

Approved 4/1/13

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

March 25, 2013
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn, Norman Charest
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vinnie Villamaino.
Guest: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Permit Fees: Lance Trevallion came before the board to present proposed increases for permit fees for residential, commercial and small projects. Lance ran a comparison of our fees against other towns, including Monson, Ludlow, Springfield, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and Belchertown. We are by far the lowest in that group. These fees would affect construction costs only.

In doing so, this will allow the department to move forward in its permitting program. Lance mentioned a new program that Wilbraham has started which is a permit tracking program allowing different departments to track a property in its permits. This could also tie into the GIS system.

After much discussion a motion was made by John Flynn to approve the increased fee schedule as presented effective April 1, 2013, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Transfer Request: The board reviewed a transfer request from the Reserve Fund to the Property and Liability Account in the amount of \$650.00 for unanticipated invoices. A motion was made by Norm Charest to approve the transfer in the amount of \$650, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. This will be sent to Advisory for their approval.

NOTE: Alert Advisory to the fact that we will need a budget increase in that amount for the upcoming budget cycle.

Warrant Review: The board reviewed the warrant again and will vote to close the warrant at its next meeting on April 1, 2013, prior to meeting with Advisory.

Ballot Question: The board discussed the infrastructure bond question to be added to the ballot for the upcoming election. A motion was made by Norm Charest to seek a bond with a ballot question for 2 million dollars for infrastructure improvements, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A note will be sent to the Town Clerk asking that the ballot question be included on the ballot.

BOS 130325

Generator Exhaust: The board has received two quotes from two contractors regarding the remedy to the exhaust coming from the generator outside of the Police Department. Vinnie will speak with one other contractor to get another price before we proceed with the work.

Veterans' Services: John had asked why there was a reduction in the cost to Hampden for this coming year for the office operations of the Veterans Agent. It was explained that with the addition of East Longmeadow to the district, our costs have been reduced.

Charter Cable License Renewal: The board received a call from a senior citizen asking about reduced rates for seniors from Charter Cable. She was told that the board is in the process of working to renew our license and will bring the question forward to Charter Cable when they meet. She is looking for a flat fee rate rather than the current 10% discount they receive.

Retirement language consistency: It was recently discovered that not all town contracts and benefit language is consistent. The board will ensure that changes are made to mirror what the State law mandates.

MEMA Conference on April 1, 2013: The board needs to determine who if anyone will be attending this conference. We will check on the balance in the Emergency Management account.

Planning Board Minutes: The minutes were reviewed without comment.

HWRSD 2012 Audit: The board reviewed the audit and John said that he will bring up the cost of borrowing at the next School Committee meeting.

Highway Budget Numbers: The board reviewed the revised numbers from Highway as a result of contract negotiations. These will be forwarded to Advisory as well.

Grant Application from Gina Kahn: Gina Kahn from the HWRSD works on grant funding. She forwarded information on a physical fitness grant seeking support from the Board of Selectmen. It would be a three year program. Norman Charest would like further information such as where the funding will come from when the grant goes away.

Minutes of March 18, 2013: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Norman Charest to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Emergency Management Position: The board again discussed the Emergency Management Director's position which was offered to Chief Farnsworth for \$2,000 starting July 1, 2014.

601 Main Street: The septic design should be completed by Gary Weiner by March 26th and submitted for BOH approval. The generator issue will be further discussed as to whether the town will supply a generator to those needing water or not. There was further discussion of the funding for this water issue and it was determined that it should go on as a warrant article for Annual Town Meeting.

Insurance Committee: John mentioned the need for an insurance committee to work on reviewing other agencies, other than our current one, MIIA to see if there might be some cost savings. John suggested Rick Green and Timm Marini. They will be contacted.

Reminder: The barking dog issue will be discussed at our next meeting on April 1st at 6:30 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc