

Approved 1/3/12

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

December 19, 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 6:20 pm by Rick Green.

In Attendance: Eva Wiseman, Dick Patullo, Board of Assessors, Cliff Bombard

Tax Classification Hearing (Continued): A motion was made by John Flynn to reopen the tax classification reposted from last week; as the Assessors got final approval mid-week last. It appears that the tax rate will be 16.87 (with the 106k added back in both sides of the ledger). \$254k was moved from one revenue page to another which amounts to .32 plus or minus on property value. The 39k proceeds from the tax title property were added as well. Cliff has also readjusted a more conservative estimate for revenues. 39k and 106k are already in the bank. At town meeting we may have another opportunity to borrow most of the truck. Next year debt payment for Minnechaug will go to 453k. Snow and ice is approximately 160k a year. If FEMA does not help, we will have 2 years to allow our deficit to go on. We may be able to affect our tax rate by being more conservative with our estimated receipts than in year's prior as suggested by Cliff Bombard.

Norm will do a spreadsheet for the last 10 years, levy's, excess capacity, etc. to see what we have done historically.

We could build some recurring debt into our budget without lowering our receipts.

Discussion turned to the tax rate which comes in at \$16.87. The next part of discussion was the debate of whether it would be a single rate for both commercial and residential.

A motion was made by John Flynn to decline the open space exemption, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by John Flynn to decline the small business exemption, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by John Flynn to decline the residential exemption for (seasonal/vacation) homes, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Given that most of the business owners live in town, a motion was made by John Flynn to accept a single tax rate for all classifications, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and do so voted.

Police Station Discussion: Doug Boyd and the Chief were present to discuss the early stages of planning for a new Police Station. Everyone agrees that the department is in dire need of space and this project is long overdue. The Chief suggests that it would be at least 2 budget cycles before anything could happen. The consensus is that Jeff looks for consultants or companies that might help assessing the situation for us. Jeff stated that there is no state agency to help, but we do need to have parameters defined by someone with knowledge of law enforcement.

Jeff currently has some notes that can be emailed to everyone and that can be shared with others. We need to work on getting a group together to work on this, to assist in the planning. We anticipate breaking this into phases, location, design and potential cost. John suggested that we ask Paul Gagliarducci to participate. We will plan a meeting on January 30th at 7:00 pm.

Vote on Liquor Licenses

- La Cucina
- Mt. View
- VFW
- Hampden Discount Liquor
- Hampden Grog Shoppe
- Village Food Mart
- McLadden's Irish Publick House

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the following licenses: VFW, Hampden Discount Liquor, Hampden Grog Shoppe and the Village Food Mart, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to grant a conditional approval subject to a sign off by the Fire Chief and the Building Inspector for the following licenses: La Cucina, Mt. View and McLadden's Irish Publick House, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of December 12, 2011: A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Executive Session Minutes: After review a motion was made by John Flynn to approve the ES Minutes of December 12, 2011 as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

IBPO: Brett Purchas and Tawrin Seega requested a meeting to begin negotiations for the next contract term. The board will suggest a meeting on January 17th at 7:30 pm.

FEMA/MEMA Submittal: The board suggested that we attempt to have numbers together sooner rather than later for submission to FEMA and asked that Chief Farnsworth get his numbers to the board ASAP.

Fire Truck: The board discussed the final cost of the fire truck as well as the proposed delivery date. They have moved along on production and it may be ready as soon as February. The final cost with one change order came to \$358,559, under the \$360,000 approved at town meeting. The board would like to meet with Mike Gorski and Dave Markham on the 9th to discuss the truck and the fire house addition.

Maintenance Agreement with Cummins for Generators: Check warranty to see if it is still good and what conditions may apply.

Used Car License Discussion: The Planning Board sent meeting notes to the BOS approving a permit for a used car license, and asking that the Selectmen issue the permit. The Selectmen have become aware of a recent rash of applicants for used car licenses and would like to review the parameters used by the Planning Board before they issue any more permits. John recalled the use of a worksheet that was used in the past and had every department sign prior to permits being issued in any regard. The board will ask that the Planning Board bring current licenses so they may review for conditions that have been placed on them. The Selectmen will hold off on their review of the proposal in front of them tonight until they meet with the Planning Board.

Parking Lot Layout: The board discussed the possibility of doing a parking lot layout to get more parking for the town house. Currently, people park rather haphazardly and we don't get the full value of the space available. We will contact Charlie Schmitt to see if someone in his office could perform the job.

Fire Station: The board will send a note to Charlie Schmitt asking that he rewrite the bid specs and will send out to the Central Register to bid the fire house addition so we can get this building going. We have learned that the fire truck may be ready for delivery in February sometime, so time is of the essence.

Notes and Correspondence:

Post for January 3, 2012 to meet with the Planning Board

Post for December 27th at 6:30 PM for the Board of Selectmen.

Schedule Department Head Budget Meeting for January 3, 2012 at 7:00 pm in Melville Room.

With no further business, a motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

pbc