

Approved 10/19/10

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

October 12, 2010
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

Guests: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

The meeting was called to order by John Flynn at 6:30 pm.

Transfer Station Position: The board had three applicants for the position available at the Transfer Station helping in the Recycling Center. Two of the applicants were present, while a third was at work and did a phone interview with board members. The applicants were Dick Southworth, Paul Matrow and Carl Paulson. Mr. Southworth would be unavailable for a month's period of time at the beginning of the job. Carl Paulson has good availability, understands the work that needs to be done there as he is a frequent visitor using the system. It was made clear to him that he would have to be diligent about people having sticker permits on their vehicles and to ensure people disposed only what they were allowed to recycle. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Carl Paulson to the position of Transfer Station Worker, effective immediately, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Dangerous Dog Hearing: Those in attendance were dog owners Matthew and Theresa Gawron, Marie Jenkins (dog trainer), Heather Gawron, Melissa Gawron, Judy Duncan, Karen Burzduk, Joseph Burzduk and Bill Carlos. The Gawron's were directed by the Board of Selectmen to attend a hearing for the second time on their German Shepherd Dylan after a report of a dog on dog attack was taken by Hampden's Dog Officer, Shelley Sears. This incident involved a woman walking her dog (on leash) when the Gawron's shepherd (who was momentarily off leash) ran straight for the restrained dog and bit him a number of times. The owners feel badly about the incident, but the fact remains that the dog is a danger towards other dogs. The board was also reminded by Judy Duncan about her daughter's continued fear of the dog when she had been chased into her house over a year ago.

The dog owners contend that the dog is aggressive towards people, and that he is a herding dog and the chase is part of his makeup.

Ms. Burzduk told the story of the dog off leash, and how he charged after her dog, which was on leash and stated that the dog never threatened her, but did go directly for her dog, biting him very severely.

One neighborhood resident, Bill Carlos stated that everyone is afraid of the dog in the neighborhood and have even changed their behavior when walking their own dogs.

The trainer, Marie Jenkins says she can train this dog on his behavior, but the board members contend that this situation is too dangerous to wait for the training to take place.

Rick will speak with Shelley Sears prior to making a decision on the dog's eventual outcome.

A motion was made by Rick Green to close the hearing, and to make a decision on October 19th, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Capital Improvements: The issue of the stairway lift came up and repair of such will be researched.

Police Chief: Jeff Farnsworth will be at training from 10/21 – 10/27.

Correspondence: The board received a letter from resident Jim Gillens regarding his position on the town acquiring voting machines.

Traffic Control Budget: The board reviewed the issue of funding the traffic control line at an appropriate level and has determined that \$10,000 is a good number.

A motion was made by Rick Green to request a transfer of \$5,040 from the Reserve Fund to the Traffic Control Line Item 51.5 bringing the total of the account to \$10,000, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

VFW Permit: The board reviewed a request from the VFW for a one day permit for the pavilion use on October 23, 2010 for a birthday party. A motion was made by Rick Green to grant a one day permit for October 23, 2010 from 12:00 pm to 12:00 am, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

NOTE: Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 19th at 6:30 pm.

With no further business a motion was made by Rick Green to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc