

Approved 9/23/13

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

September 16, 2013  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Norman Charest, Vincent J. Villamaino

The meeting was called to order by John D. Flynn at 6:00 pm.

Chief Gorski and First Deputy Chief Dave Markham: Officers of the Fire Department came before the board to discuss three issues; the driveway reconstruction discussed in the past, the EMT program to work in conjunction with the Police Department and the installation of dry hydrants.

Mike opened with his concern about the radius in which applicants must live in order to become applicable for a spot in the department. He has been disappointed with some of the young guys who come in very excited with the prospect, but slowly don't show up for the weekly meetings and training sessions.

The dry hydrants were discussed next. There will be four installed at the town's expense at a cost of approximately \$10,000. This will go on the warrant for Fall Town Meeting. Another hydrant will be installed on the Country Club property; Dave wants to ensure that fire is involved with the country club installation. These involve plastic piping with connections to the hose. One permit will be needed for one hydrant; all the others are on private property,

The chief then asked about the paving the lot for the fire house. John explained that our paving funds were committed for this year, and we would have to look at this in the spring. We will put a warrant article on the warrant for ATM. Dave mentioned that there is wear and tear on the truck going through the lot. The cost has been estimated at \$68,000 for the entire parking lot (as of 2013).

Emergency Medical Technicians: The Fire Department offered to serve as Emergency responders to calls that come into the Police Department to assist in treating the patients prior to the arrival of an ambulance. Both chiefs have discussed the program and have come up with some guidelines to implement the program. It was suggested that a trial period of twelve months will give everyone time to assess the program and review the benefits, etc. There will no money expended for this service as the fire personnel have completed their training and are ready to go.

River Park Drive: Donald Dorn came before the board to discuss the condition of the river that runs behind his house that has become clogged with trees that have fallen into the river. He has asked for help a number of times and the last time he was in Norm did state that he would look into help using labor from the sheriff's department. He was unable to get any help. Mr. Dorn

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then asked John if he had been successful with finding any help, but he has not. We will try to pursue other avenues.

Police Department Building Committee: Rick Green, Doug Boyd and Jeff Farnsworth have met to discuss possible locations for a new police department. They asked the board specifically for some funding so they can put something before the town at Fall Town Meeting so the residents have an idea of what they are working on. The group has looked into current debt carried by the town and is mindful of the 5 year paving plan and the Green Meadow debt, which will be retired in 2021. They would like to put an article for Annual Town Meeting to discuss this further. Doug Boyd mentioned the possibility of eliminating the CPA assessment as a way to reduce the tax assessment for residents, and to offset new debt coming on. The next step is for architectural renderings with an estimate building cost of 3 million dollars. They have reviewed a number of sites; at this point the property owned by the town next to the Senior Center appears to be the better choice. It would need minimal site work; taking some trees down and the possibility of tying into the septic system in place for the Senior Center.

The board suggested that they come up with wording for the Special Town Meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> with a suggested funding amount of \$1,000. The presentation may involve a stick building versus a prefab. They have talked with Eastern Bank on borrowing scenarios and the group needs to have a value assessed to the property, that we own, that translates to the savings in not having to purchase additional property.

There is a real need for a new location in that state mandates have come down that we cannot at this time adhere to, but will result in fines if we don't make an effort to do so. There are mandates for evidence storage that we cannot meet at this time as well as others.

A question will be put forward for STM as well as ATM and Rick will work on that. The presentation to town meeting will be done by architects.

Regional Dispatch: The chief asked about the board's response to the possibility of using a regional dispatch system and the board has no interest.

Fall Town Meeting: October 28<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled for the Special Town Meeting and department heads have been asked for department needs for essential items only.

Town Hall Lift: An engineer from Tighe and Bond is now in contact with the lift's installation team so we can now move forward with next steps. The money has been allocated so no new funding will be required.

Invitation: The board was invited to meet Peter Dufresne, the new principal at TWB. The board suggested lunch at TWB in the near future.

CPA Funding Information: The Town of Longmeadow has provided an option for their residents to use Community Preservation funds (an annual tax assessment) as a way to do home improvements.

Minutes from September 3, 2013: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Hampden Country Cub Resident concern: A resident will follow through with an appeal of a decision made by the Planning Board. An FYI for the board.

Note from Rep. Ashe's office: John will follow up with getting some time with Rep. Ashe to help with the release of funds still due the town from FEMA.

601 Main Street status: There has been some dispute as to money owed; Vinnie will follow up with the contractor.

Well for Community Garden: Dave Martel has given an opinion on a well that local gardeners would like to drill at Green Meadows where they have garden plots. Dave will follow up with some simple agreements for signatures, stating that the gardeners have no claim should they stop using the property. The well will remain as a water source for the property.

Raymond Drive Property Dispute: The board reviewed the issue further and agreed that Mr. and Mrs. Crum should resolve this with the treasurer, that the board has no authority over the issue. A letter will be sent to them to that affect.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment re: marijuana: The board reviewed without comment.

Insurance Claim: The glass in the back door to the town hall was broken during a delivery and has been reported to the insurance company. The door has been repaired and we are awaiting the invoice to see if it is higher than the deductible of \$1,000.

MMA Breakfast Meeting: There is a breakfast of MMA members on 9/20 in Brimfield at 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. John will try to attend.

MMA Questionnaire: So noted.

Liapis Violation: So noted.

District Casino Response to Wilbraham BOS: A note will be sent to Bob Weitz asking what prompted the question to the School District regarding the impact of a casino being built.

PVPC MMA Roundtable October 10, 11:30 – 1:30: So noted.

Next week's agenda: Cliff Bombard will be here to discuss finances and the HCC will be in to discuss the construction of tunnels under Wilbraham Road.

Date for Cable Ascertainment Hearing: To be scheduled.

Water District: The commission members will be invited in to discuss the process for charging residents for their water from our water district. Proposed date of October 7<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc