

Approved 12/19/11

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

December 12, 2011  
7:15 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn  
The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Richard R. Green.

Tax Classification Hearing: Norm Charest, Bob Makuch and Dawn Barnes are here to discuss residential tax rate versus the commercial tax rate. Norm listed the number of exemptions that are possible: An open space exemption is a possibility, (but we have none in town to consider), Vacation home exemptions, small commercial business exemptions. The Assessor's noted that they do not have all the information they need to be able to set the tax rate, so in anticipation of that information coming in, a motion was made by John Flynn to continue the hearing until our next meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Town Accountant, Cliff Bombard, Tax Collector, Eva Wiseman and Town Treasurer, Dick Patullo were all present at the meeting.

Town Treasurer, Dick Patullo: Dick stayed to tell the results of the recently held tax title auction on Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. Of the properties sold, the net amount raised was \$39,000.

Ticketing process: The Chief was in to discuss the issue of debris left on property that could possibly affect the snow plowing and inhibiting the trucks having a place to push the snow on. Four addresses have been identified as a "work in progress" and there remains a tree on Wilbraham Road that needs to be identified as a town tree or private tree. Rick suggested that we knock on the door and ask that the residents finish their removal within 48 hours, which would constitute a verbal warning. If the work is not completed then issue a written warning giving them another 48 hours. If that still does not get results then the officer would issue a ticket with a fine of \$150. After the first ticket is issued, the Chief will notify the board. The Chief will have this procedure in place tomorrow.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 pm to discuss a personnel issue for the Police Department with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes and John Flynn yes.

Given this direction, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 7:40 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

Meeting Posting: The Board plan to meet with the Wilbraham Selectmen on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to discuss issues with the new school regarding Fixtures, Finishes and Equipment and the use of the building as an Emergency Shelter. The meeting will be posted.

Meeting Posting: The Board plans on meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January with Wilbraham Selectmen and HWRSD Superintendent Marty O'Shea at 6:00 pm in this office. The discussion items will be the Fixtures, Finishes and Equipment as well as the use of the building as an Emergency Shelter.

Town House Building Committee: The members of the committee stopped in to give a status on their plans for improvements here. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the bid from Urban and Sons Insulation for the work in the attic, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. They will proceed with the insulation in the attic, check on prevailing wage, the windows in the Police Station and the chairlift that we have a timeframe in which to repair/replace.

1. Construction Projects Final Report: Reviewed and noted.
2. Hazardous Tree Removal Costs (also Ashbrit/Northern Tree Services) Northern Tree would do the work, but be contracted through Ashbrit which would add to our cost. We will stay with current program of clearing.
3. Quote for Main Street Well (Lorri meeting with third contractor today.) Connecticut Valley is the low bidder. Rick Green will have a conversation with Tom Couture and then with Don Engelhart who is an environmental attorney. Is our well capable of supplying three households, cost of the piping? A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the low bidder for the Main Street well, subject to an affirmative recommendation from Tom Couture and Don Engelhart. seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
4. Chair Lift Decommission Proposal: The board will discuss this course of action with the building committee
5. Regional Selectmen's Meeting: Wednesday, December 14 (East Longmeadow and Longmeadow confirmed attendance.) State 911 RECC Grant Application to be discussed. John and Vinnie will attend.
6. Letter of Commitment for Streamlined Permitting with PVPC: Signed and will be returned to PVPC.
7. Fire Truck Purchase and Performance Bond: Rick will contact Jeff Mazza from Bull Dog Apparatus.
8. Open Meeting Law: Reviewed without comment.
9. Dog Issues: The board will schedule a hearing for the Kane-Bienvenue dog issues in this office and will let the Dog Officer know.
10. Letter from Town of Erving: Reviewed without comment.

11. Minutes of December 5, 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.

Notes:

Rug Cleaning: We will seek a quote from a cleaner suggested by the Building Committee.

Holiday at Christmas: The staff will have a holiday the day following Christmas.

Academy Hall: The hall will be closed this weekend for the winter.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc