

Approved 5/12/14

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

May 5, 2014  
6:30 pm

625 Main Street  
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Norman Charest, Vincent J. Villamaino  
Guest: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times  
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by John D. Flynn.

Minnechaug Solar, LLC: Kirt Mayland, representative for the solar company came before the board to finalize and sign the contract with the town. The topic was presented at Annual Town Meeting and the town voted to approve the agreement.

Given that, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino that the Board of Selectmen, acting on behalf of the Town, execute the Tax Agreement for Personal Property between the town and Minnechaug Solar, LLC in the form in which it was presented to and approved by the voters at the annual town meeting on April 28, 2014 and that a majority of the members of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Town, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission: Joshua Garcia from the PVPC came before the board to discuss the possibility of the town sharing a Public Health Nurse with other communities. Jane Budynkiewicz, Board of Health Coordinator was also in attendance. Joshua explained the program, and that eight communities could participate through a grant program. The grant request is for \$110,000 and would be shared dependent upon the needs assessment that would be done. The assessment would look at pregnancy issues, alcohol abuse, obesity, drug abuse, and any other possible needs of the community. Once those needs were assessed, the PVPC would set up clinics to educate residents on particular subjects. At this point, the nurse who currently works in Ludlow could work for Hampden on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There will be a stipend from the grant to pay for the nurse. Once the grant funding ends, the town would be assessed a cost, but the town could opt out of the program at any time. Jane asked about what the nurse would really do; and if she would handle the confidential contacts that Jane currently needs to do when there is a communicable disease notice sent from the State. The coordinator then must make confidential phone calls to affected people. During that time, her office must be shut down and locked so none of the information is shared by anyone. This takes an enormous amount of time and creates problems for Jane in serving the many other residents coming to the Board of Health office for the myriad other reasons.

Norman asked about the work load, stating that with grants there is an increased work load for people and he wants to make sure Jane's work load would not be increased with this program. Joshua assured the board that he would be in charge of the grant management and there is a

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group currently working with the PVPC now through March 2015. The nurse would report directly to Joshua so there should be no additional work for the Coordinator's position. The education coordinator would set up the clinics. Jane was encouraged to speak with the nurse from Ludlow, who would be working with Hampden to get answers to her questions. The board will speak with Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent and Jane Budynkiewicz before making any decisions about this program. The board members thanked Joshua for his presentation and will make a decision in the near future.

Main Street Residents: Jim Richter from 561 Main Street, Susan Traniello from 575 Main Street and Mitch Drozdowski from 556 Main Street came before the board to discuss the level of salt in their water and determine the town's position. Susan, who had voiced a concern at town meeting, talked of her admission to the hospital in November of 2012 with high blood pressure which was unexplained. She felt as though the town should have sent notices to Main Street residents explaining the salt concern and been more proactive. John Flynn explained that the town relied on our Town Engineer, Tighe and Bond to guide the town in its range of testing wells. As the numbers decreased from 601 Main towards town, it was not deemed necessary to test further. Susan had contacted this office when she was alerted to the neighbor's concerns and requested information from the town. At that point, a water sampling was taken, preliminary results were delivered, but due to an oversight, the final report was never sent to Susan. The sodium numbers were low, 24 mg/liter versus 670 mg/liter at 601 Main Street. John and Vinnie remarked that they understood her position, but asked that she consider the board's position as well. Susan will get a sampling done of her own accord.

Jim Richter who has done his own water testing at 561 Main Street for years and was concerned about the sodium level. The board explained that the State uses 20 as a benchmark for public water supplies, but has no level not to exceed for private well. The board members also explained that given our geographic location in Hampden, many of the residents' wells have filter for a variety of reasons and that is something many of us have to deal with. Jim talked about the water coming down the hill; how his driveway was designed to keep water from pooling and that water runs down Main Street into his driveway now. He asked that the board have the Highway Superintendent rectify the situation. Vinnie said he would speak with Dana about putting a small lip on the apron to prevent the water from running into the driveway. Jim was satisfied with that and understood the vast difference between his sodium numbers and others affected by sodium.

Mitch Drozdowski from 556 Main Street remarked that his water test results showed a sodium level of 19. He also stated that his wife Mary has high blood pressure and the water was a concern to them as well. After hearing the explanation from the board regarding the levels and the state's benchmark, he was much more comfortable with the levels at his house. John pointed out to everyone that the level of sodium in people's everyday diets are so elevated that even a can of soup may contain 2260 mg of sodium. Given some of those numbers, one would have to consume approximately 25 gallons of water to equal the same sodium intake as in one can of soup.

Diesel Fuel Contract: The board reviewed the results from the bid process that Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative conducts for diesel fuel. The bid was awarded to F.L. Roberts,

from Springfield, MA. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to award and sign the contract with F.L. Roberts for our fuel supply, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of April 15 and April 22. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve both sets of minutes as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Fire Department Parking Lot Bid Recommendation: Dana Pixley submitted his recommendation for the parking lot paving contract. The bids were as follows:

- Alton Gleason                      \$35,300.00
- OJS Landscape Excavation    \$55,036.12
- JL Construction Corp.         \$59,800.00
- Precise Paving Inc.             \$61,500.00
- ACME site Work                 \$62,000.00
- FEB Companies                  \$67,500.00
- Palmer Paving Corp.          \$73,000.00

Based on the recommendation and the low bid, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to award the bid to pave the Fire House parking lot to Alton Gleason Co. Inc. in the amount of \$35,300.00 seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Insurance Quotes: The town requested bids for our property and liability coverage for fiscal year 2015. Two companies, MIA and Berry Insurance submitted bids and the board will ask that Rick Green, former selectman review the bids before an award is given.

AmeriGas Propane Tank Proposal for Generator: Lance would like the installation to be reviewed by an engineer prior to installation. John will contact Robert Hall to see if someone is available to meet with Ed Poulin at the Highway Garage. The board asked if this cost was part of the original estimate for the generator and installation. Ed Poulin will be contacted for an answer.

Letter from Building Inspector: The board reviewed a copy of a letter sent to Dorothy Simonds, part of the so called, “Berm Committee” explaining his part of the process for a cease and desist issued against the Hampden Country Club.

Bulk Day Results: The spring bulk day was held on Saturday and 20 residents took advantage of the opportunity to get rid of bulk items.

Memorial Park Improvements: Vinnie had asked Dana Pixley to view and provide an estimate for work that Park and Rec want done at Memorial Park. Dana submitted an estimate for a batting cage. John explained that the infrastructure bond money approved by the town cannot be used for the Parks. Park and Rec will have to find a way to fund these improvements.

GASB45 Report: The board reviewed a proposal for the reporting of GASB45 which is mandated by the state. The report compiles information on the health plans offered to retirees as well as active employees and the cost exposure to the town. After a review, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the proposal submitted by USI Consulting Group in the amount of \$3,900, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Correspondence to Resident: John would like the letter revised to reflect that the Board of Selectmen has no authority over the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals.

Kibbe Lane: Vinnie will speak with developer, Ed Speight about the need to pave Kibbe Lane prior to the coming winter as the town equipment may be damaged given the condition of the existing road. Vinnie will then contact John Matthews as well.

Federated Church: The board has not heard back from the church regarding the water agreement drafted by Town Counsel, Dave Martel. An email will be sent to Matt Fisher asking for the status of the agreement.

Trash Hauling Services: The board reviewed a proposal from Republic Services, (formerly Allied Waste Company), and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve a one year contract with Republic, for the trash hauling services for the town, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Mass Audubon: A request was received from the Mass Audubon Group asking for access from Green Meadows property to property owned by them at the rear of the school property. John asked for a motion to allow access by Mass Audubon through town property; so moved by Vinnie Villamaino, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Transfer Station: Jane reminded the board of repairs that are needed at the transfer station. John will order steel for delivery and Dana Pixley will take care of the repairs to the decking near the compactors.

Sidewalk: The quote will be reviewed for the sidewalk replacement at the front of the town house.

Town House Auditorium: John met with a company last week to allow sampling for asbestos in the auditorium floor. The results should be in on Friday.

Library/hallway floor: These floors need repair as well.

Kibbe Lane: Vinnie will talk with developer Ed Speight, developer of Kibbe Lane and the Planning Department to work on a schedule for paving of the street prior to the next winter. This work must be done so Highway equipment does not get damaged during winter maintenance.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc