

Approved 1/27/10

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

**MINUTES**

January 20, 2010  
6:30 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

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

Board of Health: Jane Budynkiewicz came before the Board to discuss the issue of recycling and the desire of the Hampden Country Club to participate in our recycling program in Town. The only real concern the town has is the possibility of contaminated loads coming from the Country Club and the Town being somehow responsible for them. It was agreed that a simple contract can be drafted between the Town and the Country Club clearly stating that any contaminated loads coming out of the Country Club will be the sole responsibility of the Country Club. The only requirement to complete the process is for the Country Club to become a "registered hauler" in town. It was suggested that the BOH write a simple contract between the Town and the Country Club stating the terms and specifics regarding any contaminated loads from the country club.

A motion was made by Rick Green to allow Hampden Country Club to become a Registered Hauler for recyclables, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Rick Green to change the rates of the Transfer Station permits to \$30.00 for the first sticker and \$10.00 for an additional sticker, effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Rick Green to maintain the \$15.00 cost of the Transfer Station permit for those residents 65 and older, and to maintain \$5.00 for an additional sticker, effective July 1, 2010 seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

There was some discussion about burning permits and whether the conditions could be available on line (internet) rather than calls being made and covered by the Dispatcher. Rick will contact some local talent to get their ideas on how it might be managed.

Police Chief Farnsworth, Fire Chief Gorski: Radio Discussion

The Board asked if we have bidding options for the system. Jeff has met with Motorola representatives and explained the situation we are in and that we will need proposals to work off of State bid, to ensure we get the most competitive prices.

Motorola came back with 2 options; one expensive and the other, very expensive system. We currently have a repeater system and will try to mirror that system for the fire department. The other system is a simulcast system; we now have a repeater system and wanted to try to mirror that for the fire department. The repeater system was approximately \$560,000, but does not work with our current paging system, as the paging would be operational only 40% of the time.

FCC is requiring narrow banding in a year (which will affect both highway and fire departments) and low band is ceasing to operate as well and we can't obtain low band equipment any more.

The simulcast system has a price tag of \$700,000; would use existing cell towers at Commercial Drive and Cross Road and there are no grants for funding this.

The P25 system would cost \$610,000 which wouldn't allow us to apply for grants down the road.

The Board asked what other hill towns do and wondered if they are in a regional dispatch system.

The alternative is to find a communications engineer to come in and write specs for the system.

Need to find drop date for being up and running over the next 12-18 months.

It is imperative that we do our due diligence prior to spending 700k of taxpayer's money.

#### Police Issues:

1. Road Hazards: There continues to be confusion related to safety hazards and who views them as such (police versus highway). The only concerns Dana Pixley has are related to anything in the roadway or directly above the roadway that could interfere with road work (basketball hoops, timbers in the road, or rocks in the road). Sgt. Joy has a list of hazards he has noted, and has started to send letters to residents to clear the hazards out, but is sending the disgruntled residents to take the issue up with Dana Pixley who is not the safety officer. It was suggested that Bill Joy meet with Dana Pixley to review the list and come to some sort of agreement on the hazards.
2. Charles Street: There was a complaint from a resident regarding some damage to their yard as a result of a neighbor's car being in the way of the snowplows to properly clear the road. The Police did not find fault with the owner of the car and suggested the matter be cleared up by highway. The board disagreed, and felt that the car clearly restricted the plowing of the road. It was further stated that all cars that are in the way of properly clearing the roads will be notified/warned/ticketed or towed depending upon the repetition of the problem, according to the bylaw voted at town meeting.
3. Storm Event Request: The board has asked for copies of the reports from the police department to see how they respond to the onset of a storm, if they call in cars parked illegally during a storm event, and the time in which the Highway Superintendent gets notified of conditions needing Highway's attention.
4. Treasurer Grievance Issue: The police union brought forward a grievance relative to the Treasurer relative to their retirement withholdings. More information has to be forthcoming from the union prior to taking the next step with the Treasurer.

5. Mobile Digital Recording System: A grievance submitted by police officers regarding the use of cameras in the patrol cars was denied by the chief in that it was not submitted in a timely manner. It also was a grievance issued by individual officers and not a union grievance.
6. School Resource Officer: The Chief submitted a job description for the position in the school. The town has received a new grant and John wondered if the SRO, the Senior Officer and the DARE officer could all be served by one officer. Jeff explained that there is a significant amount of training necessary; that one person handles the High School, the DARE officer is for TWB only and the Senior Officer serves our elder residents only. The Board will contact Bob Weitz in Wilbraham and inquire about how the funding for the SRO is handled there.

Fire Chief Gorski and Ltd. Markham: Chief Gorski and Ltd. Markham came before the board to discuss their recommendations for the following appointments:

Appointment of a provisional firefighter: Sean McCafferty was recommended by the Chief to be appointed as a provisional firefighter. Sean comes from Georgia, and will be appointed on an “at will service” and will be provisionally appointed for the remainder of the appointment year. A motion was made by John Flynn to support the recommendation made by Chief Gorski to provisionally appoint Sean McCafferty as a firefighter until the end of the appointment year, second by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Appointment of a Lieutenant: Chief Gorski and Ltd. Markham recommended the appointment of Pat Farrow to a Lieutenant’s position; based on his qualification, his completion of EMT training, he currently works in East Longmeadow and whose Chief gives him the highest of recommendations. A motion was made by Rick Green to appoint Patrick Farrow to the position of Fire Lieutenant for the duration of the appointment year, second by John Flynn, VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Dispatcher Ryder: Chief Gorski recognized the efforts made by the Dispatcher, Laurie Ryder who was on duty the night of the Burns’ fire. He will send a letter lauding her professionalism and cool demeanor on a night filled with many stressors.

Ambulance Contract: Vinnie will meet with fellow Selectman in East Longmeadow to start the contract renewal process for both towns.

Highway Department Pending Items: The Highway Superintendent has awaited a policy on Property Damage that had never been formally written, but was rather a past practice. To ensure both Highway and Police are on the “same page”, such policy has been drafted and distributed to both Highway and Police. This will ensure that any damage done to Town owned property will be tracked and restitution will be sought by the Highway Department once the information has been forwarded by the Police Department. The restitution will be paid by the offender or their insurance company.

House Relocation: The Board continues to track the permit process for Sue Bower in her attempt to move the Simkin’s house from Allen Street to a new location on Chapin Road.

One of the last permits she needs is from the Conservation Commission; once they are fully satisfied, the board can give their approval for the move to take place. Once done, the Highway Superintendent will determine the bond amount needed as determined by the weather conditions and the owner will get the bond.

Payment for Tree Work: The Highway Department was finally fully paid by resident Gahres for tree work that had been done and for which they owed the town.

#### Meeting Minutes:

- Executive Session Minutes: The Executive Session Minutes of December 21, 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.
- Minutes: The Open Session Minutes of January 12, 2010 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.
- Executive Session Minutes: The Executive Session Minutes of January 12, 2010 were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Special Meeting Minutes: The minutes from a Special Meeting of January 16, 2010 were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. Vinnie Villamaino abstained from vote as he was not in attendance the day of the meeting. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

#### Correspondence:

Sand and Salt Use: The Board received a letter from a resident who complained about the town's prohibition against commercial property owners having use of the Town's sand and salt. In the past, sand and salt had been available to all residents, on a limited basis, but has never been provided to those with commercial property. Given that the costs of sand and salt amount to \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year, the town has recently (within the last two years) reduced the use of material to sand alone, in an effort to reduce our overall costs for winter maintenance. Vinnie will speak with the resident to make him aware of our policy.

Advisory Budget Meeting: The Advisory Committee has invited the board to their meeting scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss their plan for the coming fiscal year. They have also copied the board on the schedule of appointments they intend to hold with all departments reporting to them.

#### Meeting Dates:

Regional Selectmen's Meeting – January 21 (See draft agenda)

Safety Meeting at Minnechaug - January 26

Advisory Meeting – February 8

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc