

Approved 3/17/14

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

MINUTES

March 10, 2014
6:30 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 Flynn.
Guest: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Board of Health: Jane Budynkiewicz and Becky Moriarty came before the board to alert the board to a change in the invoicing we currently get from ConTest for our monthly water testing as public water suppliers. ConTest would like to consolidate our three separate accounts onto one (Town Hall, Senior Center and Water District) to cut their expenses in sending out invoices. John volunteered to have a conversation with ConTest to try and figure out a solution.

Becky told the board that she and the Fire Department are looking into a grant to educate residents about fire prevention and doing home visits in the fall. The grant would provide \$4k for training and would be awarded in June.

Mass Audubon: Jonah Keane, Sanctuary Director, Emma Evans and Peter Vancini, Laughing Brook caretakers came before the board to discuss future plans for the property. They have met with Becky Moriarty to discuss plans to involve Seniors. The board mentioned getting the schools involved, make their presence known to parents, maybe a full day camp plan. There was discussion of building a bathroom there as well. The studio has been fully repaired; there is a concern with the bridge that is there. On May24th an author who wrote about Thornton Burgess will be visiting the area and they are also planning a day with turtle activities.

Planning Board Vacancy: Neil Flynn and John Matthews came before the board with a request to appoint Rick Green to a full time position on the board, given the resignation of James Quackenbush due to time constraints. The board discussed and requested a letter of interest from Rick Green. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Rick Green as a full time member of the Planning Board, to serve the remainder of James Quackenbush' term, contingent upon receipt of a letter of interest from Rick Green, seconded by John Matthews. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

James Quackenbush would like to serve in the alternate position for special hearing purposes and a motion was made by Norm Charest to appoint Jim Quackenbush as an alternate member to the Planning Board, seconded by Neil Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Soltas Solar: Kirt Mayland, representative of Soltas came before the board to discuss the PILOT program his company will offer the town. Kirt offered a payment of the AC capacity multiplied by \$16,000 per MW AC and increasing by 1.5% for each year of the agreement. Based on the cost to be depreciated the board would like to lengthen the agreement to 20 years. If the equipment is changed out there will be a provision to allow for the upgrade to be reassessed, thereby increasing our income. Revisions will be made to the agreement by Kirt and will be forwarded for review by our Town Counsel. Kirt anticipates a construction start date of June with a first payment date of August 1st for the next quarter. The State will give them permission to start and that all depends on the Department of Revenue.

Vinnie asked that Kirt try to raise the \$16k to \$18k for Hampden.

There was also discussion about installing solar equipment on the roof at TWB. Kirt will contact his structural engineer to assess the building to come up with a proposal for that work as well.

Town House Building Committee: Al Vincent came in to meet with the board as he is interested in volunteering on the Town House Building Committee. Al has a background as an engineer and we will schedule a meeting to discuss issues affecting the building.

Memorial Day Parade: Art Booth and Don Talbot came before the board to talk about the Memorial Day Parade. As has been done in the past, this office will work in conjunction with the VFW to organize the parade. John mentioned that Ned Doyle would be a perfect choice as this year's speaker and Art said he would contact Ned. The new pastor at the Federated Church stopped in this office and would like to participate in the parade and will be invited by the board to do so.

Art mentioned that vendors working at the Federated Church will be notified that the need for silence is important as the flags are presented while passing by the church.

There was talk of the need for a sound system and John and Vinnie agreed to look into purchasing a system for Memorial Day and the Tree Lighting Event.

Highway Department: Dana Pixley submitted a request for a policy on the installation of roads by developers of a subdivision. There are now three homes that are occupied on Kibbe Lane and with the snow this season, Dana has been asked for snow removal services for those homes. The problem that exists is that the road is not in final form and is therefore difficult to plow in its condition. Dana would like a formal policy as to when roads must be paved to be inspected and ultimately voted as an approved road at town meeting. The board would like the Planning Board to review the policy request and make a determination on the need to pave, after getting the approval from our town engineers, Tighe and Bond as to its condition.

Fire Department: The board received a note from Chief Gorski requesting additional money originally omitted from an earlier request. The Chief has asked for money to replace the Scott Packs the firefighters wear and need an additional \$6k for an air refilling station to be upgraded. This information will be forwarded to the Advisory Board of Health. The warrant will need to be revised to reflect this as well.

Charter Agreement: The board is waiting for final approval from Town Counsel before signing the agreement with Charter.

Correspondence: Reviewed without comment.

NOTE: The board would like to meet with the Police Station Study Committee at our next meeting on March 17th.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc