

Approved 1/30/12

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

January 9, 2012
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino
John Flynn was unable to attend the meeting.

Guest: Ed Gorski

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Rick Green.

Fire Department: Chief Gorski and Dave Markham came before the board to discuss a number of issues, the first of which was the final requirement having been met by Mike Cimmino for La Cucina Restaurant for the fire inspection. The Chief is satisfied that the drape material has been fire tested as required and the restaurant is in compliance with the fire codes.

The communication between the board and the department was discussed next and both parties agreed that a better job needs to be done to keep everyone informed of important issues. It was agreed that emails should be funneled through the Selectmen's email, all those going to the Chief and those coming back. Mike also offered to come in every other week or so to give an update to the board on ongoing operations.

Mike mentioned that some repairs had been made to some fire trucks, and their budget will be overdrawn as they currently have no money budgeted for truck repairs. Rick explained that we have a reserve fund that can handle this expenditure now.

Dave talked about the parking lot plan and it is understood the driveway has to be revised to accommodate the new truck. This would include some additional paving towards the highway yard and then a cut across the lawn to allow the trucks straight access through our existing egress.

The building addition was also discussed and this office will request a new set of specs from Charlie Schmitt so we have them in house for review.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to go into Executive Session at 6:50 for the purposes of discussing personnel issues with the Police Chief with return to Open Session, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to return to Open Session at 7:00 pm and reconvene to the Melville Room for the Budget Meeting with Department Heads, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

The budget kick off meeting was held in the Melville Room with the following notes:

Rick Green started with a brief history of the last few years which included having maintained our stabilization account at or close to \$1,000,000 and making significant repairs to the Town House. We are presently awaiting the arrival of a new fire truck, had secured funding for infrastructure bond with work being done by the Highway Department, survived unseasonal weather and worked to pull a shelter together after the October storm event and a week without power and restored town services to near former levels. The Highway Department was praised for the exemplary work that they do and Rick gave accolades to the Police Department that has received high marks for their efforts in solving crime through convictions for some very violent crimes. Rick recognized that this has been accomplished by all of us working together.

The Advisory Committee went on to request that every department put together a budget for level services. They advised the group that their new clerk is Cindi Connors who also works for the Park and Recreation Department. They asked that any budgets be submitted with any changes noted, and to include contractual raises as well.

See Advisory's minutes for details.

The board reconvened in their office at 7:45 pm.

Minutes of January 3, 2012: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Used Car Dealer's License: The board reviewed the minutes from the Planning Board and the license printed for TSMA Auto Trade who will open for business on Main Street. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Keno Request: The board was notified that an application had been made by McLadden's Publick House to sell Keno. The board will take no action since it has no objection to the application.

Notice to Norm Bibeau: The board reviewed and noted the zoning violation that has been issued to resident Norm Bibeau.

ZBA Decision: The board reviewed and noted the decision for the Berliner property.

Letter of Opinion: The Board reviewed the letter of opinion written by Town Counsel, Dave Martel regarding the Open Meeting Law and how it pertained to meetings that board members attend outside of their posted meetings.

Senior Center Fundraiser: The board discussed the fundraiser being planned by the Friends of the Seniors to have a dinner put on by the restaurant owners of A Touch of Garlic. The plan is to have a dinner on Sunday, April 29th at 2:00 pm and be permitted to serve wine for the event. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve a permit when the plan is presented to the board at a later date, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Insulation Bid: The Town House Building committee sought quotes for insulation work that is needed for the attic of the town house. It was agreed that the job would be awarded to Urban and Son.

Bring Your Own Bottle: A restaurant owner asked the board about a policy or permit to allow his establishment's customers to come in with their own bottle of wine. The board will request an opinion from Town Counsel, Dave Martel.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc