

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

February 13, 2012
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn
Rick Green was unable to attend as he is out of town.
The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Vinnie Villamaino.
Guest: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Warrant Article Discussion: Sherry Himmelstein from the Minnechaug Land Trust came before the board to discuss her most recent project, hoping to purchase about 22 acres of property abutting Memorial Park, and tying into the recently purchased Goat Rock property. The property would go up to the West Brook and would make a nice addition for hiking trails. The entire property will sell for \$64,000 and our share would be half if we receive the grant she is pursuing. She was asked by John if there were back taxes owed, but thinks there are none since she had a conversation with the assessors' office. With the purchase, the remaining property would qualify for two estate lots. Vinnie and John are both in favor of the warrant article.

Fire Department: The Advisory Committee met with Mike Gorski and Dave Markham and will take under advisement their request for funding for seven new pagers at a cost of \$3,500.

Verizon Pole Hearing: This hearing was opened at 7:00 pm and continued from the hearing on January 30, 2012. Al Bessette, Jr., Right of Way Manager from Verizon was back before the board as were the residents from Wilbraham Road who had issues with the condition of their tree that guy wires had been tied into. Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney were present to hear that Verizon will take care of the removal of the tree and stump. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve the pole permit #9AD4REH on Wilbraham Road and to close the hearing at 7:05 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

7: 15 pm Dog Hearing: Dog owners, Lindsay Bibeau and Marlene Safford were before the board again due to the actions of their dogs. They had previously been in due to one of their dogs getting out of the yard and threatening neighbors. At that time they were told to install an electric fence to keep the dog restrained. Since then, the dog who does not wear a collar has gotten out and is a nuisance, rather than a threat to neighbors. As a result, the board directed the owners to purchase a collar for this dog, and to document

their purchase with Shelley Sears, Dog Inspector within 7 days, (by Monday, February 20th). A motion was made to adjourn the hearing by Vinnie Villamaino, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Council on Aging: The board went to meet with Advisory to review the COA budget. A request has been made by the director, Becky Moriarty for additional hours to service the additional seniors they have been providing services for. Advisory will take the request under consideration.

Fire Hose Purchase: The board will ask Town Accountant, Cliff Bombard if the monies received from the sale of the old fire truck (\$4,000) may be used by the Fire Department as partial funding for a new fire hose.

Prevailing Wage Issue: The board reviewed information regarding the insulation job to be done in the attic of the town house and have determined that it does not qualify for prevailing wage. The contractor will be notified and authorized to start the work.

Minutes: The minutes of February 6, 2012 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Flynn to approve with amendments, second by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The Executive Session minutes of February 6, 2012 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.

Cell Tower: SBA (our current tenant) has proposed an agreement that will be reviewed when Rick Green is here for the next meeting on February 20th.

Labor Counsel: The board reviewed a letter of opinion from our labor counsel, Stan Weinberg.

School Resource Officer: The board noted the invoice sent from the School District for the Resource Officer cost. We will confirm the amount invoiced.

Tree Issue: There has been long running discussion about the need for tree removal from various parts of the Scantic River and Rick Green has met with members of DEP to come up with a plan to allow for the cleaning of the river. His plan has been well received by DEP. Further discussions need to be held to get final approvals from them as well as the Conservation Commission. This will then require a concerted effort by lots of volunteers to help with the cleanup. The board will continue this conversation on February 27th with input from Conservation and Highway in an effort to move this process forward.

Notes:

School Safety Meeting: Minnechaug Media Center on 2/28 at 6:00 pm.

Senior Center Hot Water Tank: After the power outage of a week, there was discussion about the need for a larger hot water tank. Vinnie will speak with Claude Bisson to determine the needs of the center and relate back to the board on this matter.

Building Permits: Report noted by the board.

Town House Women's Room Renovations: The board received information from the TH Building Committee on the details of improvements to be made in the ladies room. Panels will be moved to enlarge the current size of the regular stalls (originally designed for grammar school students) from three to two. Electrical repairs will be made to the heating unit so that is up and running again as well.

Unregistered Vehicles: The board discussed the most recent case of too many unregistered vehicles on one property and will await the owner to come forward seeking authorization to have a second unregistered vehicle, and all others in a barn/garage, hidden from view.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc