

Approved 2/28/11

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

February 22, 2011
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino
Attendees: Charlie Dolben, Chris Cesan, Dave Cesan, Bill Wilson, Lance Trevallion, Norm Bibeau, Bonnie Bibeau, Ken Lefebvre, Neil Flynn, Judy Jackson, Courtney Llewellyn, Wilbraham-Hampden Times

National Grid Hearing: This is the third meeting for National Grid and residents who have existing easements granted to National Grid for the lines running through Hampden. The real estate representative from National Grid made good faith efforts to meet with or talk with those residents to explain their position, and to explain that those easements were granted many years ago and they have the right to alter those existing lines. The residents concern was that their property was being devalued due to the change in the lines. More critical to the discussion was the approval from the Board to allow the crossing of town roads.

Resident Connie Witt came in to voice her concern about the aquifer and how the change in these lines might affect that. She had written to the Energy Siting Board and copied National Grid on the correspondence but had never received a reply. It was agreed by Dena Champy, project manager from National Grid that she would look into Connie's concerns and get back to her with an answer.

As mentioned, other residents were contacted and all have agreed to allow National Grid to walk the line and look at dangerous trees that might be a concern for the lines.

The real question and concern is for National Grid to have the Board's approval to run lines across our roads, not for the abutters.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to accept the petition brought forward by National Grid, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Rick Green to go into Executive Session at 7:30 pm to discuss the SBA cell tower negotiations and an unemployment benefit decision with return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

Zoning Revisions: Planning Board Members and Zoning Board Members and the Building Inspector met with the Selectmen to give a status to the recent series of public forums that were held to get the public's opinion on the existing bylaws, as to whether they needed revising in any way. Charlie Dolben from Planning opened the discussion by talking about home occupations, in-law apartments, and residents such as landscapers who have the need for oversize vehicles for their businesses.

The response from residents at the public meetings was that everyone favored the bylaws as they exist and did not have any complaints. The real concern from those that attended the forums was the enforcement of those bylaws.

What it came down to after much discussion is that enforcement is the first place to start before we consider making any changes to the bylaws.

Lance's concern is that once we start the enforcement process, we will have to be consistent for the Housing Court process.

Currently, in law apartments are prohibited.

Lance has been called by a number of people, realtors, banks, and homeowners about the legality of in law apartments as it affects the financing of the property.

Lance also said that Wilbraham has a decent bylaw which allows in law apartments and that might be a good model to use in the future. The apartment would require a public hearing be held with an approval for a special permit. It would also require a notarized letter every year stating that in laws are still living in the apartment. When people leave, they would have to remove the kitchen.

This enforcement will require more staffing and more money. Lance stated that we need a 20 hour per week clerk now for the Building Inspector.

There was discussion of regionalizing enforcement.

The first step will be in finding someone willing to act as the Enforcement Officer. The discussion and any proposed changes will have to wait as there is not enough time now before Annual Town Meeting.

The board will schedule Lance Trevallion to come in again on March 7 to discuss the issue further.

PVPC Master Plan: This was not discussed and will be reviewed at a later date.

Minnechaug Regional Alumni Hall of Fame: The board has seen the notice.

Hampden Country Club License: This was not discussed and will be reviewed at a later date.

Stormwater Annual Report: This was not discussed and Joe Kruzel will be contacted as to our next steps.

Main Street Culvert Status: The installers (Insituform) need to pay an engineer to confirm that the repair proposed will be acceptable to our town engineer, Tighe and Bond and

Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent: The final work for the Main Street culvert is scheduled to be done on Thursday, February 24th prior to any payments being made.

Budget Review: The board will meet next week to discuss the budget prior to meeting with Advisory on the 28th. They will discuss transferring money from the stabilization fund. Vinnie wants to be prudent and everyone agrees to that.

PVTA Administrator Evaluation Form: Vinnie will be attending the next PVTA meeting on Wednesday.

Dog Complaint: The board received a complaint from a resident regarding a neighbor's dogs. The board will ask that the Dog Officer, Shelley Sears check in with the neighbors to see what impact these dogs are having on the neighborhood at large.

Energy Assessment Status: The assessments have been performed and the board is waiting for the report and recommendations.

MSBA Letter re: Rebuild: The board reviewed the letter received from MSBA in response to the School Committee requesting additional funding/reimbursement. The MSBA denied the request.

Meeting: The board will meet at Hampden Engineering in East Longmeadow to discuss the budget further on March 2, at 3:00 pm.

NOTE: The Board of Selectmen will meet with Advisory for budget reviews on February 28th.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc