

Approved 11/23/09

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

November 16, 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.

Library Maintenance: Ray Andree, Library Trustee came before the board to discuss maintenance work done in the library recently that resulted in an alarm being tripped. Once tripped, a technician was needed to reset the system. The library feels that the cost for the work should be paid through Town House Maintenance and not be their responsibility. The board has agreed to pay the invoice.

The board also asked about bid specs for the heating and cooling system. This office will contact an engineer to do the spec design.

Simkin House Relocation: Sue Bower came before the board to discuss the relocation of the house at 119 Allen Street to 377 Chapin Road. The contractor has contacted the utility companies and set a tentative schedule for the move, but before the board will issue a permit, approvals from all department heads, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Highway Superintendent have to be received. A memo will be sent seeking those approvals.

Verizon Pole Petition: Al Bessette came before the board to present a plan for a pole placement on South Road, Pole 35 ½. After a review of the plan, a motion was made by Rick Green to approve the pole placement, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

National Grid Pole Petition: A representative from National Grid came before the board to present a plan for a pole installation labeled Pole 1-50 on East Longmeadow Road at Allen Street. After reviewing the plan which allows changing wiring on East Longmeadow road, and the ability to hang new equipment allowing for a switching station, a motion was made by Rick Green to approve the pole installation, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Fire Department: Chief Gorski and Assistant Chief Markham came before the board to discuss the use of the money approved at STM (\$7,000) for fire department building maintenance. It was determined that the fire department could oversee the spending directly.

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The next discussion centered on the questions the department members have for Town Counsel, Dave Martel. The board agreed earlier that Dave Martel could attend a Fire Department meeting, but questions would first be submitted to the Chief prior to Town Counsel attending. Questions are due to the Chief by November 23, 2009 and the Chief will meet with the board again on the 30th to review the questions and get them to Dave Martel for his review. The board emphasized that an agenda would be drafted and strict attention will be paid to keep the meeting on track.

The few issues that have come up in the past were related to the appointment slips in the past and how they were approved/signed and the other was a question of not promoting from within for the Chief's position. The board agreed that due diligence was not done in the past, but given the vote in 1983, it is incumbent upon the board to carry out the wishes of the voters now.

The board also noted the need for a skill set to be developed and adhered to by department members.

It is clear from the Special Town Meeting that the town supports the work and dedication of the department by approving the appropriation of \$10,000 for gear. The town and board wants to ensure the best equipment is available for the Chief department members.

Mike Gorski mentioned that a few people have come forward who are interested in volunteering. They are Mark Barba and Sean McCafferty.

Mike also asked in keeping with MGL 48, Sec. 42A that a more universally recognizable structure of the department be adopted that is used throughout the industry:

- Deputy Chief 1
- Deputy Chief 2
- Captain 1
- Captain 2
- Lieutenant 1
- Lieutenant 2

A motion was made by John Flynn to adopt the new positions as noted, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes:

September 21, 2009: The minutes were reviewed 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.

September 28, 2009: The minutes were reviewed 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.

November 5, 2009: The minutes were reviewed 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.

Police Correspondence:

The Chief provided a copy of the law regarding sex offenders and what was required in notifying the public, how individuals could request specific information after providing identification to the police department.

The Chief also gave the figures of personal days to be bought out by the dispatchers as of June 30, 2009. A total of \$1,318.26 will be paid out of employee benefits as determined by a recent policy adopted by the board.

Dog Complaint: As requested by residents Judy and Chris Duncan at 28 Colony Drive, a hearing had been held regarding a dog owned by Matthew and Theresa Gawron. As a result, the assistance of an Animal Control Officer from Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center was needed to determine the best way to ensure the German Shepherd "Dylan" did not get out and frighten the neighbors. In a letter dated November 10, 2009 from Animal Control Officer, Hannah Chapman, an approval was given for the kennel purchased by the Gawron's with the caveat that "ultimately it is the responsibility of the owners to keep their dog restrained". The board is satisfied with the remedy and will inform the neighbors who attended the initial hearing.

Mountain Road Conditions: Rick Green was approached by Warren Black regarding the condition of Mountain Road and the ledge that restricts the width of the road. He asked that the selectmen consider this in next's year review of road work projects. Dana Pixley received the same information from Warren. The board asked about the installation of the driveway to Warren's home which has not been done and he continues to use a driveway through his sister's property to access his home.

Community Preservation Commission Resignation: The board received a letter of resignation from Lynne Wallace from her position on the Community Preservation Commission. She thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. Having known this, the Commission contacted Beth DeSousa who is gracious enough to serve until the end of the term. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the appointment of Beth DeSousa to finish the vacant term on the CPC, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Academy Hall Building Conditions: Rick Green and Gilles Tanguay performed a "walk-through" of the building and found some minor repairs that should be made over the coming months.

NOTE:

Department Head Meeting: December 14th at 7:00 pm
(Ethics Requirement)
Buy-out accounting for any contract employee

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc