

Approved 8/8/11

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

**MINUTES**

July 25, 2011  
6:30 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

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

Guests: Rob and Debbie Marcelina, Ed Gorski

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Richard R. Green.

Tornado Damage: Rob and Debbie Marcelina from 298 Ames Road attended the meeting to discuss the status of clean up on Ames Road and the board reminded those present that Glendale Road had been affected by the tornado, as well and those residents are still in the process of cleaning their property. After much discussion it was determined that we will contact the Highway Superintendent and ask that he get three quotes for the cleanup of Ames and Glendale Roads. The debris that will be picked up will be only that which has come from the tree belt alone. Under no circumstances will debris from residents' private property be picked up and disposed of.

Fire Department: Chief Gorski and Dave Markham came to the meeting to discuss the purchase of a new fire truck. They presented options available to the town for payment of the truck. This will be discussed at a later date.

The other item discussed are the plans drafted by Charlie Schmitt for the renovations to the fire house. Dave Markham had made some revisions and Charlie has incorporated those changes. Dave will contact Charlie so the Board has a copy of the plans.

Board of Assessors: Bob Makuch, Stan Witkop, Norm Charest and Dawn Barnes came to the meeting to discuss a recent DOR Bulletin regarding tornado damage and the timing of property assessments. Hampden typically does property valuations on January 1, of the new year, but this provision allows a town to change the date of assessment to capture damage that may have occurred to property due to the tornado. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to accept Chapter 52, Section 13 of the Acts of 2011 contingent upon Town Counsel's approval, seconded by John Flynn, which reads as follows:

That the city/town accept Section 13 of chapter 52 of the Acts of 2011 and assess fiscal year 2012 real estate taxes based on the physical condition of property on June 30, 2011.

VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Police Sergeant: Sgt. Henry came before the board to introduce applicant, Benjamin Goff for the position of Police Dispatcher. Ben is currently attending STCC as a criminal justice major. Joe noted that he is mature for his age, a bright young man, and a good fit for the department. John Flynn emphasized that Ben will be in a position that requires

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some confidentiality and dealing with people that he may or may not know but he must be vigilant and mindful of the need for strict professionalism on the job.

A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the appointment of Benjamin Goff as a police dispatcher for a probationary period of sixty days, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Police Department: The board will meet with Chief Farnsworth on August 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss car usage, mileage of the fleet, and an historic look at the fleet.

Transfer Station: Jane sought bids from three vendors for our transfer station bags. After reviewing the three bids, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to award the bid to Mansfield Paper out of West Springfield, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

John asked that Jane put together a summary of last year's numbers, and to determine what other towns are doing relative to pricing, etc. The board also wishes to review our former agreement for the transfer station versus our new agreement.

Minutes: The minutes of July 11, 2011 were reviewed and a notion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Vacation Schedules: The board reviewed and approved the vacations requested by Pam Courtney and Jane Budynkiewicz.

Notes:

- Note from HWRSD reimbursement for Bond Anticipation Note: Noted.
- Legal Opinion on Housing Authority Vote: Town Counsel, Dave Martel suggested that the two boards meet again to revote the addition of Patricia Clark to the Housing Authority Board. This office will contact them for a meeting date in the near future.
- School Committee Agenda for July 26<sup>th</sup>: Noted.
- Disposal of Surplus Supplies (Fire Truck): This information will be forwarded to the Fire Chief for his use.
- VFW Turkey Shoot Request: The board received a letter from the VFW Commander, Ken White requesting a time to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the annual turkey shoot held in the fall. The board will coordinate a meeting and will invite neighbor, Ray Shankel to attend the meeting as well.
- Complaint regarding Spray Park: An anonymous resident sent a letter to the board complaining about the inability to use the park with his grandchildren during camp hours. The letter has been forwarded to the Park and Rec Commissioner as the Board of Selectmen has nothing to do with the operations of the park.
- Veterans' Agent Correspondence: The Board received a letter of instruction from the state relative to the town's obligation to have a Veterans' Agent in place

(which we currently do). Rick asked that the communities with whom we share our Veterans' Agent be contacted for a district meeting.

- Minutes of Building Committee and Agenda for meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>: Reviewed without comment.
- Time Capsule for HWRSD: So noted.
- Wellhead repair: The wellhead at the town house needs to be raised as required by the DEP and when it was first attempted; the hole kept flooding and the work could not be done. Our Water Operator submitted an extension request from DEP which was granted. The work will be done in September.

Dog Issues: Dog Officer, Shelley Sears has contacted the board regarding some ongoing issues with the McNeil's who continue to be bothered by their neighbors' dogs. This was addressed some time ago (December 16, 2010) when the dog owners were notified; Karen Ntagkounakis, Lisa Kane and Tim LeClair. This issue will be revisited after we contact our Town Counsel as to how to deal with nuisance dogs in a neighborhood.

The other complaint is lodged against Stephen Carabetta from 308 Somers Road whose dog wanders into yards on Potash Hill Lane. The board will schedule a hearing to discuss the problem after talking with Town Counsel.

Main Street: The informational letter drafted by Dana Pixley regarding the paving of Main Street will be emailed to John to put on our website. We will also work on a notice for residents via our CTY announcement system.

Fire Department: The board will work on a reception to acknowledge some of the founding fathers of the department. We will schedule the 10<sup>th</sup> of September.

Air Conditioning: Rick will check with McCormick-Allum regarding additional air conditioner unit and/or ductwork for library.

Note: 9/11 Ceremony at Senior Center with RAH

Auditorium Use: Mark Giza from the Hampden Theater Guild will be notified of some issues relative to the use of the auditorium, the need to have children strictly supervised when here for rehearsals, the need for parents to park elsewhere and walk to the town hall to enable our emergency vehicles to respond quickly to calls received at the police and fire stations.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc