

Approved 1/30/12

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

January 23, 2012  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn

Guest: Ed Gorski

Rick Green called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

COA Directors: Becky Moriarty and Carolyn Brennan came before the board to inform the board of a possible grant that Carolyn is working on to provide transportation to both East Longmeadow and Hampden. Carolyn has met twice with the PVRTA. The board agrees that she should pursue the grant so we may provide better services for our seniors. The possibility exists that we could lease a 15 passenger van and we would need money for funds for radio and dispatcher salaries. She will continue her work on this and report back to the board as she progresses. She would also work on a Memo of Understanding; given the towns an out should the system not work well for us.

Becky remarked that transportation is a major issue for Hampden, but does not think this would alleviate her need for the volunteer staff. If the van were available, it would allow trips to Springfield, (a major destination) and allow the volunteer drivers to stay in the community. Currently, the volunteers pay for their own gas, and if monies do come in, the money goes to guy gas cards for the volunteer's use.

The board supports Carolyn and her pursuit of the grant application.

Hampden Country Club: Guy and Jerry Antonacci, new owners of the HCC and their Director of Operations, Jonathan Murray came before the board to introduce themselves and to let their board know of their plans for improvements to the club. They will keep the current staff to handle the various functions and 19<sup>th</sup> Hole restaurant as well as make various improvements to the course itself.

The Town Clerk and Board of Assessors provided them with information relative to the tax classification of their property so they may continue to keep it classified as recreational property.

They are pursuing a new liquor license through ABCC and the town and hope to be open for business in April.

Rick remarked on the success of their golf/entertainment center in Somers CT and what a well-run and well-staffed business it is and how that bodes well for the Town of Hampden with the Antonacci's purchase.

Resident's Complaint: Jay O'Brien from Bennett Road came before the board to discuss a burglary that his wife Claudia had reported to the police. Jay voiced his complaint as to the way in which the police have followed up on her allegation. He felt there was a lack of professionalism, a lack of follow through, and said that the Chief stated his department was underfunded. There has been little communication between the O'Brien's and the Police Department.

Chief Farnsworth and Sgt. Henry listened to the complaint and offered the following: The items in questions have been posted on the internet into a regional pawn shop database with no success.

Sgt. Henry reviewed the procedures handled by the officers and confirmed that the correct procedures had been followed. He went on to say that officers had scheduled to meet with Mrs. O'Brien and she cancelled the meetings.

Jeff noted that the department has a pretty good record with solving these cases.

Jay O'Brien went on to say that this is a highly emotional issue for his wife, who feels violated and there is an emotional attachment to the jewelry. He continued to say that communication is very important and would make the process that much easier, to know if there are any leads, to know that follow up is taking place.

Rick suggested that Officer Ely should contact Mrs. O'Brien directly, to bring her up to date.

Personnel Committee: Carol Fitzgerald and Bill Gouzounis came before the board to discuss salary issues as well as revisions they have made to the Employee Handbook which are in large part, mandatory changes by law. As to the changes, John suggested that they create a history of changes that are readily available for those reviewing the handbook. Carol will work on that. They then discussed the development of a new salary schedule to be used for this year's budget preparation. Once complete, Carol and Bill would like the entire Personnel Committee to review prior to distributing for use. Advisory has their first budget meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>. If the chart has not been set and approved, Carol asked that a memo go out to those preparing budgets instructing them to use current salary numbers in their budgets and Advisory would make the necessary changes during their review process. Personnel and Advisory will work in tandem to achieve the necessary results.

Mention was made about time clocks and it was suggested that the phrase, "if time clocks are being used...":

John asked about changing the language currently used for bereavement leave and Carol's response was that in today's world, with the look of a family being so different, that it is hard to dictate who might be the most important person in someone's life, perhaps an aunt has raised someone, perhaps a partner is different than a husband...

In addition, for consistency, it was asked that Personnel insert language that states an employee must work 20 hours to qualify for PTO, Personal Time Off.

The subject of life insurance also came up and it was reported that we currently work with Boston Mutual that can be purchased by employees. Some of the town employees

were not offered the program. Carol Fitzgerald will pursue this with the Treasurer, Dick Patullo.

Highway Letter: The board reviewed a letter written by the Highway Superintendent regarding a personnel issue and will suggest his plan be handled in the way in which he has laid it out.

Police Department: A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to go into Executive Session to discuss an ongoing investigation, at 7:53 with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes, Rick Green yes.

Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust: Section 18A Analysis: At the last SVRHT meeting there was discussion about having the ability to alter or change plans without having to negotiate with unions. On another matter, Rick spoke of the surplus of money that the Trust has available and his suggestion to depress the insurance rates this coming renewal cycle. He also mentioned there might even be an opportunity to have a premium holiday.

Minutes: The Executive Session minutes of January 9, 2012 were reviewed. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve with revision, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. John Flynn abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

The minutes of January 11, 2012 were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Dispatcher Correspondence: The board reviewed a letter on which they were copied that went to the Police Chief regarding whether an item had to be negotiated with the union or not.

Cell Tower Proposal: The board received another proposal from SBA, lessees of the cell tower property that will be forwarded to Town Counsel, Dave Martel for his opinion.

Town House Use: The board has received complaints about some of the different groups meeting in the Town House and forgetting that it is first and foremost a place of business. It is therefore a privilege and not a foregone conclusion that they may use the space. Because of this, the board would like to have those groups in to remind them of the type of behavior that is expected of them. We will invite various groups in to discuss the board's expectations. We will also contact the Sr. Center as to their building's use policy.

Letter to Mrs. Broderick: The board has sent a letter to Mrs. Broderick regarding the situation with her well which will be discussed at our next meeting.

Medical Reserve Corps: The board received a letter from Terry Nelson who is the Wilbraham Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator. He would like to speak with the Boards

of Selectmen from both Hampden and Wilbraham about establishing the Hampden-Wilbraham Medical Reserve Corps. We will schedule a meeting to discuss the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

Board of Health Variance Request: The homeowner at 75 Raymond Drive has requested a 6' variance reducing the required distance of 100' between the well and septic system. A motion was made by Rick Green to allow the variance, as recommended by Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Correspondence:

- Staff Meeting Date: Will schedule for February.
- Town House Heating System Improvement
- The board received a letter from resident sophomore Casey Lu Simon-Plum who would like to discuss her ideas about conserving resources and promoting education of environmental issues. The board will invite her in to discuss her ideas.
- The board received a letter from resident Lynne Wallace that will be forwarded to the Planning Board.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc