

Approved 1/13/11

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

January 10, 2011  
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 6:30 pm by John D. Flynn.

Firefighter Appointment: Chief Gorski introduced applicant Andre Sample to the board as a candidate for the position of Provisional Firefighter. Andre lives in town and is recommended by the Chief. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Andre Sample as a provisional firefighter, effective immediately, seconded by Rick Green.  
VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Residents of Potash Hill Lane: A group from Potash Hill Lane came before the board to discuss an approval granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals. They were: Kevin Lees, Lauren Comstock, Julies Lees, Daniel Patterson, Jean Patterson, Steven Mann, Diana Izzo, Steve Burzdak, Karen Burzdak, Elaine Robbins, Michael Smith, Austin McKeon, Vincent DeCesare and Linda McShane. Ms. McShane served as the spokesperson and explained the sequence of events regarding property owner Mr. Kane who applied for a gravel removal permit from ZBA. Some of the residents were notified as they are abutters of Mr. Kane and attended the hearing. The applicant received an approval, but the same abutters contend they should have been notified by ZBA of the decision. The approval was granted with a stipulation that all trucks would have to travel on Stafford Road through Connecticut rather than going down Potash Lane.

They are also concerned about an application Mr. Kane made to the Conservation Commission asking to build a bridge at the end of Potash to access property owned by him. The residents fear that with the gravel removal allowed, the trucks will be passing through their neighborhood.

The board agreed to check with Town Counsel to get an opinion on the steps taken by ZBA. Once done, we will contact Austin McKeon and Linda McShane with that information.

National Grid Petition: Dena Champy from National Grid and Robert Longden, Attorney representing National Grid came before the board for a final approval to raise the pole height from about 65 feet to approximately 80 feet. Abutters were notified of the hearing and included: David Dobles, Alison Dobles, John M. Flynn and Fran Buckley. The poles need to be at an increased height due to the increased voltage to increase the

capacity of the lines. These poles will be placed in an existing right-of-way (ROW). Part of what National Grid is seeking tonight are the rights to perform additional trimming 10 feet outside of their existing trimming rights. It was explained that the property owners would be approached by National Grid with a concise plan for trimming that would have to be signed by them prior to National Grid proceeding with any work.

Mr. Buckley spoke about the potential for the devaluation of his property and other abutters voiced the same concern. The other concern noted was the extent of the trimming and worried about clear cutting. Ms. Champy noted that the approval is only good for what the property owner agrees to.

Given the questions raised, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to continue the hearing until January 30 at 7:00 pm, seconded by Rick Green. All in favor and so voted.

The board did discuss additional concerns; one of them was the location of alternate routes that might be more suitable to residents. Those routes are in the original submittal by National Grid. The board will review those routes prior to making a decision. The last issue discussed with the possible use of the old poles by our Highway Department. The Highway Superintendent will be contacted to see if he has any need for these poles.

#### Town Hall Maintenance and Repair:

- Heating system, Hurley and David or JJK (John will contact JJK and ask that they come to assess the system)
- Handicap Access/Chair lift repair: Footit could probably work on it, but move the project to the building committee and contact Bob Burger to see if he is interested in participating again)
- Parking lot reconfigured
- Back door into the Melville Room closure: get handyman in
- Flooring tile repair in auditorium, et al: for building committee
- Weather stripping
- Vault (CPA funding) John will contact Doug Boyd.
- Windows: Gary Truesdale has taken measurements for additional storm windows downstairs.

#### Highway Correspondence:

- Stolen Guardrail Cables Memo: Advise Dana to use insurance restitution fund.
- Budget Submittal: Noted and forwarded to Advisory.
- Decision on Mountain Road money: Monies will be transferred into bond fund since project was not done by resident.
- Snow Account: John asked about status and we are not in the “red” yet, but will be shortly.
- Generator suggestion: We will get back on a maintenance agreement with Cummins.

Regional Selectmen’s Meeting: Will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm in Wilbraham.

Proclamation for Peg Stearns 100<sup>th</sup> birthday: The board will work on a proclamation for presentation to Peg.

Correspondence:

- SVRHT Audit Correspondence
- School Committee Agenda
- YMCA Rate Schedule for Employees
- Training for Veterans' Service Officer
- PVPC Discussion with ConCom, Assessors, Cemetery and Planning
- Police Department update: The Chief does not think that what has happened has risen to the level requiring a "red alert" for the community, but Tyler Witkop was asked to put a note in the Wilbraham Hampden Times for residents to remain vigilant about locking houses and cars.
- Send note to departments reminding them of the need to notify/ask the board about contacting town counsel

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc