

Approved 11/15/11

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

November 7, 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 Richard R. Green.

There was discussion about the fire house bid, and whether or not we can reject all bids submitted. Charlie Schmitt could go back to lowest bidder, reject the bids based on the fact that the low bidder omitted the cost of the roof and the next bidder exceeded the amount approved at Town Meeting.

A motion was made by John Flynn that based on no qualified bidders, and after a review by our consultant, that all bids would be rejected and the process would have to go through the Central Registry again, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

NOTE: The new Fire Truck delivery is scheduled for June or July 2012.

Storm Response Assessment: Fire Chief, Mike Gorski was in to discuss the debris removal which is everyone's utmost concern. He suggested a central location where the public could haul their debris to where it could be chipped, rather than extending the burning season. There was the suggestion of Chuck Witkop's property being used, and a call will be made to him to see what his thoughts might be to that idea. Mike further suggested that in the future, a group meeting should be held one day prior to a pending event such as this, to plan for the possible worst case scenario.

This conversation led to the interest in a Regional Selectmen's meeting. Aaron Saunders, Selectman from Ludlow will work on scheduling a date.

Storm Response Assessment: Police Chief Jeff Farnsworth and Highway Superintendent were in to discuss the storm response as had been done by Fire Chief Gorski. As a note, the Fire Chief had been notified that a PDA would be taking place on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in the Selectmen's office. This is a Preliminary Damage Assessment performed by members from FEMA and MEMA and the DOT. Chief Gorski will not be in town, but Highway, Police, Rick Green and John Flynn will attend. Debris management is the most serious and immediate concern right now. Dana had drafted a plan which he described in detail to the Board and is summarized below:

BOS 111107

- The Highway Department itself will not be part of the clean up as their ranks are low and there are other seasonal projects that they must be working on.
- The Town will have to hire crews to come in and collect debris to be priced per load, (720 per load) and find a staging area to allow residents to haul their debris to.
- Dana reviewed town property, found none of it suitable and so spoke with Jim Kibbe about the use of his sawmill property.
- Mr. Kibbe was amenable to allowing the town to use his land, with the promise to clean up afterwards. The town would have to provide liability insurance, and would enter into a simple, hold harmless agreement for a one year term in the amount of \$5,000 to use the land.
- In the event of snowfall, the debris would be stockpiled and out of residents' yards. A staging area will be established, the material will be sorted, and a tub grinder will be brought in to grind the material and the chipped material will be dumped into hundred yard containers and hauled by the company manning the chippers. The cost for the chipping is estimated to be \$6,500 per day and Dana's estimate that the work could be done in 2 to 3 days.
- Further details will be worked out; the possible need of monitors, etc.
- For town tree belt pick up, Dana has a few options: One is to go with a group called AshBritt, Inc. who provide extensive services to include debris clearance, collection of all material categories, operation and closure of management sites (all at a cost of course). They would also do the submittal to FEMA if we wanted them to.
- Dana is certain he can get two trucks in town to begin the pickup of the tree belt debris. Further planning needs to be done first.
- Vinnie will check with Jack Villamaino as to what East Longmeadow is doing.

Storm Damage: The new highway truck had a tree fall on it and luckily no one was hurt. The Mack trucks were all damaged, but are in running condition. The Police Tahoe was hit by a tree as well, with no one getting hurt.

The Police Chief estimates that he has spent approximately \$3,500 for manpower. All of the insurance deductibles for claims filed will be submitted and run through the emergency account.

PVPC Hazard Mitigation Plan: The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has invited the town to be included in a grant for funding of the extension of our Hazard Mitigation Plan. A motion was made by Rick Green to sign on with PVPC for grant assistance, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

PVPC Joint Transportation Committee Members: The Board reviewed the matter and will ask that Planning review and act on it as the Board of Selectmen will take no action on it.

PVPC Valley Vision Update and sign Memorandum of Agreement (recommended by Planning Board): The Board will ask that a memo be forthcoming from the Planning Board confirming their recommendation.

Minutes of October 11, 2011: The minutes 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 October 12, 2011: The minutes were reviewed and Rick thought that they were minutes reflective of the Advisory's meeting and stated that they did not have to be kept.

Minutes of October 17, 2011: The minutes were reviewed and with a minor change, a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as corrected, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of October 24, 2011: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to approve the minutes of the Special Town Meeting by Vinnie Villamaino, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Highway Superintendent's Winter Season/Annual Review: Highway Superintendent, Dana Pixley submitted his annual review of procedures for the winter season which was reviewed by the Board.

Senior Center Plowing Contract: The board reviewed the two bids submitted for the Senior Center Plowing contract. Once reviewed a motion was made by John Flynn to award the bid to Hampden Septic, Billy Bond owner, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Hampden Septic and Earthscope Landscaping bid the contract and Hampden Septic was the low bidder.

Regional 911 Emergency Grant: A letter from Chief Stratton (Wilbraham Chief) gave an update on the 100k grant to do a study for a Regional 911 service. WE are now waiting for a date for a meeting to discuss next steps.

Fire Fighter Application: An application has been submitted by Joseph Romito-Carey for our next meeting scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup>. (This will have to be rescheduled as the Chief will not be available.)

Liquor License Question: The Board discussed the renewal package for a liquor license for the Hampden Country Club. It was determined that since the business is still in operation, the renewal shall be sent in the event the manager seeks a renewal. The package will go out in the mail.

Senior Tax Abatement Program: This office was asked about the tax abatement program available for seniors and this was discussed at this meeting. The Board never received a

response from department heads last year, but another request will be sent to check again about the availability of jobs.

Fire department recognition: The recognition previously scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> has now been rescheduled for December 4th, the same day as the Annual Tree Lighting.

Bibeau Oil Delivery: The Board will check with the Building Inspector to get a status from him as to how Norm Bibeau is handling the letter of violations.

VFW Ladies Auxiliary: The Board was presented with a POW Flag from the Ladies Auxiliary and asked that the flag be flown in the most visible intersection in town, at the intersections of Wilbraham and East Longmeadow Roads and Allen Street. The board is unsure whether the pole is high enough to accommodate the flag when the American Flag is flown at half-staff. We will check with Dana Pixley as to the viability of adding this flag.

With all business matters discussed, John Flynn and Vinnie Villamaino asked that our resident Ed Gorski excuse them so they could talk in private with the Administrative Assistant, Pamela Courtney. Rick Green voluntarily left the room with Ed Gorski and did not return to the meeting.

Once alone, both John and Vinnie asked about my whereabouts during the week of the storm. Vinnie stated that it was a State of Emergency and the Selectmen's office was closed. I had contacted Rick Green, Chairman about my whereabouts. My response to the board members was that I have two children and a family with power 35 minutes away and was more concerned with my children than I was in being at town hall when the entire town was without power. I could not stay at home, with no power, no heat and no place to leave my children during the power outage. John and Vinnie stated that my behavior created "a black eye" for the office. I apologized for having stayed out of work and Vinnie stated that a letter from an attorney would be drafted for my file.

Due to the conditions in the town and the need for another meeting tomorrow due to the arrival of members from FEMA and MEMA, a motion was made by John Flynn to continue the meeting until Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc