

Approved 3/7/11

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

**MINUTES**

February 28, 2011  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino  
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by John D. Flynn.

Bid for Landfill Monitoring: The annual proposal submitted by Mike Framarin for water testing and monitoring for the Transfer Station in April was reviewed. A motion was made by John D. Flynn to approve the proposal at the same cost as April 2010, as follows; Lab fees - \$8,227, Water Samples \$3,800 for a total of \$12,027, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Hampden Country Club Liquor License: The board reviewed the existing documents as well as the letter of opinion from our Town Counsel, Dave Martel. As recommended by Town Counsel, a motion was made by Rick Green to correct the name on the Common Victualler license to be consistent with the liquor license issued to Hampden Realty Partners, LLC, seconded by John Flynn. Vinnie Villamaino abstained from the vote. VOTE: Rick Green yes, John Flynn yes. Vinnie Villamaino abstained.

Given some changes to the business arrangement at the Country Club, it was agreed by the board to forward all documentation to the ABCC and allow them to make the final determination as to who should hold the liquor license, Hampden Realty Partners, LLC or by RGD Inc. d/b/a Hampden House Café. The documents will be packaged with a cover letter requesting their review of the matter.

Minutes of February 15, 2011: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve the minutes as presented, second by Vinnie Villamaino. John Flynn abstained from the voted, as he did not attend the meeting. VOTE: Rick Green and Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Minutes of February 22, 2011: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Executive Session Minutes of February 22, 2011: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Green to approve as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The board left their meeting room to meet with the Advisory Board and discuss the board's budget for FY2012.

6:10 pm      Board meeting with Advisory: The board discussed future changes to the budget; cost for street lights will be increased, gasoline will have to be increased next year, traffic control line item has been increased to \$10,000. This is the last year of debt for the fire truck and we will have one more year to pay on the infrastructure bond (in the amount of \$233,000).

### Agenda Items

Main Street Culvert: The board received notice from Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent that the culvert lining has been completed to his and our engineer's satisfaction and the payment for the work will be allowed (after the invoice has been adjusted for back charges to the installer).

Letter from Stan Weinberg: Labor Counsel responded to request for explanation regarding an Executive Session discussion of last week.

Correspondence: The board reviewed two letters of resignation. The first was reluctantly accepted by the board from Joe Kruzel who served faithfully and honorably on the Planning Board for many years. The other was from Reserve Officer, Brent Noyes who has been hired as a full time officer for the Northampton Police Department. The board wishes him well in his new position.

Land Donation Offer: The board reviewed an offer from a resident who would like to donate a piece of her land to the town. The board appreciates the offer, but has no use for the property.

Credit/Debit Card Use: The Town Treasurer has scheduled a meeting with a bank who will come in to discuss the opportunity for various boards allow residents to use credit and debit cards in town offices

Recyclables: The board noted the receipt of a rebate check for recyclables in the amount of \$4,355.14.

### Items of Interest:

- National Grid letter to property owner. Noted by board.
  - William Bennett joining Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury and Murphy: Noted by board.
  - Letter from Legislators re: Snow Assistance Program from MEMA: Noted by board.
  - Letter of Credit for Scantic Meadows: Noted by board.
- Can and Bottle Drive for Cub Scouts at Transfer Station 4/30: Okay with board if they wish to proceed.

6:50 pm      Police Department Review with Advisory: The increase for the department is mostly due to contractual raises for salaries.

7:10 pm      Fire Department Review with Advisory: The fire department needs to replace a truck at a cost of \$360,000 and invest in some improvements to an existing truck. They are also seeking funds to make a modification to the rear of the fire house.

Chief Gorski also noted that there has been some work done on regional bids for a “standard” truck that could benefit us. Of note is the fact that any truck ordered would not be delivered for 12-14 months at least. In the future the department would be seeking a rescue vehicle to add to the fleet.

John Flynn left the meeting when the Fire Department was finished with Advisory.

7:20 pm Highway Department Review with Advisory: The first question asked was where the town stood in the relative to the snow and ice account and Dana Pixley responded that we were approximately \$140k over budget (which was raised to \$50k in the last budget cycle). Some good news is related to the cost of salt which went from 89/ton to 52/ton. Dana will end the winter season with a full shed of salt this year which puts us in a better position for next year. There is approximately \$135k left in the bond and he imagines that state aid will be level funded this year as well. There was discussion about roads needing some immediate improvement as Dana works to put his list together to review with the board as to what projects are at the top of the priority list. Mountain Road has been considered for many years, in large part due to its size being diminished due to the ledge on both sides of the road. Of a greater concern is the condition of Wilbraham Road which should be torn up and repaved at an estimated cost of \$750k. The other items needing to be addressed are the 80 catch basins that run along that road. Most of them are in a deplorable state and need to be rebuilt or relined all at a huge cost to the town.

The last item for discussion was equipment purchasing and what is highest on Dana’s priority list. Initially Dana had a pick up replacement and a chipper replacement on his list, but given the financial climate stated that they would nurse the chipper along for another year, but did say that the pick up was a necessity. The truck will go on as a warrant article for town meeting.

It was suggested by Rick Green that consideration be given to another infrastructure bond to continue the work on our roads, etc as well as meeting with Capital Planning to discuss upcoming needs for the fire department and infrastructure.

With the conclusion of the budget reviews the board reconvened to their office and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc

