

Approved 9/6/11

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

August 8, 2011
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Keeney arrived prior to the start of the meeting to talk about the condition of the Ames Road clean up. The board agreed that a final sweep would be done by the Highway Department to clear debris from Keeney's and Fontaine's property. The board is awaiting a response from the Highway Superintendent with a cost estimate.

Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant: Cliff came before the board to discuss the preliminary tax rate for the coming year. As stated, he is working with preliminary numbers and will try to meet with the assessors next week to discuss the tax rate. Rick will attend that meeting.

Personnel Committee: Don Collins and Bill Gouzounis arrived to discuss the status of the Employee Handbook. There have been several changes that have been made and those will be delineated for the board's review.

There was discussion about the vacation schedule tying into calendar years. John asked that there be some research done to determine where each employee stands at their current pay rate.

Becky Moriarty, Director of COA did not come to the Selectmen to inquire about a previous employee's pay rate, but did meet with the Personnel Committee about the subject and was given an approval as long as she does not go outside the budget parameters.

The Board also wants the Personnel Committee to research how to award comp time for overtime hours that are worked.

Dog Hearing, 173 Raymond Road: Property owned by Marlene Safford, dogs owned by Lindsey Bibeau. Complaints were brought against the dogs for their threatening behavior by more than one resident. Those in attendance for the hearing were Richard H. Kosakowski, Ed Muska, John Miller, John Novak, Lindsay Bibeau and Marlene Safford. The dogs in question are a terrier and mixed breed.

The board held a hearing for a dog who resides at 173 Raymond Drive who has become a nuisance for the neighbors. Mr. Miller stated the he had been bothered in the past by Ms. Safford's dog, but had nothing new to report (as these dogs are different from ones who

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were bothersome in the past). Mr. Kosakowski accompanied his son-in-law, Ed Muska to offer his support and rendition of what he has seen himself as to the behavior of one of the two dogs who reside at 173 Raymond. Ed had his pant leg grabbed by the dog and has been attacked by the dog in the past. He is noticeably more concerned as he and his wife will be having a baby soon. Mr. Kosakowski stated that the dog has comes into his daughter's driveway and has prevented her from getting out of her car. Marlene stated that the dog is an overprotective dog, and they have been made efforts to restrain the dog.

John Flynn stated that the board members have dealt with these issues with other dog owners and that it is a black and white issue without a gray area.

Rick also has had experience with nuisance dogs before and suggested that an electric fence or kennel be installed to ensure the dog does not get out.

Rick suggested that they be given a ten day timeframe in which to decide if they would install the electric fence, based on proposed cost and the board was assured by Lindsay Bibeau (dog owner) that she would come to this office by August 18th to let the board know of her decision. She was told at the meeting that if the fence did not work, her dog would have to be removed from town.

7:30 pm Chief Farnsworth: Contract Negotiation: Before going into Executive Session there were a few items requiring discussion. The first was a very long outstanding invoice, sent to Wallace Tree Service for work they had performed for Sue Bower for his house moving event. Rob Wallace has refused to pay the bill and Sue Bower also has reviewed. Given that Wallace Tree had called for the detail, the invoice will be sent to them for payment.

Fleet Discussion: The board discussed the current fleet and what the Chief intended to do for future purchases, what vehicles would be repaired, which would be replaced, etc. The Fall Town Meeting will have a warrant article on it for the purchase of a new vehicle.

Taser Use: the Chief reviewed the issue of Taser use again and stated that he had checked with MIIA (our insurance carrier) was in favor of them. As the Chief explained, there is a gap in their safety arsenal without using them. They would give the force a tool to act as a deterrent in using excessive force. MIIA currently has a grant available for \$5,200. The board asked that he pursue securing the grant and if we are not successful, we would take it to Fall Town Meeting.

Police Station: There was further discussion about a Butler building to be used as a new Police Station. Rick has suggested that the building could be placed near the Senior Center as there is town property there. Rick will meet with the reps from the company in Wilbraham and bring the information forward from that meeting.

A motion was made by John Flynn at 7:45 pm to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of negotiating the Chief of Police's contract with return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

A motion was made by John Flynn to leave Executive Session at 8:07 pm with return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino, Rick Green yes.

Dog Nuisance Laws: Information has been distributed to all members to come to a concise list of procedures on how to handle nuisance dogs. John and Vinnie to read and discuss at next meeting.

National Grid Lighting Analysis: The Board has been in contact with National Grid Lighting and discussed an upgrade to be done for the Senior Center. A motion was made by John Flynn to perform the upgrade to be done at the Senior Center, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The board will also send a note to Advisory Board for their information.

Upcoming Financial Meeting: The Board will hold a meeting on September 12 to discuss upcoming fall town meeting and dire financial needs for departments. Attendance at the meeting will be mandatory.

MEMA Letter: Patrick Carnevale from MEMA felt under attack by an article printed in the Wilbraham/Hampden Times and Rick Green was asked to send a letter stating the events as they occurred in Hampden surrounding the storm events of the summer.

Minutes of July 25, 2011: The minutes of July 25, 2011 were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Liquor Licenses: The Board has received various liquor license procedures for review in the event they may be incorporated into the town's licensing processing.

Firefighter letter: The board will ask that our town counsel review a letter in response to one received from a fire fighter.

Correspondence:

- DEP Notice of Non-Compliance for 2 Allen Street
- DEP Release Notification at 535 Glendale Road (transformer oil leak)
- Letter to Department of Veterans' Services: Letter sent to Boston confirming the existence of our Veterans' Agent for the Town of Hampden.
- Staff Meeting – Town House Cleaning, Copier Use, Maintenance and Repair needs
- VFW One- Day Permit for Rays of Hope: A motion was made by John Flynn to approve a one day use on August 28th of the Pavilion for the Rays of Hope Fundraiser, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- Town House Air Conditioning: The board will seek a price for an upgrade to the current system.
- Public Hearing Notice for Gravel Pit at Kibbe's: This is an annual petition by the landowner to operate a gravel pit on his property.
- Wellhead repair: The work on the wellhead on the Town Hall property will be done some Friday in September to adhere to the DEP requirements.

Fire Truck Purchase: We will have 225 days from the day the truck is ordered till delivery at a cost of 360k. This will all be discussed at fall town meeting for discussion.

John asked that a change be made in the way in which daily information is relayed to the board members since they cannot get in to the office on a daily basis. From this point forward, all documents/correspondence will be PDF'd and sent on a weekly basis to John, Vinnie and Rick for their review.

The last item for discussion was the need to get a price for shelving units to be installed under the windows under the library. The Town House Building will review this project.

With no further information, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc