

Approved 2/4/14

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

January 21, 2014  
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 6:00 pm by John D. Flynn.  
Guest: Dave Hayward, Chair of Hampden Energy Committee

Hampshire Council of Governments: Kenneth Elstein came before the board to discuss the proposed Municipal Aggregation of Electricity Program that was discussed and voted on at Annual Town Meeting in 2013. The vote allowed the board to enter into an agreement that would provide residents with the opportunity to purchase electricity at a reduced rate due to bulk purchasing power. Dave Hayward listened to the presentation and recommended that the board go forward with signing the agreement. The potential savings for Hampden residents could be upwards of \$145k. He mentioned that National Grid just raised their rates and this program would act as a sort of insurance against future increases. As the Council is a nonprofit entity, this will prove beneficial to the residents. We will be the 39<sup>th</sup> community participating in this program.

Residents will not be forced into this program and will receive notice from Hampshire Council of Governments when final approvals are received and the program can go forward. The Council must go to the Department of Energy Resources and get a favorable recommendation. They would then go to the Department of Public Utilities. Once approved and bids come in, residents will have a 30 day period in which to enroll; the Council would then automatically change those residents on their next meter read date.

There was additional conversation about a Green Program that the Council is working on as well as solar energy. These will be explored by the board at a future date.

As Chairman of the Energy Commission, Dave Hayward recommends that the town go forward with the signing.

Given that, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to sign the Municipal Aggregation of Electricity Program with the Hampshire Council of Governments, seconded by Norman Charest.  
VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Soltas Energy: Kirt Mayland from the company Soltas Energy was scheduled to come in to discuss the solar installation proposed on the Kibbe property on Somers Road. Due to the weather, Kirt did not attend, but would like to discuss the assessment of taxes for the program.

Kaestle-Boos Police Station Information: The board received information from the architects for the proposed new Police Station. The architects will be attending a meeting on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> to present their plan to the Police Station Planning Committee in the Melville Room.

BOS 140121

Massachusetts Broadband Institute: John will make contacts with various companies to determine the best way to proceed with internet service for the town offices.

Kinsley Generator Proposal: The board reviewed the proposal received for the generator at the Highway Garage in the amount of \$13,496.00. Norm Charest made a motion to approve the proposal, once it is confirmed that Kinsley is on a state contract which allows us to proceed to purchase without going out to bid, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Send information to Eddie Poulin as he has been the electrician on this job.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Two members of the ZBA submitted Disclosure Statements by Non-Elected Municipal Employees of Financial Interest. This was a result of them having been notified by the Zoning Board of appeals being taken that will be heard by the ZBA. The forms were reviewed by the Board and it was determined that these members could serve at these hearings without any conflict of interest. The forms were signed by John D. Flynn and will be sent to the members and to the ZBA.

Tighe and Bond Monitoring Proposal: The board signed the reduced proposal for the underground storage tank monitoring.

Minutes: The minutes of January 14, 2014 were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The minutes of December 9, 2013 were reviewed and revised to show \$10k be added to snow and ice account and \$5k added to the gasoline account. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as amended, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Cummins Maintenance Agreement: This office will check with another company for a maintenance agreement for our generator for comparison.

Hampden Theater Guild: The Theater Guild is putting on a show at the Senior Center and would like to serve beer and wine. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to grant a one day liquor permit to the Hampden Theater Guild for Saturday, February 8, 2014 from 4:00 pm to 12:00 am, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. It was confirmed that Mark Giza holds insurance for the Theater Guild.

Charter Cable: The board would like to renew the contract but not the franchise fee. That would be passed onto the residents and the board does not want to do that. John is in contact with a number of different vendors to find our best options for broadband connection. Wired-west.com looking into one rate for cable access.

Correspondence:

- Meeting with Audubon re: Laughing Brook, Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm
- Police Contractual Residency Language
- Mailbox Replacement
- Letter to Chief Gorski

- MMA Annual Meeting, January 24 and 25
- Guardian, Energy Efficiency Opportunities
- Lift Status: We should have a report early next week from Tighe and Bond.
- Explore Human Resource position with East Longmeadow Selectman
- Main Street Water Resolutions: There are a few options available to the homeowners on Main Street relative to the water issue. One is that MIIA (our insurance carrier) covers the impact of connecting to the water source provided by the Town, such as pipes bursting, etc. Two is that the homeowner's insurance would cover any damages and the town would pay the deductible for the homeowner. Three, the board could take the subject to town meeting and ask for a few hundred thousand dollars and repair any damages done as a result of the tie in to a new water source. Four, the last option would be for the residents to sue the town for damages. We are waiting to hear from our town counsel who has written to MIIA's counsel to see what coverage exists for the town at this time.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc