

Approved 11/24/14

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

November 18, 2014  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Norman Charest, Vincent J. Villamaino  
Norman Charest was unable to attend the meeting.  
John Flynn called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.  
Guest: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham Hampden Times

Board of Health: Ed Kennedy, property owner at 546-548 Main Street has an ongoing issue with a failed Title 5 septic. He has been notified numerous times that a new system has to be installed. He has ignored every notification. A representative from his attorney's office called here last week asking for a 30 day extension to the installation. The board of Health Agent was notified and it was stated to the representative that it was in the owner's best interest to appear before the board at tonight's meeting. Despite having been informed, no one came before the board to discuss the matter. John Flynn and Vinnie Villamaino asked that an email be sent to Norman Charest and Lorri McCool, BOH Agent, asking that they discuss the matter of closing businesses at the plaza with Town Counsel, Dave Martel.

Solar Host Agreement: The board asked Town Accountant, Cliff Bombard to come in to discuss how a lump sum payout could be handled in lieu of an annual rental payment. The deal that is on the table at this point is a buyout of a 20 year agreement in the amount of \$131,000. John wants to ensure that the payment would not be part of the regular revenue stream as it will be a one time payout. Cliff will contact Jim Podolok from the State to get answers to these questions. Cliff will find out if the money can be appropriated to the stabilization fund and not impact our tax rate the following year.

Middle School Task Force: Nick Fyntrilakis, Sandra Sheehan, George Semanie and Marty McQuade came before the board to discuss the issues with the low enrollment figures for middle school students. John Flynn thanked the members for their interest in participating and asked what each of them thought of the task at hand.  
Sandra Sheehan spoke first and said that she felt her job was to listen to all the facts, weigh all the options and to recommend what she thinks is the best solution to the enrollment problem. John wondered how the process would play out, where did these volunteers see Hampden in the mix, the historical component of the two separate towns and mentioned the uproar that ensued when the idea of regionalization was discussed with kindergarten students.  
John's concerns are the bussing of students and that Hampden would not have ownership in the building if our students were bussed to Wilbraham.

John feels that a new school is a strong consideration, to be located on the campus of Minnechaug Regional High School.

He said that the two towns are accustomed to playing on the same sports teams and that has been a blending process over the last few years.

Sandra recognized that “Chaug” is a huge presence for the students going there and all agreed that the school spirit for Chaug was a strong one.

Vinnie mentioned that the real issue comes down to money; with the population of students declining and 5 to 6 million dollars needed in repairs; that a decision as to which school would be the best option to repair to service both towns.

Nick Fyntrilakis spoke of his surprise at the condition of the schools when they did a walk through. He mentioned that TWB would not work without some expansion and that Mile Tree is not in the best of conditions either.

John wondered about how the finances would work? If Hampden pays for the renovation for TWB, would we charge Wilbraham students to come here?

Marty McQuade spoke about the number of people who have already voiced their opinions to him and the board members acknowledged that there is no way to please everyone; that they should do their best to come up with the best recommendation they can and to listen to people’s opinions on the matter.

George Semanie agrees on the teaching model, the team approach, and the junior high school model. George brought up the transportation issue, specifically the travel time for students, the kids would get on the bus early and arrive home late.

There was the idea that 5<sup>th</sup> graders could go back to Green Meadows; Soule Road currently has 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and the Wilbraham Middle School is 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

The task force needs to determine the educational needs, costs and make the decision based on those factors.

Resident Jay O’Brien stopped in to discuss the issue of an easement that the town has sought for some time to take care of the water that currently runs down Bennett Road. A letter had been sent asking that he reconsider his decision and he is willing to have his property staked so the easement area will be delineated. He would also like to see a plan prior to granting his approval. Tighe and Bond, Engineers will be contacted regarding a plan.

Meeting Minutes: May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup>, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup>, and November 10<sup>th</sup>. The board reviewed the minutes and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve all minutes as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

601 Main Street: Dave Martel has sent the final list of water tests to be performed for Jeanne Broderick to her attorney. Once they are approved, final documents will be sent for signing. It is important to make this happen as soon as possible to minimize costs for connection to the town well.

613 Main Street: Paul McNaughton and Bill Skinner are working together to finalize the connection from the town well located at the Highway Garage to McNaughton’s home.

Recycling Contract (MRF): The board did not review the contract and will do so at a later date.

MRHS Building Committee Correspondence: The board reviewed correspondence between the Minnechaug Regional Building Committee, the HWRSD School Committee and various others regarding the status of the audit required by the Massachusetts school Building Authority.

Amendment to Kaestle Boos Architect: The board reviewed and signed an agreement to allow Kaestle Boos to act as agent to purchase Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment for the new Police Station.

Reimbursement Documentation: The board reviewed the request by the treasurer for documents to be submitted to the treasurer before reimbursement is made.

Correspondence:

Animal Inspector Meeting: The Animal Inspector will be made aware of the upcoming meeting.

Request for support of solar energy: The board reviewed a request from an organization, Environment Massachusetts, to sign a letter in support of solar energy to the Governor-Elect Charlie Baker. The board agreed to add their names to the list of those supporters.

Town Counsel: There was a request from our Town Counsel to increase their office fees from \$175/hr. to \$185/hr. and to increase the fees for associate attorneys and law clerks. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the request, seconded by John Flynn.

Police Chief's Vacation Notice: Jeff submitted a vacation notice from December 24 through January 2.

Letter from Bob Dickson re: Regional Dispatching: The board received a letter from the dispatcher's union representative about the need for negotiation should regional dispatch come to fruition. There has been a letter drafted by Police Council in response that will be sent to the Union.

Request to Negotiate with Police and Dispatch: The board asked that the unions be alerted to the fact that negotiations must start for the Police Officers and Dispatch to ensure raises are factored into the upcoming budget.

NOTE: Check the budget line for Law and Claims when preparing the budget for 2016. (\$20k)

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant  
/pbc

BOS 141118