

Approved 3/31/14

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

March 17, 2014  
6:30 pm

625 Main Street  
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Norman Charest, Vincent J. Villamaino

Guests: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Larry and Ginny Blake, Paul Bechard

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by John Flynn.

Police Department Planning Committee: Rick Green, Doug Boyd, Jeff Farnsworth and Gary Weiner came before the board to discuss their progress on the proposed new Police Station. They have been working on different funding scenarios with Eastern Bank and Rick will forward that information to this office via email. They are looking at a 30 year note to dovetail the expense into our debt schedule. They are looking into bond anticipation notes.

There is a question on the warrant for ATM on April 28 and there will be a ballot question as well. Everyone understands that it make take more than one time to get this approved at town meeting.

The board explained that with finances being what they are now may make the move difficult, but everyone understands the very real need for a new station. Rick mentioned that this might be a good time to get good construction numbers given the current climate. They may go with modular construction as it could be 25% lower than stick built construction. The property they are working on is town owned property next to the Senior Center. Gary Weiner offered that the well at the Senior Center is strong enough to service the police station, but that a new septic system would have to be installed for the new construction. John wondered if we might consider building one system to handle both the Senior Center and the Police Station given the current age of the Senior Center (11 year's old).

They anticipate the cost of the building will be 3 million, plus site development costs and a 7% contingency fund for overages. There is also thought being given to adding showers with a separate outside entrance for firefighters and those people using the senior center for shelter. The building is approximately 7400 SF, and John asked about utility costs for the building. There is no way to know that at this point. The square footage includes a secure evidence and storage area. The group was asked about building up or building a basement, but Gary explained that the water table is too high and that fill will have to be brought in. They were asked about environmental issues and there may be an issue with wetlands and the required buffer but that will be determined during the planning process.

The committee will have a powerpoint presentation for the Annual Town Meeting, and Doug has presented the idea to Advisory about the project. There was also discussion about the possibility of regional dispatching but Jeff does not feel that this development will hurt or hinder that process. The next meeting on regional dispatch will be on Friday. Vinnie expressed a desire to go.

BOS 140317

Federated Church: Bruce Libby, Mark Casey, and Matt Fisher came before the board to discuss the condition of the water both in the church and in the rectory. Their water quality has been tested and after discussion with our town engineers, Tighe and Bond, there were two possibilities for remediation. One is to drill a well, but all drillers would not guarantee the well-being “closed” from any further salt infiltration. Tighe and Bond investigated that approach. They also suggested a solution called a Reverse Osmosis system. The system acts to purify the water and as John suggested, many homes in Hampden have different filtration systems in place due to the conditions of their well. The topic of the daycare being in place at the church was brought up and we will need to investigate the water usage at the church. The rectory now has 2 people living in it. The volume for the system is minimal now, but we would have to install a dry well. The church will have a usage rate higher than the parsonage.

Bruce Libby asked about drilling another well, but there is a problem with the plume. Mark Casey stated that the annual maintenance for the Reverse Osmosis system would be expensive. Mark talked with Dana Pixley who suggested that they might be able to drill a well further down than the plume and Mark would like to talk with a couple of drillers. The question was asked about the size of the RO system. That question will be asked of Tom Couture from Tighe and Bond. John suggested that we investigate the location of the neighbors’ wells and septic systems.

Larry and Ginny Blake wanted to ensure that their water continues to be checked on some sort of schedule. The board assured them that a schedule would be held and they will be notified of such. We will check with Tom Couture from Tighe and Bond as to how often testing should be done.

The names of the drillers that have already been contacted will be forwarded to Mark Casey for his reference.

Charter Cable Agreement: After town counsel reviewed the agreement and suggested a few revisions, the board reviewed. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to vote to sign the ten year Charter Cable agreement, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Senior Center: Becky Moriarty sent a request to the board requesting a one day liquor permit for the volunteer dinner they have at the Senior Center. The event will be held on April 8 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and beer and wine will be served. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the request and issue a one day permit for April 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes: The minutes for the following meetings were reviewed:

February 10, 2014, February 24, 2014, March 3, 2014 and March 10, 2014

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the minutes of February 10, 2014 as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the minutes of February 24, 2014 as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the minutes of March 3, 2014 as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Norm Charest abstained from the vote as he had not attended the meeting.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the minutes of March 10, 2014 as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Appeal Filed: Complaint filed by Hampden Country Club against ZBA re: Planning Board's HCC decision. So noted.

McNamara Policy Question: Mick Garrold from MIIA met with John Flynn about the McNamara coverage which is state mandated coverage for all firefighters. Mick will get answers to questions asked by John and get back to him.

Planning Board: The board had asked that Rick Green submit a letter of interest to them prior to their appointing Rick to the position vacancy due to James Quackenbush' resignation. The board voted at their last meeting to appointing Rick to this position, contingent upon receipt of letter of interest.

Electric Aggregation Plan: The board would like to review the agreement that Hampden will enter into to ensure residents have the right to opt out of the program at any time should the rates not be what is anticipated.

HWRSD: Marty O'Shea sent an email request of our legislators requesting assistance with the Chapter 70 money the district receives, hoping for an increase in the amount we receive.

Bulletin from DOR re: Energy PILOTs and CPA funds. Reviewed without comment.

Remote IT Director Program: Not reviewed.

Request for fundraiser to be held at Senior Center for Minnechaug Band: Needs to be addressed.

Highway Reimbursement Form: The State contract for signature will be forwarded via email and then with hard copy to follow. Once filed, the reimbursement process will be started. Kudo's to Dana Pixley for his work in keeping records on the storm activity and persistence in trying to collect this reimbursement. Thanks too to Representative Brian Ashe for his assistance in the matter.

School Budget: Reviewed without comment.

Fire Department: The board discussed how the air packs for the Fire Department would be funded out of stabilization.

Park and Recreation: P&R have 2 warrant articles, one of which they will seek funding from CPA.

Stormwater Report Proposal: The board agreed to proceed with the stormwater proposal.

Request: There was a verbal request from Erin Ruindress asking if the Senior Center could be used as a location for a fundraiser for TWB. The board suggested that TWB and Erin seek another venue, such as La Cucina or McLadden's Pub.

Community Preservation Act: Resident, Lynne Wallace submitted a letter to the board requesting that a warrant article be put on the ATM warrant to discontinue the CPA. Lynne was told that the appropriate way to go about this is to submit a question with the signatures of ten voting residents and the article would be placed on the warrant. The board is awaiting that paperwork.

Advisory Committee: Norman Charest spoke with Doug Boyd from the Advisory Committee regarding some salary calculations that were incorrect for staff members in the Assessor's Office.

Personnel Committee: The board has asked that the Personnel Committee review the vacation schedules as they currently exist for employees. They now work on a fiscal calendar and not on annual calendar.

Paul Bechard: Resident from Wilbraham Road came in to discuss the ongoing issue with the Hampden Country Club and asking how they might come to a resolution. Mr. Bechard stated that "they" (meaning residents) don't want to go to court, and would prefer to settle this amicably with the Planning Board.

The Planning Board is seeking some direction as to how to proceed with the court case, and will need direction from town counsel.

The residents tried to talk with Planning Board, as they would like to seek remediation.

601 Main Street: Jeanne Broderick from 601 Main Street came before the board with her engineer, Paul Huijing and asked about allowing our town engineer, Tom Couture to talk with Paul Huijing or whomever to further explain the purpose of the testing of the pipe racks. The board agreed that they would allow Tom Couture to speak with Paul and answer his questions. Jeanne told the board that she asked about homeowners insurance, and was told that the insurance will not cover her problem.

There was further discussion with the board and talk of adding an article to the warrant to address the funding for further remediation. John suggested using the language that was used last year.

Town Hall Renovation: John talked about the tour of the town house that was done with John, Betty Howarth and Al Vincent. The suggestion that came up was that an analysis should be done by a private consultant. The floors, bathrooms and front doors as well as library windows need attention.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant  
/pbc