

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

MINUTES

November 25, 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 at 6:30 pm by John Flynn.

Cub Scout Meeting: The Cub Scouts were welcomed by John Flynn, who asked if they were Troop 171 and stated that his mother had been a Cub Scout Leader for the same troop. The group sat while the board started their discussion with participants in the Police Station Planning Committee.

Police Station Planning Committee: Rick Green and Chief Farnsworth were the only two able to attend the meeting, as Paul Gagliarducci had a meeting out of town and Jamie Collins was busy. They asked the board if they needed appointments from the board, but the board said no, but that they should post their meetings and take minutes as well. Rick and Jeff asked how best to proceed with the building. They have asked Gary Weiner to join the group, as well as John Shea and Gail Lefebvre. The committee has reached out to anyone interested in participating in the group and Tyler Witkop will put an article in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times. The group has a budget and an expanded membership. Rick called Roy Brown who is an architect, and he may come on board as an advisor and if he bills the committee, the money will come from what the town approved at the Special Town Meeting. The remaining money is for Kaestle Boos. The board discussed the finances and stated that we would not have to start paying for another 2-3 years. They will speak with the Town Treasurer regarding how much can be spent annually. Green Meadows will be falling off the debt schedule in a few years.

An analysis of the land owned by the Town next to the Senior Center; architects and engineers have been out and the location at the Senior Center is the most cost effective location. We may even be able to take advantage of the existing septic at the Center and may have to drill another well. There is more than adequate space for the building to be located.

Now that the group has come this far, it is time for the chief to bow out as a voting member but to remain in an advisory position only, so there is no conflict of interest.

They are going to try for a mid-December date for their first posted meeting.

John would like Chief Farnsworth to come into our next meeting to discuss Emergency Management issues with the coming winter season.

Cub Scouts: The scouts asked some questions after listening to the presentation by Chief Farnsworth and Rick Green and left the meeting at that time.

Tax Abatement Work Off Program: The board discussed the implementation of this program that was voted at our Annual Town Meeting in April 2010. Since it has never been done, the board

would like the Personnel Committee to come in to our next meeting to discuss. A resident had requested that hours of volunteer service be recognized and used as credit for tax abatement but the town must first establish the program.

Tax Rate Meeting: Bob Makuch and Carolyn Reed came before the board to present their calculations for the tax rate. There was some debate as to what the future holds and what our current needs are and it was agreed that the rate of \$18.00/thousand should be used. Town Accountant stated that it came in at \$18.00 exactly. The board wanted the rate to be under \$18.00/thousand, and was told by the Assessors and the Town Accountant that there would be an increase next year as well. There has been residential growth in town with anticipation that it will continue into next year.

John asked that the rate be set at \$18.00/per thousand. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to set the tax rate at \$18.00/thousand, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Norm Charest to go into Executive Session at 7:10 pm to discuss a contract issue regarding the Town Accountant, with return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Norm Charest yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm and return to Open Session. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, Norm Charest yes, John Flynn yes.

Board of Health: Jane Budynekiewicz, BOH Coordinator came before the board with news that Arlene Miller from Longmeadow could reduce our rates for trash disposal. Jane and Norman will look at our previous contract to see if there might be room for negotiation with our current hauler.

Right of First Refusal for Morton Property: The board will ask Russ Morton come in to meet and discuss a purchase and sale agreement he has currently that needs to be released by the board before the sale can go through.

Underground Storage Tank Services for Highway Department: The board would like a quote for the fiscal year instead of the calendar year.

Highway Superintendent Correspondence: Dana asked that all permits be held until a local contractor pay for some material he mistakenly took from the transfer station.

Minutes: The minutes of November 18, 2013 were reviewed and a motion was made by Norm Charest to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Attorney General Correspondence: The board received notice from the AG that Warrant Article 22 from the Annual Town Meeting has been approved.

Variance Request: Property owners at 14 Echo Valley Drive needed a variance for their septic installation. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve a variance for a one foot

reduction to groundwater as recommended by Lorri McCool, seconded by Norm Charest.
VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Community Garden Agreement: The board was informed as to the concerns of the Community Garden group and asked that the Administrative Assistant handle the agreement.

Hampden Country Club: The board discussed the tunnel work that the HCC would like to install and have some questions. The HCC will be contacted to set up a meeting to discuss the plans.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc

