

Approved 3/17/14

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

MINUTES

February 24, 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 by John D. Flynn at 6:00 pm.
Guest: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Police Department: Sgt. Joy came before the board to introduce an applicant for the position of part time dispatcher, Kyle Farnsworth. Kyle's father is Chief Farnsworth and after introductions John made it very clear that Kyle would be supervised by Sgt. Joy. That was agreed by all parties. John and Norm noted that all due diligence had been done by the department, noted that Kyle currently works in the Longmeadow PD as a dispatcher and with little specific training will be able to work needed shifts here. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Kyle Farnsworth as Part Time Dispatcher for the Police Department, seconded by Norm Charest.
VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Budget Review: The board met with Advisory to review funding of the upcoming budget. Overall, the numbers have been held by the board with slight increases as necessary and reductions where they could be made. There was discussion about meeting with the CPC for funding to do some renovation work in the Town House. There was also discussion about a warrant article for a water issue with the Federated Church.

Phone Information: John has been working on a new phone system for the Town House which will mirror the one installed at the Senior Center.

Lift Replacement: The board received the engineering report from Tighe and Bond as to the suitability of installing the lift we have been looking at; their response is that some modifications may have to be made to the lift before installation. This news led to discussion of short ramps or elevators traveling half a floor instead of the lift. More discussion to follow after some photos are taken of one of these elevators.

SVRHT: The health insurance trust that Hampden belongs to set the rates for FY15 and there will be no increase in any of the current plans.

Budget Question: The board received clarification from Dana Pixley regarding a line item for tank monitoring, etc. at the highway garage.

Police Car Information: The Chief has added a new vehicle to the fleet. So noted by the board.

BOS 140224

Federated Church Well: The board is pursuing further information to determine the best remediation for the water issue at the Federated Church. They will put a warrant article on for Annual Town Meeting and work on getting quotes for the work.

Decision from Mass Gaming Commission: Tyler Witkop from Wilbraham-Hampden Times asked John and the board their thoughts on the decision from the Gaming Commission in denying our community as an “affected” community with the future build of a casino. John remarked that he thought they presented a decent case; that they did not go to hearing with an amount in mind, but felt they had to make an appeal based on the lack of partisanship in this decision. There is a state mitigation fund that might be allowed as a secondary distribution, which Hampden may have a shot at in the future. John noted and Norm concurred that we can petition the Gaming Commission at any time after the casino has been built, and give it another shot. We can go to appeal at some point in the future and the board will remain vigilant about the situation. Vinnie mentioned the idea of putting a traffic counter on Allen Street for a few years’ running to determine trends.

Correspondence from Kathleen Norbut to Steve Crosby (Mass Gaming Commission): Noted by the board.

Procurement law changes: So noted by the board.

Minutes of February 4, 2014: 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.

601 Main Street: The board received a letter of opinion from our insurance provider regarding coverage of the issue at 601 Main Street. We will invite our representative from the company to come in to discuss possible resolutions.

ZBA Request for Appointment: The Zoning Board of Appeals requested that the board appoint Austin McKeon as an Associate Member to their board. Although this board does not have an issue with this appointment, they feel it is best posted in the paper first, for any interested party to submit a letter of interest to the ZBA or the BOS. Tyler will ensure that gets in the paper.

Correspondence (including memo from Marty O’Shea): Reviewed without comment.

Charter Cable Contract Extension: The board discussed signing the extension of the lease with internet access for town locations at \$49.99/month versus \$89.99. The board will get the documents in for signing. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to extend the Charter Cable Contract as drafted, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Department of Transportation: John received an email from Selectman Aaron Saunders regarding the proposed road improvement work on Route 91. He has asked for local communities to send a letter to the state requesting additional work to be done on Route 91 to help in the economic recovery of the area.

Soltas Solar: Kirt Mayland from Soltas Solar stopped at our meeting to discuss the solar installation on Somers Road. He discussed installing a new roof at TWB in which the company would install the roof as well as the solar installation and warranty it for 25 years. This would benefit the school with the roof and rates and there would be a 30% discount on town meters as well. Kirt will be invited in for the next meeting.

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