

Approved 11/16/09

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

September 21, 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 by Vinnie Villamaino at 6:30 pm.

Fire Department: Mike Gorski, Fire Chief and Dave Markham, Assistant Chief, came before the board to discuss a letter of opinion received from Town Counsel on the establishment of the Fire Department and under whose authority they exist. It was determined that the Board of Selectmen has the authority to appoint the fire chief and officers, and officers may be recommended by the fire department members, but the final decision rests with the selectmen. It was determined that a letter would be sent to the department officers asking for time on a meeting agenda to discuss the vote that took place at an annual town meeting in 1983 dictating the process through which officers would be appointed.

The discussion turned to the grant applications which the department is waiting to hear a decision on, and Mike stated that the town has made it through two steps and anticipates hearing something very soon. The two applications are for a new communication system and a new tanker truck.

Mike then talked about getting additional members on board; he has not set upon a definitive plan and is open to all suggestions. He is amenable to highway department members working for the department if they are trained, have the proper gear, if they are willing to help.

There was discussion about putting a notice in the paper asking for anyone interested in volunteering; perhaps people working in town might be available to volunteer during their work day.

It costs essentially \$2,000 to outfit members with full gear and they must complete training for one year each second Monday and third Wednesday of the month.

Rick suggested that the STM warrant have an article requesting 15k for equipment purposes for gear, etc for any new volunteers.

Any auxiliary members have to go to OccuHealth to certify they are in good health.

The conversation turned to the need for a CDL license, and Mike responded that if the vehicles are not used in an official capacity, the license is required.

The maintenance of the fire house was discussed and the need to scrape and paint windows, to replace the windows in the front of the building, gutter replacement, etc. The cost will be determined so it can go on the warrant as well.

The Chief asked about the status of the Fire Department's Association and how the law distinguished between the Fire Department and the association. It was suggested that our Town Counsel be contacted to determine who has final authority over the department, how it was originally established, etc. Once the information is received, the board will ask to attend the next department's meeting to discuss the status.

Mike noted a couple of reminders:

October 24<sup>th</sup> is Fire Prevention Open House;

Carbon monoxide detectors will be available for elderly or family with small children  
MEMA provided number of grant receipt in the amount of \$2,500 which will be researched through Town Treasurer.

Board of Health: Jane Budynekiewicz reported that the Household Hazardous Waste Day held in East Longmeadow collected and disposed of 3600 gallons of hazardous waste with participating communities.

Park and Recreation Commissioners: Huck House, Bob White and Jay Ray came in to talk about the condition of the embankment due to erosion from the flood of 05. The bridge is at risk due to erosion. Members have met with Gary Weiner from Ecotec to discuss restoration and one suggestion was the use of gabion baskets (rock filled baskets). Gary will work on a couple of different scenarios and present them to Park and Rec. The project will have to wait until next year as will need Conservation Commission approval first. This may be an article for STM in the spring.

Minutes of September 9, 2009: The minutes of both the Open Session and Executive Session were reviewed. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve both sets of minutes as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Dog Complaint: The board received a letter of complaint from a resident regarding a dog that charged and frightened a child. This office will check with Police and TJ O'Conner Animal Shelter for previous complaints and then schedule a hearing.

Right of First Refusal: The board received a request to decline the opportunity to purchase property at 240 Ames Road as a Right of First Refusal. A motion was made by Rick Green to decline the option, contingent upon Minnechaug Land Trust declining interest in the property, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Projected Debt: The board discussed the debt that is being serviced now and what will be retired when/if the new school is approved:

- Anticipated new fire truck - future
- GM bond will remain
- Infrastructure note will be retired
- Regional school debt will be retired

### Special Town Meeting Articles

- Assessment and repair of the heating/cooling system
- Town Clerk needs approximately 4500 for additional elections

Registrar Resignation: The board received a note of resignation from Betty Wells and her position on the Board of Registrars. Her replacement should come from the Republican Party; the board will ask for recommendations for the remainder of her unexpired term.

### Highway:

- Driveway at 5 Mountain Road: The current resident has complained to Lance Trevallion and Dana Pixley about the water running into her yard from the road/driveway and the response has been the same. When the property was purchased, the owners knew the conditions, knew that the Town had no responsibility with remedying the situation and have posted a bond.
- Updated Construction Costs: The board reviewed what has been spent to date this year out of the infrastructure bond (approximately \$260,827).
- Tree Payment: The board is awaiting payment from a resident for tree work performed by the town; a lien will be placed on the property if payment is not received.

A memo will be sent to all departments asking if there are any dire needs that cannot wait until Annual Town Meeting that should be considered for Special Town Meeting.

A memo will be sent to Chief Farnsworth to ensure all invoices are submitted to the Town Treasurer when seeking reimbursement for uniforms or any other items.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc