

Approved 9/12/11

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

September 6, 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 by Rick Green.

Guests: Ed Gorski, Courtney Llewellyn, Board of Assessors, Neil Flynn, Chair of the Planning Board

Cartographic Associates: Franco Rossi, President of this cartographic company came in with a presentation for available boards to show the GIS mapping system he has in place and is currently under contract with the Board of Assessors.

Franco started with his presentation, and answered that as we add layers of information, we would pay for any new layer. There is an annual fee for the internet service of \$1,800 and it would normally cost the town \$2,500 to start up, but if we do it now, in conjunction with the Board of Assessors, that fee will be reduced to \$1,500.

He was asked about space limitation and he assured us that none of his clients had exceeded the space allowed yet. The system is not yet available for hand held devices but the company is working on that now. Our zoning map is not yet available, but Franco did say he could do that for \$700 to \$1,000.

Well Testing: A resident from Main Street has called the Board of Health expressing concern about the chloride content of her well. Lorri McCool, BOH Agent has researched the possible causes which could be runoff from road salt, septic effluent, animal feed and others. Lorri suggested she take a water sample, and take it to Quabbin Analytical for their review, Lorri will check the sodium level as well, and from if warranted will do a site investigation. The board concurs with her plan and will wait to hear her results.

Tree Issue: Mr. Dorn and his daughter Cheryl came before the board because of a concern they had about a tree in the river last week (before the hurricane). Mr. Dorn had spoken with the homeowner next door and brought pictures of the tree. Rick responded (last week when he was asked about it by Mr. Dorn) that he would try to have the town remove it. He asked Dana to check on the tree and Dana did. Dana spoke with the neighbor (on whose property the tree was located) who was okay with the tree removal, but not at this time, as he did not want a backhoe ripping up his yard. Mr. Dorn went to Rick's office, called his home, and checked with the Board of Health as well. The board explained that the tree was in the neighbor's part of the river, and was of no concern to

Mr. Dorn. Mr. Dorn contended that he should have been informed as to what the status of the tree removal was as he was concerned about possible flooding. The board felt that it did not concern Mr. Dorn and therefore he was never contacted.

Chief Farnsworth: The board had a number of items to discuss with Jeff prior to contract negotiations. The first was a discussion about our 2008 cruiser that needs further repair and Jeff was hopeful it was covered under warranty. It was not. The final decision was to put an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant for a car, to secure the funding and to run the cruiser for as long as possible, and to only purchase the car when we absolutely have to.

Country Club: The next topic was an event that the Police Chief was approached about by the Hampden Country Club owners. They have an event planned that includes a “rapper”, P. Diddy and a DJ with a possible attendance of anywhere from 250 to 1000 people. The board has not been notified but the Chief was approached due to the possible need for security measures. The board discussed how to handle the event (proposed for Sunday, September 11) and determined that the Chief has the authority to call in whatever help he might need to handle the situation with the best interest of the residents’ safety in mind. Further, a letter will be sent to the owners of the Country Club putting them on notice that any costs incurred by the town for this event shall be charged directly to the Country Club and will not be borne by the residents.

Riverside Drive: A resident on Riverside Drive stopped in the Selectmen’s office requesting help with traffic that uses his road and poses a safety concern for him. His garage is right on the road and the resident is concerned about cars traveling fast when he is backing out of his garage. A note was forwarded to the Chief asking for his assistance and it was noted tonight that a traffic counter will be placed on the road and a response will be directed to the resident with a copy to the Board.

Police Station: There was discussion about potential costs of a butler building to include site improvement, paving, and cell build out. To be discussed further.

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

A motion was made by John Flynn to leave Executive Session, at 8:30 pm with return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial and Family Day Event: Chris Caesan stopped into the meeting and was asked to check with the Chief about traffic control and any other issues he may have or suggestions he might have for their event.

PVPC: On line permitting: The board will return a letter of interest for this program.

- a. Valley Vision: Not discussed.
- b. Municipal Inspection Service Survey: A letter of interest will be sent for this too.

Minutes of August 8, 2011 were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The minutes of August 8, 2011 Executive Session were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of August 15, 2011 were reviewed and with the revision to the cost of the fire truck approved at town meeting, a motion was made by John Flynn to approve with changes, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of August 15, 2011 were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of August 22, 2011 were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino, VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Fire Truck Vote: The board has determined, after discussing the funding at an earlier date, that we should make a one-time payment, to discount our total cost, subject to the Town Counsel's approval of our contract and the issuance of a bond from the manufacturer.

Special Legislation has been drafted by Town Counsel for the correction necessary for the Annual Town Meeting posting. A motion was by made by John Flynn that home rule legislation be submitted to the General Court to correct a posting error for the ATM, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Financial Meeting September 12: The issue of 106k reduction in free cash, the tax rate, and difference in tax rate estimates will be discussed. The Assessors and Town Accountant are using different estimated receipts; 1.6 from the Assessors versus Town Accountant's 1.3. John wants recap of free cash, money that is returned to general funds, uncollected tax revenue and estimated receipts. Rick will meet with Norm Charest tomorrow and Vinnie will come in as well around 11.

MRHS Building Committee Correspondence: Board will attend meeting on Thursday at 7 pm.

Firefighter letter: Letter reviewed by Town Counsel, will be sent to former firefighter.

COA Fundraiser: COA's from across the state will participate in a fundraiser, with different causes every month. This month will go for hurricane victims.

MMA Information; Different seminars offered at local venues.

MEMA: Public Safety Mutual Aid: To be discussed with Police Chief.

September 11 Commemoration in Wilbraham: Reminder of ceremonies around the community that the Board members have been asked to attend.

Bilton v ZBA outcome: The Bilton's did not prevail in this case.

Sgt. Cooney's accident reimbursement: Still tracking accident reimbursement from 2 years ago for Sgt. Cooney.

Personnel Issue: The Board will cease working on this case.

1. BOARD OF HEALTH

- ✓ 90 Bennett Road: Variance for reduction in separation between system and groundwater, recommended by Lorri McCool. A motion was made by John Flynn to grant a variance to allow a reduced distance between the system and the groundwater due to conditions, as recommended by Lorri McCool, BOH Agent, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino.
  - ✓ Quabbin Analytical Reporting: Reports to be sent only if system is non-compliant.
  - ✓ Clothing Bin at Transfer Station: a motion was made by Rick Green to allow the installation of a clothing bin for second hand clothes, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
  - ✓ BOH report of coming events.
  - ✓ Transfer Station Monitoring Proposal: A motion was made by John Flynn to accept the proposal submitted by Mike Framarin for the fall monitoring at the Transfer Station in the month of October, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
2. Insurance Bill Discussion: Rick met with our insurance representative and omitted the 7k increase; we are now 1600 over budget. This has been cleared with Cliff Bombard and we will figure out the transfer later in the year if necessary.
3. Regional Selectmen: The board would like to meet in Ludlow and John will contact Aaron Saunders to schedule a meeting in October.

DISCUSSION/CORRESPONDENCE

- Office Operations – meet at 6pm on the 19th
- Tree Planting Initiative
- City and Town Publication
- Lunch time meeting with office staff on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at noon.
- Building committee meeting to be scheduled.
- Pull job descriptions; send to Rick, John and Vinnie for the 19<sup>th</sup>

Capital Planning; Send memo to committee members to schedule meeting for the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Cell Tower: Work to get offer for buyout.

Railroad to Vermont: The board will sign off their support of this rail stop in Palmer.

Lion's Club Steak Roast next Wednesday at VFW.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn at 9:10 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc