

Approved 1/12/10

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

January 5, 2010
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.

A motion was made by Rick Green to go into Executive Session at 6:30 pm for contract negotiations with return to Open Session. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to leave Executive Session at 7:07 pm, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes, John Flynn yes.

Highway Department Issues:

Snow Storm Reports: Given some confusion recently, the Board asked that Dana Pixley provide them with a report from each storm so the Board can review the practice and procedure. Should proper procedures not be followed, Rick recommends that a letter be sent to the Chief and put in the officer's file to serve as a reprimand.

Sand Availability: A resident called to complain about her difficulty in getting sand from the Highway Garage on "off hours". She stated her difficulty in trekking past the gate and then carrying pails of sand back to her car. The board suggested that Dana Pixley install a small shed outside of the gate to hold sand for the residents. They will contact Dana about this.

Charles Street Damage: Residents from Charles Street sent a letter to the Selectmen regarding damage to their law as a result of snow plowing activity. They submitted pictures to substantiate that a car parked across the street from their home prevented the highway trucks from having the necessary room to plow the road properly. The letter was forwarded to the Police Chief for his response. The Highway Superintendent was asked about the incident and noted that the car parked did indeed impede road clearing, and this will be brought back to the Police Chief for his edification to ensure cars are removed for snow clearing purposes. Dana Pixley assured the board that all lawn improvements will be made in the spring as they always are.

Property Damage Policy: A letter was submitted by Dana Pixley regarding the property damage issues that occur as a result of traffic accidents. Past practice has been for the Police Department to forward accident reports to the Highway Superintendent so he can seek restitution through the appropriate parties. In that reports are not always submitted, the board will establish a policy for the Police to follow in the event of such incidents or accidents. Rick will develop the language for the policy.

Minutes:

The minutes of December 7, 2009 were reviewed. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Executive Session minutes of December 7, 2009 were reviewed. A motion was made by Rick to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The minutes of December 16, 2009 were reviewed. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The minutes of December 21, 2009 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. Vinnie Villamaino had not attended the meeting and so abstained from the vote.

The Executive Session Minutes of December 21, 2009 were reviewed and will be revisited at the January 12, 2010 meeting.

The minutes of December 28, 2009 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. Vinnie Villamaino had not attended the meeting and so abstained from the vote.

Budget Meeting – January 6 at 7:00 pm: All Selectmen will attend.

Safety Meeting – January 26 at 6:00 pm: John Flynn and Rick Green will attend, Vinnie Villamaino has a prior commitment.

Regional Selectmen Meeting – January 21 at 7:00 pm in East Longmeadow, agenda items will be submitted.

Building Committee – January 7 at 7:00 pm (and every Thursday in the month) Vinnie cannot attend the 7th

Veterans' Budget Meeting – January 19 at 7:00 pm (Monson Selectmen's office)

Board's Meeting Schedule

MMA Annual Meeting

Open Letter from the School Building Committee has requested interested parties to contact them and in what capacity they might serve. Mark Feeney has agreed to give his time to the project. The Board mentioned Dave Gernux from North Road as a possible volunteer. Rick will contact him to see if he is interested in volunteering.

Generator Maintenance: The Board currently has the Highway Superintendent, Dana Pixley monitoring the Town House Generator on a monthly basis for fuel levels. Dana had suggested that when the fuel tank is down approximately one quarter of a tank that he

could contact a local supplier to have them do the refilling directly from their truck. Vinnie was going to contact Norm Bibeau to see if he would be agreeable to do this. Once done, a letter will be sent notifying all parties. The board then discussed the generator at the Senior Center and will contact Becky Moriarty as to who does the monitoring of maintenance and fuel issues there.

Fire Department Meeting Minutes: Jane Budynkiewicz and Rick Green attended a meeting on Sunday morning and came away with job criteria/qualifications for each position in the Fire Department. They also discussed the selection process for officers, a tenure of three years for the officers, what reviews will be done prior to a final appointment is made by the Board. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17.

Correspondence:

- Enterprise Fund discussion: John would like to review further with Cliff Bombard and if the issue is not fully resolved, John will ask that Cliff attend a meeting to review further.
- PVPC
- Monson Fire Department Letter
- LPVEC Natural Gas Price
- Building Permits
- Unemployment Request
- School Transportation Funding
- Mass Audubon's Request – Turtle Crossing signs – no go

Other:

Skating Rink: The Board continues to be questioned by a resident who would like to see a skating rink developed for town use. We will forward his request to the Park and Rec Department and get back to the resident.

River Park Drive: There was further discussion about the water issues caused by the river to Mr. Dorn's property on River Park. Rick will follow up with a site visit that will be scheduled with the Conservation Commission to see what remedies might exist.

Ambulance Contract Expiration: June 2010. The Board will discuss further at the next meeting and check with the Police Chief for response times.

By-law discussion: The board discussed the issue of home occupancy permits and whether or not there is enough time prior to Annual Town Meeting to make any revisions to the bylaw as it currently reads. Further definition needs to be given to the bylaw and John Flynn will attend the next Planning Board meeting to discuss.

Salary Discussion 2011: The board discussed the budget preparation for this coming fiscal year and remarked that Advisory stated that services and salary line items should remain at a level funding.

Budget/Assessor's Meeting for Tax Rate: After this year's meeting the board is determined to start the process earlier in the year and to get all interested parties in the same room discussing factors of the tax rate far prior to the cut-off date.

Bill Joy: Sgt. Joy is now back to full time duty after an injury.

A motion was made by John Flynn to go into Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss Personnel issues for the Police Department, without return to Open Session, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc