

Approved 1/9/12

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

January 3, 2012  
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.

The first order of business was to thank the Planning Board members, Neil Flynn, John Matthews, Charlie Dolben and James Quackenbush for attending this meeting to discuss the issue of a recent proliferation of applicants seeking used car licenses in town.

Rick Green opened the meeting by mentioning that there has been a recent “rush” of applicants seeking Used Car Licenses in town and wondered if the Planning Board had noted the same. There was talk at the table of those having heard applicants state, “it’s easy to get a permit in Hampden”. The boards seek to determine what leads those applicants to think that. First up, the cost of the License is a \$25 fee. The board will review the license cost for a possible rise in fee.

At one point, with those wishing to do business in town, the Commercial Ave. area was established for just such businesses. But recently more and more applicants are seeking a home based business selling used cars. The Planning Board contends that their only issue to review is whether or not a home based business is allowed at the location presented. In the past, a vote was made by the Planning Board, in which certain conditions were attached to the license and those stipulations were then forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. During the meeting, it was suggested that the stipulations should be forthcoming from the Board of the Selectmen, to give guidance to the Planning Board as to what should/could be allowed. It was agreed that the BOS will work on such a template and forward that to the Planning Board so there is continuity in the review done by both parties.

The Wilbraham Selectmen were queried and Jim Thompson noted that no “used car licenses” were issued on their own. Those allowed, are only done so when attached to someone holding a current “New Car License”.

At 7:00 pm Rick welcomed the Wilbraham Board of Selectmen, Chairman Patrick Brady, Jim Thompson and Bob Boillard and thanked them for attending this meeting.

Wilbraham Selectmen: The Board met at the invitation of the Hampden Selectmen to discuss two issues, one of which seems to have resolved itself based on some recent

meetings. There was some question as to whether the “New” Minnechaug could be used by the Town as an Emergency Shelter. The matter has been resolved in that, the two towns have an agreement to use the school in such a manner and that agreement has not been terminated since its signing, so it is a moot issue.

The Boards next discussed the School Building Committee and the status of the Fixtures, Features and Equipment line item held in the school building budget. Marion Desmond, School Committee member is part of the subcommittee formed for the oversight of this line and the boards would like an update on where the funds stand and what the future holds for those monies.

One concern that came up was the auditing process that has been done by MSBA on past sites. During the audit, many items are discounted as refundable by the MSBA and we want to be careful in how the money is spent and to be certain reimbursements will be forthcoming.

The two Boards of Selectmen wish to meet with the School Superintendent and School Committee members in the very near future to be brought up to date as to expenditures, as compared to how much was budgeted and to ensure there are no change orders for non-essential items.

The Selectmen will attend the next School Building meeting to show their support of the project and to ensure the residents of both towns are being properly served.

The boards want to ensure that priorities are in place near the end of the project, as we don't have a solid number on demolition or disposal of material from the old building and do not want to be caught short on the estimate.

Cell Towers: John Flynn asked that this office pursue whether or not the current owners of the three cell towers in town have issued bonds to the town (such as a performance bond) to ensure if the towers need to come down, the town is not liable for the work. We will pursue with the Treasurer.

Common Victualler's License: The board reviewed and signed licenses.

Minutes of December 19, 2011: The minutes were reviewed and after a few amendments, a motion was made by John Flynn to approve as amended, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

FEMA Numbers from Police: Numbers reviewed and noted. Rick will check on the status of the reimbursement process.

Cell Tower Discussion: The board has an offer on the table from our lessee of the cell tower property and will make a call today to discuss best options available to the town.

Temporary Emergency Use Guidelines to Assessing Buildings: This item will be tabled for the time being as it appears that the issue at hand with the use of the New Minnechaug as a shelter is no longer “an issue”.

Minnechaug Land Trust: The board reviewed a memo from Sherry Himmelstein related to a possible land trust purchase and will consider it for a warrant article.

Veterans’ Letter: The Board reviewed the letter sent to Boston regarding the inclusion of East Longmeadow into our District group serving veterans.

Vacation Request: The COA Director requested vacation in April and the board approved and will send a notice of that approval to Becky Moriarty.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc