

Approved 2/13/12

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

February 6, 2012  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

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

The meeting was called to order by Richard R. Green at 6:00 pm.

Guests: Tyler Witkop, Wilbraham-Hampden Times and Resident, Ed Gorski

Fire Department Budget: Chief Gorski came before the board to present his budget for 2013. Mike noted that a hose needs to be replaced on one of the trucks at a cost of \$8,000. There is \$4,000 from the sale of the old fire truck which he could use towards this. There is also money left from the purchase of the new truck, approximately \$1,500 that can be used for the hose. There is \$2,500 needed for truck maintenance this year, which will require a transfer before year end. He also spoke of the need to purchase 7 new pagers as there is currently that number that cannot be repaired. Over the course of some years, additional pagers will be purchased so they will all be on the high band which provides better service for those using the radio system. This will remain in the budget and will be reviewed by Advisory on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Check with town accountant on using 4kk from the sale of the truck.

Council on Aging Budget: Becky Moriarty, Rita Vail, Ray Crowley and Al Ouimet were here to discuss the budget for the Senior Center. The Selectboard members are members of the Lions Club and just had their Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast at the center. As a result the Lions Club would like to donate griddle tops for the stoves as well as a coffee maker.

The budget discussion started with Becky seeking some increased hours as a result of an increased population using the center. The number has gone from 900 seniors to 1300 currently. She brought a spreadsheet showing the operating hours prior to the center closing in 2005 to the current hours. Most critical is her need for additional clerical hours which was at 40 hours a week and is now at 18 a week. She would like to increase that position by two hours a week. The center now has an outreach worker who only works 6 hours a week and is severely hampered in doing her job effectively with so few hours. Becky would like to increase her position by two hours a week as well. The rate adjustment is not included in the budget and will have to be researched. Rick suggests that the extra hours be shown in the budget as the direction from Advisory is to maintain a level service. Given that the senior population has grown, to maintain level service for all, additional hours are needed. Becky went on to state that depending on how the Governor's budget develops, the center could possibly have a 10% budget cut in their meal funding which would mean losing lunch one day a week. Becky will work to get

additional people in for lunch on her slow days to make up for potential cuts in the budget.

Highway Department Budget: Dana Pixley came before the board to discuss his budget and mentioned that in year's past he has been able to get 4 weeks of salary (and sometimes more) out of the snow and ice budget. Given that the winter has been mild so far could mean that he might not get that opportunity this season. He can though use some of the funds he has for the 5<sup>th</sup> member of his staff that has never been replaced to pay his staff for those weeks.

His budget was prepared for level service as requested by the Advisory Board. The increases requested are mainly driven by salary increases and labor costs.

Dana is ready to proceed with the FEMA representative for the reimbursement of the October storm. Jane has prepared the shelter costs as well as the fire costs. Dana is trying to figure out what Federal roads have been designated by the DOT. He is waiting for additional information before he determines how best to file, to get the most back in reimbursement.

Reserve Officer Interview: The Chief came in to introduce Michelle Turner who is currently an EMT and auxiliary officer and is interested in a reserve postilion in Town. She has been interviewed by Sgt. Henry and Officer Seega and received a glowing review. She comes highly recommended by the Reserves' Officer and has great references. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Michelle Turner to the position of Hampden Police Reserve Officer, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Police Department Budget: Chief Farnsworth presented his budget which is 3.96% increase over last year's budget which is due mainly to the salary increases of his staff. Officer Roath has now completed his education receiving an Associates' Degree and is eligible for the Quinn bill, which will add 10% to his salary. Also coming due are a number of maintenance agreements which are shown in the budget.

Cruiser maintenance was also discussed as was the purchase of another car. If the board wants to pull a car out of the budget, what should be added to the budget for maintenance? The board may add \$1,500 to \$3,000.

Unregistered Vehicles: Resident Corey Goodrich has a number of unregistered vehicles in his yard and a letter has been sent notifying him that only one car may be unregistered on a property. A special permit may be granted by the Board of Selectmen, but only after a review is done. The Building Inspector has been notified of the potential zoning issues as well.

Zeroogian Fence Issue: Resident Rich Nichols who lives next to the Zeroogian property and has been waiting for some time for the fence to be finished as it is part of the zoning requirement for Mr. Zeroogian. The Board wants this issue taken care of before the property is transferred to a new owner. If housing court is in order, then the board wants to make that happen as soon as possible.

SBA Cell Tower Offer: The board requested direction from Town Counsel regarding the proposal the town has received and will follow up with those recommendations. In addition, language will be added relative to zoning bylaws.

Minutes of January 30, 2012: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Executive Session Minutes of January 30, 2012: 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.

Veterans' Agreement: A new agreement that has been revised to include the Town of East Longmeadow has been reviewed by our Town Counsel. There were a few recommendations made that will be forwarded by John Comerford, Veterans' Agent to participating towns that must vote to approve the changes just as Hampden will vote to approve the changes.

Agendas: The board reviewed upcoming agendas.

Warrant Articles: The board reviewed the four warrant articles that have been submitted so far. They are for the standard Chapter 90 funding for Highway as well as an article to replace a dump truck with sander and plow, approximate cost of \$200k.

The Board of Assessors has requested their standard two articles pertaining to the Assessors Stabilization Fund for Department of Revenue mandated programs.

The Town Clerk and Police Chief have worked on revising the General Bylaw as it pertains to Hunting and necessary forms.

And last, a possible article on behalf of the Minnechaug Land Trust and the purchase of approximately 21 acres of land that abuts Hamden Memorial Park and extends to West Brook.

Miscellaneous: The board reviewed some correspondence without comment.

Revolving Account: The board will ask about the high balance in the Tax Revolving Fund.

BYOB: The board reviewed a request for a Bring Your Own Bottle for permission from the Board of Selectmen to allow patrons into his restaurant without holding a liquor license. The town does have an open container law presently and view the restaurant as a "public place" which is restricted in our General Bylaws. They will not issue permission to this request.

A motion was made by John Flynn to enter into Executive Session at 8:00 pm for the purpose of discussing a real estate transaction without return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

With no further business, a motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn the Open Session meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc