,000 and got an estimate to cover the other four offices for \$4,500. The board asked that he seek three other quotes for the job and a decision will be made once those are received.

Quinn Bill: The issue of the state's stance on paying 50% as they have in the past was discussed again and Jeff is looking for some compensation in lieu of payment from the town. It was suggested that Jeff use the new car on an extended basis, or be allowed to continue his Quinn bill payments as expected, and anticipate that the State will make a decision soon as to the Quinn Bill reimbursement. It was determined that Jeff would continue to receive his weekly payout in Quinn money and the Board will revisit this issue in November.

A motion was made by Rick Green to go into Executive Session to discuss contract issues prior to the arrival of the dispatchers for negotiations with return to Open Session at 7:30 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Rick Green yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

A motion was made by Rick Green to leave Executive Session at 9:04 pm with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Rick Green yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Main Street Culvert Project: Tighe and Bond submitted two proposals (2 separate options) for the culvert placement to alleviate the flooding issues of Main Street. The culvert can remain in the same place or be moved for a better flow but that location comes with its own set of environmental and permitting issues. Vinnie will discuss with Dana Pixley tomorrow.

Minutes: The minutes of June 29, 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.

The minutes of the Executive Session of June 22, 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.

Transfer request: A request was made by the Highway Superintendent to transfer funds from Building Utilities to General Highways in the amount of

Policy Vote: A new policy has been drafted for the payout of employee benefits and reads as follows:

Effective July 1, 2009, disbursements for certain accrued employee benefits will be disbursed from accounts as follows:

Accrued benefits from the current fiscal year shall be paid from operational accounts as they would have been accounted for in the budget.

Accrued benefits earned prior to July 1st of the current fiscal year shall be paid from the employee benefits account.

A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the policy, seconded by John Flynn.
VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Municipal Hearings Officer: The board discussed the position of MHO and a motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Dick Patullo as Municipal Hearings officer effective July 1, 2009, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Correspondence:

Dog Nuisance Issues: Two notice letters were sent to dog owners the Board has received complaints about. The Board will await a response from the owners.

TJ O'Connor Status: The City of Springfield will no longer hold the lease on the T J O'Connor Animal Shelter due to lack of funding. The Board received a letter requesting a meeting of those who currently contract with the shelter in an effort to share costs with other communities. Contract will be terminated effective 6/30/10. The board agreed that this is a good agenda item for the next Regional Selectmen's meeting.

Veterans' Reimbursement: Art Booth has been acting as the Veterans' Agent while a change in staff takes place. The new Agent, John Comerford is in place now and they are working on the necessary paperwork for reimbursement to the town for benefits paid out in the past.

Notes:

Barnes National Guard, September 18th
Senior Volunteer Breakfast – COA at 7/10 at 8:30 am

Memo to Cliff, Town Accountant asking for status of Revolving Accounts.

With no further business, a motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc