

Approved 5/20/13

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

May 6, 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.

The changing of the board chairs were handled as follows:

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to elect John Flynn as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to elect Norman Charest as the Chairman of the Board of Health, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Norman Charest as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen should John D. Flynn be out of town and/or unavailable, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Fire Chief: Mike Gorski came before the board with firefighter candidate Jeff House. Jeff was introduced to the board and it was noted that his father also serves as a volunteer on the department. Based on the Chief's recommendation a motion was made by Norman Charest to appoint Jeff House as a provisional firefighter, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The board also spoke with the Chief about dry hydrants and the continued need for them wherever property owners might allow. Vinnie mentioned that the VFW offered their property for a dry hydrant installation for which the Chief was thankful.

Park and Rec Discussion: A request was made by Park and Rec to the Highway Department to move some dirt at the softball field. They have called Bill Wilson in the past and the board suggested that they continue to do so. They had also asked about having access to the gas pumps at the Highway Garage. The board explained that the gas boy system currently tracks three users (highway, fire and police) and does not have the capacity to track another user. It was suggested that they purchase their gas at the local station.

There was also discussion about the replacement needed for Rich Joseph who has been transferred to work out of town which makes it hard for him to participate. Terry Ford will fill his position.

Dave Paradise will come in to replace Jay Ray who did not run again for the position.

BOS 130506

There was general talk about conditions at the school and Memorial Park. The gym at TWB is filthy and in dire need of a deep cleaning. The board members stated that it is always trashy and the floors are filthy. This needs to be addressed with administration immediately.

Memorial Park: The board had originally asked to have access to the transfer station with their trash generated by the camp and patrons during the summer, but it would be more costly to use the transfer than to continue with the practice of using dumpster as they have in the past. They also talked about the condition of the parking lot, which is great need of repaving. John will speak with Dana about where the project falls on the list of projects to be accomplished with the infrastructure money passed at town meeting. They then talked about the drainage that needs to be corrected before taking measures to repair the lot. This project will be pursued as well.

Main Street Residents: The board invited residents of Main Street to discuss the ongoing project of bringing unsalted water to them as a way to remedy the salt issue with their own wells. , Jeanne Broderick, Paul McNaughton, Mark Ogoley attended as did our town engineer, Tom Couture.

John explained the status of the new well, and that it functions exceptionally well and will service their three homes with no problems. He also mentioned that the highway septic system had been moved so as not to require a variance for the well. The board discussed the option suggested by Dana Pixley of connecting the new well water directly to the residents' existing wells, which would save having plumbers in their home to do the connection work.

Three water lines will be established. There is a concern of Paul filling his well, which might interfere with the usage of other homes. Paul stated that he allows the water to trickle in rather than depleting his well and will continue to do so.

Manholes will be going in and the power for the well will be run off the garage, which has a generator. There will probably be an upgrade to that generator in the future.

The board will pursue a timeline for job completion and will ask that Dana meet with Bill Skinner to determine a project start and end date. John mentioned that by July 1, this could be completed.

Jeanne has been doing her homework and brought up the fact that she expected that the board would find an expert to determine the cause of the corrosion in her pipes. The board determined that it would be cost prohibitive, but did not relay that information to Jeanne. The board apologized and agreed to pay Jeanne the postage for overnight delivery of some pipes she is sending to a metallurgist at Virginia Tech. She is sending a portion of her well tank that was installed 3 and a half years ago as well as other pieces from her piping. Jeanne also stated that the grounding of the well is impeccable, according to an electrician.

The board asked about an estimate for the cost of the analysis. Virginia Tech will do the analysis and led Jeanne to believe they would do it for free.

Back to the well lines, it was noted that there will be a separate dedicated line for each house and that there will be no increase in the water flow; that it will be approximately 40-60 lbs.

There was no evidence of oils and/or gasoline in the water tested from Jeanne's property.

Jeanne had an arborist come out to check on the trees in her back yard and stated that some damage is due to storms, but Jeanne wondered if salt could have contributed to their demise.

Paul is good with having the testing done and waiting and see what the results are.

Mark Ogoley had some testing done and said that his water is brown.
John recommends that the salt problem be resolved right now and worry about other issues at another time.
No connection will be made for Jeanne until the results are in from Virginia Tech.
The connection will go into the well line, not into the well.
A bacteria test will be done prior to the installation.
Water meters will be in the manhole.

The bid for the trenching work was awarded to Billy Skinner, at \$19,400 and we will ask that the work start immediately.

Memo from Police Chief: The board reviewed a request from the Jeff Farnsworth about testing a new gun manufactured by Smith and Wesson. As stated, there would be no cost to the town for the guns, that any shooting practice would be on the officer's time and it is a way for Smith and Wesson to get an opinion on the use by a Police Department. Norman had some questions that he will review with the Chief before the board votes to approve the request.

Police Department Transfer Request: The board reviewed and has asked that Jeff give them a status report on where his accounts stand right now.

Insurance Discussion: The Board has an interest in reviewing other companies prior to signing with MIIA.

Police Transfer Request: The board will review the request by month end.

Minutes from April 1, 8 and 22: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Norm Charest to approve as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

MEMA update from Dana Pixley: Dana is working on the final distribution of funds from MEMA.

MIIA Loss Control Recommendations: Recommendations were made by MIIA and sent to various department heads for resolutions to deficiencies in our buildings.

One Day Permit for 50th Birthday Party at VFW, A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve a one day permit at the VFW on June 2, 2:00 pm to 12:00 am, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Adopt-A-Road, May 18, 2013: Invitations have been sent out to those groups who participate on an annual basis.

Ongoing suit between Michel v Town of Hampden: The board reviewed the letter from our attorney and agree with their recommendation to settle the case at this point. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to settle the lawsuit, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Norman Charest abstained from the vote.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant
/pbc