

Approved 12/06/10

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

November 29, 2010
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino
The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by John D. Flynn.

Tax Classification Hearing: The Board of Assessors came before the board with a recommendation of a single tax rate for all properties in town. As has been the history of the town, a recommendation to tax resident and commercial properties at the same rate allows for businesses to survive and thrive in the community without penalizing them with an additional tax burden. As many of the business owners are residents as well, it affords them the opportunity to continue operate their businesses in town. A motion was made to adopt a single tax rate for all classifications of residents and commercial properties.

There was further discussion. John will speak with Cliff regarding estimated receipts and state aid, so we may be able to reduce the tax rate by 20 cents or so. No one qualifies for residential exemption, some of the commercial properties do qualify- entertain a motion not to exempt commercial properties, no small business exemption.

Board of Health Variance at 15 Wilbraham Road: There was a request from the homeowner for a variance as the system did not meet the groundwater separation distance from the required 5 feet to 4 feet. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the variance request as recommended by Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of November 8, 2010, November 15, 2010 and November 2, 2010: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve the minutes of November 8th with changes, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The minutes of November 15th were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve with changes, seconded by John Flynn. Vinnie Villamaino abstained from the vote as he did not attend the meeting. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The minutes of November 22nd 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.

Notice of Hearing: Public Hearing for expansion of Grog Shoppe will be held on December 13 at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Office.

School Committee Budget Subcommittee: The Wilbraham BOS requested that additional representatives attend the SC budget process to serve as a subcommittee and asked how this Board of Selectmen feels about the suggestion. They suggest that members from the respective Finance and our Advisory Board participate in the process. John will respond to the request via email.

NOTE: School Committee Meeting, 11/30 @ 7:00 pm to discuss financing options for school debt.

Status of Lawsuit: The Board reviewed a letter from our Insurance provider MIIA regarding the status of a lawsuit currently pending against the town.

Beaver Permit Request: It was determined that Officer Ely was the one who asked about the permit necessary to trap beavers by the trapper hired by the Highway Superintendent.

Skating on Mill Road: To be discussed at a future meeting.

Cultural Council: The Council members will be contacted regarding future appointees.

SVRHT Quotes: The Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust met to discuss the option to audit retirees collecting benefits who may be ineligible for those benefits. The trust group voted to have the audits performed.

Board of Health: The Board will request quotes by mid-March for bag purchases for the transfer station.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc