

Approved 10/26/09

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

October 19, 2009
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green

Guests: Town Accountant, Cliff Bombard, Board of Assessors, Advisory Board

The above mentioned attendees came in to discuss proposed articles for the next Special Town Meeting to be held on November 9, 2009.

Highway Department: Crack Filling: The Highway Superintendent submitted a letter requesting authorization to proceed with the “crack filling” of Carmody and East Longmeadow Roads at an estimated cost of \$8,500. The board discussed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve the request for the crack filling of Carmody and East Longmeadow Roads, to be paid out of the 1.5M bond, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Dog Hearing: Attendees were: Matthew and Theresa Gawron, Chris and Judy Duncan, Doug and Joanne Boyd and George and Joanne Pyzocha.

Matthew and Theresa Gawron were asked to attend tonight’s meeting to discuss the complaint lodged against their German Shepherd who charged at a neighbor’s daughter and held her at bay on her porch. The parents of the young girl are Judy and Chris Duncan; also present were other neighbors, the Boyd’s and Pyzocha’s who have also felt threatened by this dog.

Rick Green asked if the routine for the dog had been changed since the incident with the Duncan’s and the Gawron’s responded that they have been sympathetic to the family and have tried to walk the dog during “off” hours so visibility to others is minimal. They always have the dog on leash and mentioned that other people in their neighborhood do not feel threatened by the dog.

The Duncan’s responded that their daughter is terrified to go out and play by herself, will not ride her bike in the driveway, is afraid to go out trick or treating and runs to the house when returning home in the car.

The Gawron’s stated for the record that their dog has not bitten a person, but did allow that there had been a fight in the past with the Boyd’s dog.

The Pyzocha’s commented that there have been four incidents in which they have felt threatened; specifically Mrs. Pyzocha stated that there have been two times when she was

in her car, and unable to get out because the dog was threatening her at the door. She drove around the block until the dog left her yard.

After much discussion, the Board agreed that something has to be done by the dog's owners to alleviate the fears felt in the neighborhood and stated that some form of fencing/caging had to be installed by the owners. The Board is appreciative of the measures already taken by the Gawron's but feel as though they have no choice but to insist that other steps are taken to keep the dog contained.

A motion was made by Rick Green to require a plan be submitted to the Board of Selectmen within 30 days from this date that will be reviewed by The Thomas J. O'Conner Animal Center, prior to approval and in those 30 days the dog may not be outside unless it is restrained and under the owner's control, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Police Chief: Jeff Farnsworth came before the board to discuss the following items:

- New Policy: Mobile Digital Recording System: The Board reviewed the new policy as submitted by Chief Farnsworth. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the Mobile Digital Recording System policy as submitted, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- New Policy: Eyewitness Identification: The board reviewed the new policy submitted by the Chief. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the Eyewitness Identification policy as submitted by the Chief, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Car Detailing: The Board questioned the Chief as to whether the old chief's car was going to be detailed as they had requested, and the Chief responded that it had never been fully determined by the board. After the Chief explained that the cost would be in the \$2,000+ range, it was determined that the car could be left as is.
- Fleet Needs: The Board asked about the status of the fleet and the chief stated that car number 3 will be up for replacement this coming year. The Tahoe will need to be replaced after that. Chief Gorski stopped in to discuss using the Tahoe for Fire Department purposes once the Police Department was done with it, for a duty officer's use at night, carrying all of the necessary equipment.
- Tasers: The Chief would like to invest in "Tasers" for the department, feels that they are a step in between using lethal force. Some of the surrounding communities use them now. Belchertown has them, Longmeadow is looking into them. The Board requested that our insurance carrier weigh in on potential liability issues, and once we get that a decision can be made. Jeff would then come up with the policy for their use which would then be forwarded to the State for its approval. He could obtain 3 units and training for everyone for approximately \$3,600 (which he already has in his budget).
- Policy Book format: The Chief currently has two policy books he is working out of, one with old policies and the other with new. The

Chief is attempting to winnow all of these down to one manual. Rick asked that the board have a copy of the manual as well. He also suggested that all officers review the policies on an annual basis, and sign off that they have done so. The Chief is planning on having this all complete in the first part of the New Year.

- Road Hazards: The Chief will have the list reviewed by his safety officer and will return an updated list to the board. Any infractions will be dealt with the way in which unregistered cars has been.
- Martin Farms Road Obstruction: The property has been cleaned up, Vinnie will stop and speak with the homeowner and ask that the homeowner trim back the foliage.
- Complaint from Clifford Holt: The Board will discuss this at a later date.
- Reimbursement Receipts: The Chief was asked about the lack of receipts that get submitted to the treasurer on a regular basis. Jeff responded that as of two weeks ago, all receipts have been submitted for her purposes. The point was clearly made that this practice should continue from here on out.
- Dispatcher's Sick Leave-PTO payout: The Chief asked about sick leave buy out and how it should be handled. The new policy drafted by the Board will be given to Jeff for his information.

A motion was made by Rick Green to go into Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss the Quinn Bill reimbursement with return to Open Session, 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 8:27 and return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Rick Green yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Fire Chief, Mike Gorski: Mike came before the Board to discuss a number of issues. The first discussed was in conjunction with the Police Chief and the radio system. Jeff met with engineers from Motorola and learned that if we mimic the existing system we have now and bring the FD into it, it would be a simulcast system, and cost around \$450,000. We have low band and that will not work anymore. Police currently get approximately 80% coverage via portable to portable, the fire department is far lower than this.

The board then discussed how changes are going to be implemented in the department. Mike estimated that 85% of the fire department showed up at the meeting that the board attended where they were told that there will be changes within the department; that the board will appoint the chief, rather than being voted by the department members. The discussion was how best to implement these changes relative to credentials necessary for members. The Fire Chief's Association is working on credentials that a fire chief should have; the biggest area of concern is a volunteer chief/department. The state has firefighter level one, officer level one.

Rick stated that he would contact our Fire Marshall, Dave Bowdin and State Trooper, Dave Percy (who is affiliated with the Fire Marshall's office) for assistance in determining what qualifications should be required for the department and seeking information in how similar communities are structured. Mike Gorski wants to ensure the distinction is made between the Fire Association and the Fire Department.

NOTE: Annual Mutual Aid Dinner will be on November 4th at Hampden Country Club. The Board of Selectmen is invited to attend.

Warrant Articles

- Fire Department: Fleet maintenance article, check with Mike, approximately 9,000
- Fire Department Building Maintenance, check with Mike, approximately \$7,000
- Protective Equipment, approximately \$10,000
- Air conditioning/heating system approximately \$23-27k
- Police painting - \$1900
- Roof - John to get numbers for both Academy Hall roof (8,000) and salt shed roof
- Highway department upgrades – get numbers for salt shed roof, doors, repair of block at rear of building block repair
- Stabilization
- Capital project fund, needs to have life expectancy of so many years

With no further business, a motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc