

Approved 6/16/10

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

June 7, 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 6:40 by John Flynn.
Guests: Ed Gorski, Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham/Hampden Times

Town Auditor: Tom Scanlon, Jr. came in for an “exit interview” after his firm performed the annual audit for the town. His few remarks centered on keeping good track of tax titles and being conservative with receipts.

Cliff Bombard was also in attendance and mentioned that Tom will come back to talk with Dick Patullo in his new position as treasurer.

Veterans’ Agent, John Comerford has good controls on the tracking for reimbursement from the state.

The one remaining item was a recommendation that all Transfer Station revenues be kept at the transfer station until they are brought directly to this office.

Hampden Arts Festival: Dorothy Fritts, representing The Big H came before the board to discuss details of the festival scheduled for preparation on September 17, with festivities on the 18th and 19th.

The Police Department will be asked to post the NO Parking Signs on both sides of Main Street from the Federated Church to the Town Hall. In addition, it would be appreciated if a temporary cross walk could be added near the church for pedestrian access.

The Festival will sponsor a performer who will showcase “The Green Clean Machine” to teach children about recycling. Participants will receive bags for the third and fourth grades to collect recyclables to a collection site at the front of town hall. Vinnie Villamaino offered to have a truck ready to take whatever is collected to the Transfer Station.

The Selectmen support the weekend festivities and will do whatever they can to accommodate those participating in the event.

SBA Cell Tower Proposal: The Town currently has a lease with SBA for the cell tower at the Transfer Station. SBA has sent a proposal of three options for the board to look at when discussing future agreements with them. The board will discuss this in an Executive Session as it is a negotiation issue.

Dog Complaint: A resident called to complain about the behavior of a neighborhood dog who chases kids, threatens their dogs while running loose, not properly restrained. After speaking with an Animal Control Officer from T.J. O'Conner Animal Control Center it was recommended that a letter outlining the violations of the town bylaw be sent to the owner, alerting them to the fact that the dog can be picked up by an A.C. Officer and taken to the Control Center.

Mass Highway Project: The Highway Superintendent submitted contract paperwork from the Mass Highway Department that requires the Selectmen's signatures to receive the funds to be used for the Stony Hill Road project.

Main Street Culvert Project: The Board reviewed the costs currently spent for the Main Street culvert repair, with additional funds being approved for the Army Corps of Engineers requirements. This is all moving towards an "on site work date" of August (low time for the water flow).

Minutes of June 2, 2010: 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. Vinnie Villamaino abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting.

House Relocation: The board discussed the new date for the house move (July 10 and 11) and the need for a letter to go to the homeowner stipulating necessary requirements to be completed by July 1, 2010, which include an escrow account and a bond for the house mover.

Highland Circle Sign: Property owners on Highland Circle have had two wooden signs noting their subdivision location; both signs have been vandalized and are now gone. The residents would like to install a rock with a sign engraved into it installed in the same location as the previous sign, which is not private property. The board will check with the Highway Superintendent to get his opinion on the location.

155 South Monson Road: Residents in the area of a new abandoned home have questioned whether they can go on site to do landscaping work to "keep the place up" but it would be at their own risk and liability. The house is now in bankruptcy court.

Town House: Maintenance issues have been an ongoing issue in the town house with staff from the Selectmen's office handling some of the physical work. A list will be drafted for all employees who might be in need of emergency assistance when the Selectmen's or Board of Health offices are not open.

Copier Use: The board has discussed having monthly or quarterly staff meetings with all department heads/elected officials to inform different departments of what other employees are faced with or dealing with at the moment. One of the issues to be discussed is the use of the copier and the number of color copies being made.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc