

Approved 3/19/12

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

February 27, 2012
5:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Richard R. Green. John Flynn was not in attendance.

Guest: Ed Gorski

Vestibule Flooring: The board reviewed a quote from IFD, Inc. for the removal and replacement of the tile in the back vestibule of the town house in the amount of \$401.62. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to award the project to IFD, Inc., and to start the project as soon as possible, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Chief Farnsworth, Policy Review: The Chief came before the board to bring forward two new policies for the board's review and acceptance. The first policy is the Missing Persons' Policy which now includes a section entitled, Silver Alert which is the procedure for dealing with a missing senior and as well as one with Alzheimer's. The board reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The second policy reviewed was the Use of Force Policy which includes a new section specific to the use of Tasers. The Chief made a strong argument as to the value of Tasers, stating that without them, the department lacks in preparedness to address potentially violent encounters. He also stated that the deployment and training on this Electronic Control Weapons (ECW) can be accomplished in this budget year without the need for additional funding. In the future, the annual cost and maintenance will be negligible and can be absorbed into the budget. Rick supports the use of Tasers as does Vinnie. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to allow the Chief to purchase the Tasers necessary for his department and to approve the new Use of Force Policy #101, amended 2/13/12, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Rick Green to go into Executive Session at 6:15 pm with return to Open Session for contract review discussion with the Police Chief, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Rick Green yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

With no further time, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to leave Executive Session at 6:34 pm and return to Open Session, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, Rick Green yes.

John Matthews: John came in representing the Planning Board to discuss the stipulations that should be required prior to the issuance of a Used Car License. John contacted a couple of communities to compare what we require versus what they do. He has a list that the board reviewed with him and he will take that list back to the Planning Board to come up with a substantive list. John also mentioned the various costs of these licenses in other towns and the increase fee may be raised from \$25 to \$100.00. Rick and Vinnie are in favor of that.

John mentioned that we might have to have a little more control over the home businesses, going forward and allowing internet based only, one car only, with no repairs done on the property. John will take that back to the Planning Board and talk about the requirement for a public hearing for a home based business. Of course those that are already licensed would be grandfathered.

Chrissy Cesan: Chris came before the board representing the Friends of the Senior's to discuss their upcoming fundraising event with the help of the owners of "A Touch of Garlic". The restaurant owners, Kara and Joe Rescia will put on a pasta dinner at the Senior Center on April 29th at 6:00 pm and all proceeds will benefit the Senior Center. The Friends had previously requested a one day wine permit so they may serve wine with dinner. A motion was made by Rick Green to approve a one day wine permit to be used at the Senior Center on April 26 from 6:00 pm to 12:00 am, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Scantic River Clearing Discussion: The board asked that members of the Conservation Commission come in to discuss possible remediation methods for the condition of the river, given the new paths it has taken as well as the massive amounts of debris that have collected in its path. Also invited was Highway Superintendent, Dana Pixley. Phil Grant and Bonnie Geromini and Dana arrived and Rick opened by telling them of his conversations with Conservation and the DEP who did think that steps could be taken to cause some positive effects to the course and health of the river. There was talk of removing one or two courses from the fire dam, placing some rocks at an angle to the river to help steer the river and some bank stabilization. Once done, it was suggested that the river would flow more quickly, the temperature would drop, the water would increase in oxygenation and the fish population would increase.

Phil Grant brought in a list of Guidelines for Emergency Certifications from the Wetlands Protection Act, which would allow a permit to be issued for emergency projects without having previously filed a Notice of Intent. Phil seemed to think that if these were issued on a case by case, project by project basis, we could get some real work done. These emergency permits would grant a 30 day work period for only emergency work to be performed. All agreed that this could happen with a huge group of committed volunteers.

Dana Pixley was asked if he had any interest in working on these projects with his department as a means to getting payroll out of the work, but his response was that the department has tons of work that did not get completed due to weather conditions of the past six months and has no interest in this work. Furthermore, he made the point that unless these particular “slash piles of debris” were threatening the roads of the town, he did not feel the responsibility for cleanup should be funded by the town coffers. He stated that those affected could hire clean-up crews to do the work themselves. There was agreement all around that unless the town was somehow threatened by these conditions, that the work should be performed or funded by the homeowner.

Bonnie Geromini agreed with both Phil and Dana. Rick and Vinnie would like to pursue the issue. Phil stated that these streams are becoming more and rare in our state, so many are spreading out and leaving silt and spreading into yards and don't have the depth or speed that they used to. Rick also mentioned the concern of the threat to septic systems which once breached would then flow into the river.

While discussing this, the issue of businesses on the bank of the Scantic was brought up and as Bonnie stated, those businesses were approached years ago and were brought into compliance to the Conservation laws, but it is time to revisit those same locations. This will be addressed in the near future.

Fire Addition Bid Award: The board received one bid for the addition to the Fire House which was advertised through Central Register and the newspaper. The bidder was Evergreen Construction and the board researched the references given which were all very positive reviews. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to award the bid to Evergreen Construction Corporation in the amount of \$88,589.00 seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

This work does not include the reroofing of the north half of the whole roof, but does fall well within the budget approved at Town Meeting.

Board of Health: Lorri McCool reviewed and signed off on the following variances, all need a variance for the same issue. They are as follows:

- 11 Old Orchard Road, Separation from groundwater reduction of 1 foot
- 10 Andrew Circle, Separation from groundwater reduction of 1 foot
- 217 East Longmeadow Road, Separation from groundwater reduction of 1 foot
- 25 Erica Circle, Separation from groundwater reduction of 1 foot

A motion was made by Rick Green, to approve the variances as requested, to allow a separation from groundwater of one foot, as recommended by Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

RAH Fundraising Event: The board will meet with a member from RAH at their next meeting to discuss the fundraising event.

Personnel Minutes and Pay Rate Schedule: The board reviewed the minutes where certain revisions to the Employee Handbook were voted and also reviewed the proposed pay schedule that will be forwarded to Advisory. These rates will only be in effect if Advisory approves them.

Roadside Trash Issue: The board will check with Dana Pixley as to the cost of No Littering signs (approximately 8+/-) and will also ask that the Police Chief check on town bylaws or state laws relative to the fines for littering. The board will also ask that Dana take care of the removal of the leaves dumped in the turnaround on Mill Road.

Cell Tower Proposal: Rick will check with Channel 22 owner, Bill Pepin as to a possible contact who might help the town review the options available to us as a cell tower landlord. There is a big interest suddenly in owning these sites and before we move forward on this proposal the town wants to ensure we are getting the best financial deal.

Landfill Environmental Monitoring Proposal: The board reviewed the proposal from our Certified Water Operator who conducts the monitoring required by the DEP at the Landfill. After review, a motion was made by Rick Green to accept the proposal in the amount of \$12,920 from Michael Framarin for monitoring and reporting services at the Landfill, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Transfer Station Operations: Given the loss of revenue at the transfer station, Vinnie will check with Nick Breault, Executive Secretary to the East Longmeadow Board of Selectmen to see how they handle waste management and recycling efforts there. This will be discussed when John Flynn is available.

Chimney Work: With some recent leaks into the Town House, the roofer found that flashing had not been done on the outside of the building on the chimney. J.D. Rivet submitted a bid to reflash the chimney to take care of the leak. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to accept the bid from Rivet and Co, in the amount of \$985.00 to reflash the chimney in the Town House, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The funding will come from our Town House Maintenance Account.

Zeroogian Fence Issue: The Building Inspector, Lance Trevallion sent a letter to the property owner, Mr. Zeroogian indicating that the fence replacement will continue to be the owner's responsibility regardless of the transfer of property ownership. We will get an update from Lance for next meeting.

Goodrich Unregistered Cars: A letter has been sent to tenant and property owner at 118 Raymond Drive regarding the illegal unregistered vehicles on the property and an established timeframe in which to remove them. A note will be sent to the Police Department to ensure ticketing will begin for those unregistered vehicles. We will ask the building inspector if there are any other violations there that need to be addressed as well.

Tighe and Bond Meeting: The board will schedule a meeting in the near future with Town Engineer, Tom Couture to get his thoughts on our options with the well at 621 Main Street. We hope to meet on March 12th at 10:00 am in this office.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent submitted an updated Emergency Plan to the board. In addition, he responded to recommendations made by our insurance carrier, MIIA about loss control issues at the Highway Garage. Those responses will be forwarded to MIIA.

Fire House: The installers for the Broadband Initiative would like to install the wiring for broadband in the fire house. It is scheduled to take place on March 5 at 8:30 am.

NOTES:

School Safety Meeting, Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 pm
New Minnechaug informational meeting Thursday, March 1, 7: 00 pm in Auditorium
Levy Limit Worksheets

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm, seconded by Rick Green. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc