

Approved 4/2/12

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

March 26, 2012  
6:30 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Board Members: Richard R. Green, Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn  
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Richard R. Green.

Farmer's Market: Karen Hatch came before the board as requested to discuss the new location for the Farmer's Market, opening soon at the Hampden Nurseries. She had no plan to present, and not a very succinct one defined as to where the vendors would set up their stands. The board is concerned about traffic entering the nursery location as well as exiting back out onto Somers Road and the possible congestion it might cause. Because of that, Vinnie will speak with Mike Sicbaldi about his intent as well as Michael Cimmino to see if he would be willing to allow traffic to exit through his access to East Longmeadow Road. Once done, the Farmer's Market will be informed of the outcome.

Memorial Park Access: The Highway Department made the Selectmen aware of ongoing issues they have in trimming the trees along the access road to the park. Resident, Mr. Taft comes out and confronts highway members while they are trying to do their job and have ceased trying due to this issue. John Flynn invited Mr. Taft to this meeting for 6:45 pm and Mr. Taft failed to show.

Advisory Committee - Warrant and Budget Review: Doug Boyd and Carol Fitzgerald wanted to know the chief's salary, school assessment numbers and also talked about salary escalations. They also discussed an additional 4% in raises this year, and the board explained that they are in negotiations with unions who are not being offered the same. The unions may end up with a 3% increase. John suggested that the rates could be raised at the starting level rather than across the board. The discussion will continue.

Treasurer: The Treasurer, Dick Patullo attended the meeting to discuss a couple of issues. The first was the rollout of a life insurance program that Dick managed to have offered to those employees that were not offered when they were hired. Historically, the town has paid 50% of the cost of this benefit and will continue to do so. This office will make the Personnel Committee aware of this so they may make the proper revisions to the Hampden Employee Handbook. Rick suggested that since we have a past practice established that we continue with that, but Personnel should be made aware of it to amend the handbook.

There will be an open enrollment period for this benefit and the treasurer and this office will coordinate that enrollment with the health insurance enrollment period. Dick also pursued disability insurance and given the logistics of it, it was determined that he would pursue that no further.

Dick then introduced information from the law firm of Gallagher, Shea and Gallagher about a lien on property owned by Gail and Martin Romano on 32 Martin Farms Road. The payment for a septic loan (in the amount of \$3,015.00) has been paid (June 20, 2003) and the law firm has asked that the lien be released from the property. A motion was made by John Flynn to release the lien against the Romano property in the amount of \$3,015, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The board then discussed various scenarios to manage our debt and to pay for the fire truck. There is also the issue of managing the debt incurred from the storm clean up. The Department of Local Services Bulletin explained that the debt has to be carried in one fiscal year. Given that, Rick suggested that a letter go to Senator Candaras and Representative Ashe asking for special legislation to allow communities to carry the debt over future budget cycles. That letter will be sent this week. Additional discussion regarding these items will take place.

Conservation Commission Appointment: There was discussion about a Conservation Commission member and whether they intended to resign from the position or not. It was made clear by the member, Pat Cote that she wished to remain on the board and the Selectmen reappointed her for another three year term.

Planning Board Minutes: Minutes were reviewed without comment.

BOS Minutes: The minutes of March 12, 2012 were reviewed and with the insertion of a residential address, a motion was made by John Flynn to approve with address noted, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The minutes of March 19, 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. The Executive Session Minutes of March 19, 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.

Cost Savings and Revenue Generating Ideas: Some ideas gathered from other communities for cost savings and revenue sharing will be reviewed at a later date.

DLS Bulletin: This is related to the DLS bulletin discussed earlier. The board needs to ask Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant how to proceed with borrowing and what kind of vote might be necessary.

Municipal Licensing Meeting: There is a licensing meeting that the Administrative Assistant would like to attend in April and the board agrees that the meeting would be beneficial.

Unemployment Request: The board would like to pursue the appeal against Jason Walbridge collecting unemployment from this town and will return the notice to appeal.

Vote Food Service Permits: A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the food service permits for the coming year, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. (List of permittees attached.)

19 South Road, Tim Hanley: Mr. Hanley has complained to the highway superintendent and police chief about ongoing issues on his road with speeding cars and accidents that have affected his property. The chief has run radar and the superintendent has determined that not much can be done to change the road in any way to prevent accidents. Mr. Hanley wondered about the installation of a guardrail and the board has agreed to ask the superintendent about getting the work done.

Hess Gas Contract: Lower Pioneer Valley Collaborative works on our gasoline and natural gas bids and the board has a contract to sign.

Fire Department Call: The police chief brought up the issue of the number of calls his department has received requesting permits to burn. He stated that the calls during the weekend are overwhelming and tax the dispatchers on duty. The board determined that we will continue the practice in place for the rest of the burn season and revisit the situation next year.

Adopt-A-Road: The board discussed the date for the annual clean up and has suggested some additional groups who might be willing to help with the Clean Up Hampden day. Notices will be sent to various groups that we will hold the event on May 19<sup>th</sup> to be as close to Memorial Day as possible.

REMINDER: Dispatcher's Negotiations 3/29 at 3:00 pm

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc