

Approved 11/09/12

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

October 9, 2012
5:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn, Norm Charest
John Flynn was unable to attend the meeting.
The meeting was called to order by Vinnie Villamaino at 5:30 pm.

Highway Superintendent: Dana Pixley came before the board to discuss an opportunity for the town. National Grid has hired Lewis Trees to come into town to do some tree trimming around their power lines. While here, they can take care of some of the “hangers” left over from various storms. The town will allow the trucks to be parked at the transfer station at day’s end. Norm related how road details are handled in Springfield, which is the opposite of how they are handled here. Our Chief orders details for those roads that he feels need it and has marked a map for the Highway Department to use when planning work on trees. There will be nine trucks in town, and it will be a time consuming job for Dana as tree warden. Residents need reassurance that all is on order with those trees, limbs that are scheduled to be trimmed.

Chief Farnsworth arrived at the meeting about ten minutes into the meeting and agreed that the map he outlined previously still stands as those streets needing police details. Dana suggested that a member from Lewis Trees meet directly with the Chief on Wednesday morning so no middleman will be involved. Lewis will get their orders directly from the Chief.

This discussion led into the work done by Columbia Gas on Wilbraham Road. This road was newly paved and has been torn up and patched by them without authorization from Dana.

A motion was made by Norm Charest to permit Dana Pixley to allow Lewis Tree trucks to be parked at the Transfer Station, as long as they are working in town, and including a warning for them to be mindful of the location of the monitoring wells, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Underground Storage Tank Discussion: The board signed an agreement with Tighe and Bond to work as our consultants for a new State mandate relative to Underground Storage Tanks. The agreement will run through the end of this calendar year. Dana Pixley was introduced to a resident in town who is certified to act as an approved operator at a lower

cost than Tighe and Bond. A warrant article has been placed on the STM warrant to raise the necessary funds to cover the entire calendar year as well as the cost to pay Tighe and Bond for the last few months. The amount needed is \$5,250.

Dana Pixley left the meeting and a motion was made by Norm Charest to go into Executive Session at 5:50 to discuss Police Personnel and Testing Results with return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Norm Charest yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norm Charest to leave Executive Session at 6:08 pm and return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Norm Charest yes, Vinnie Villamaino, yes.

Cultural Council: Betty Howarth came before the board to discuss the membership of the board. There have been some recent departures on the board and Betty had recommendations to appoint a few new members. They are Barbara Bennett, Diane Mackey and Pamela Courtney. She also recommended that the other board members be reappointed for the year and they are herself, Cathy Mahoney and Patricia Pomeroy. Patty Ehlers can no longer serve on the board according to State membership guidelines. A motion was made by Norm Charest to appoint new members as recommended by Betty Howarth and to reappoint existing members, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Plaques in Library Hallway: There are a number of plaques in the hallway upstairs commemorating soldiers from town who have served in various wars. These plaques will be moved in the near future to make accommodations for a painting that Steve Andwood is doing of Main Street, along the lines of the Main Street, Stockbridge painting done by Norman Rockwell. Steve's work will be finished within the next few months and arrangements will be made for an event to celebrate the installation of the mural.

Dispatcher's Mediation Date: The board has been contacted by a woman, Helen Bowler who will serve as a mediator between the dispatchers and the board to finalize the contract. The date has been confirmed for October 17th at 4:00 pm.

Wheelchair lift information: A company we had contacted previously will come back to the town house to review our options to replace our now defunct lift.

Property and Liability Transfer Needed: The board will meet with Advisory on Monday evening to discuss where the transfer funds will come from.

MRC Meeting with Terry Nelson and Wilbraham BOS: We have attempted to get the two boards together so Terry Nelson and his team can present his ideas and plans for the MRC. We are now looking at a time in November.

Information Request from Green Meadow Special Education Lead Teacher: The board will review further and respond to her.

Garden Club Request: The Garden Club members have asked the board's permission to plant a tree in front of Academy Hall in memory of longtime resident and friend Ed Harris. Ed did much in Academy Hall over the years, happily opening the building in the spring and getting it ready for winter in late fall. The board enthusiastically agreed to allow the Garden Club to plant a tree in memory of Ed.

River Park Drive: Mr. Dorn visited the office during the week seeking some assistance with the tress upstream from his home that are holding the water back and he fears that could lead to flooding. We will ask if the Boy Scouts and/or Fire Department would be willing to help out.

State Election Warrant: The election warrant has been filled out and signed by the board. It will be posted before the end of the month.

Board Meeting for Veterans' District: The community of Longmeadow has asked former Selectman, Rick Green about the possibility of joining the district to share a Veterans' Agent. Since Rick is still involved with the group, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the request.

GASB Report: The GASB45 report has been done and a copy will be given to the Auditor for the town. This reports determines what the town's liabilities are financially relative to the people working and retired from the town who will earn benefits as a result.

List for School Use Fees: The board determined that the following groups should be allowed to use the schools in town without a fee being charged. They are: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Fire Department, Police, any other town committee,.

State Ethics Compliance: A notice has been sent to all town employees requesting them to take the mandatory testing required by the state relative to ethics. Follow up will be done to ensure full compliance.

Mike Cooney deposition: The board continues to be notified of the status of the lawsuit against a resident as it relates to an accident that Mike Cooney was involved in while responding to a call. Mike was out of work and received Worker's Compensation and there was a payout to fill those shifts that Mike could not. Our attorney is pursuing the matter.

Cease and Desist Order: The board reviewed an order that was delivered by the Board of Health Agent, Lorri McCool and the Board of Health Coordinator, Jane Budynkiewicz. When the board members, Vinnie and Norm heard they did not have a police chaperone, they ordered that a change would be made and notices would no longer be delivered without the accompaniment of a police officer.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Norm Charest to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc