

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

MINUTES

July 21, 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 6:30 pm by John D. Flynn

Town Building Maintenance: Connie Witt, came before the board to discuss concerns about the conditions of town buildings to ensure they were being properly monitored for maintenance and repair issues. She brought up the use of a window air conditioner in the children's library and asked why it was being used after we had installed a new unit for both sides of the library a few years ago. The board asked that Pam Courtney investigate to find out why. Connie mentioned the gutters on this building and the need for them to be checked on a regular basis. She suggested that a committee be established to review town buildings on a regular basis to ensure maintenance is being done on a timely basis.

John remarked that we have talked with Paul Hujing, a professional engineer to help us with the wet conditions at Academy Hall. Connie has concerns about the sealing between the concrete foundation and the sidewalk slabs. There is also bittersweet growing at the foundation which needs to be killed before it spreads.

We will bring these issues to Paul's attention when we do a site visit.

John asked that Tyler Witkop put a notice in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times to alert residents to the need for a Buildings Committee.

Connie mentioned that there were cutting remains on the property at Academy Hall and the police will be asked to contact Highway to have the debris cleaned up.

Fire Chief: Chief Gorski came before the board with a new applicant, Connor Courtney. Connor has been through the vetting process, and Mike would like to appoint him as a provisional firefighter. A motion was made by Norman Charest that based on Chief Gorski's recommendation, that Connor Courtney be appointed has a provisionary firefighter for a one year term, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

List of Appointments: The board reviewed the list of appointments recommended by Chief Gorski, and a motion was made by Norman Charest to endorse those recommendations, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The appointments are as follows: Ed Poulin as 2nd Deputy Chief, Mark Barba as 1st Lieutenant, Matt Sterling as 2nd Lieutenant, Pat Farrow as 1st Captain, Scott Rumprik as 2nd Captain.

HWRSD Information:

Marty O'Shea and Beth Regulbuto came before the board to propose moving forward with improvements to TWB, which are in the ballpark of 2 million dollars for new windows and a new roof, some of which would be reimbursed through the MSBA. The board discussed and based on the debt schedule for the town now, none of the board members thought it prudent to agree to burden the taxpayers more by borrowing money for improvements. John will let the School Committee know that we are not opposed to the improvements forever, but we will reevaluate improvements from year to year.

Lease Extension for Minnechaug Regional High School: The District would like to extend the current lease for an additional year with no changes. A motion was made by Norm Charest to sign a one year extension, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

John would like the Police Department Building Committee to review all town buildings before starting construction at the proposed site next to the Senior Center. There has been information from the Superintendent, Marty O'Shea about the possibility of closing TWB due to a decline in population. John wants to ensure that every possibility is explored before breaking ground at a new location.

HWRSD School Committee: A request has been made by the HWRSD School Committee to change the effective date of newly appointed members being elected. The board will find out the reasons for the request and act on it them. We will ask that School Committee members give background on why the need for July 1 appointment.

Police Chief: The Chief has asked that the board sign this Mutual Aid Agreement that the rest of the municipalities are signing. The board would like to see the MGL 40, S8G put to a vote at STM in the fall. They will sign agreement contingent upon voter's approval.

Vote the Chair Lift Project: The board would like Vinnie to speak with our contact at 101 Mobility about a final number for the lift. Once done, this office will verify references and report back to the board. The order will then be placed for manufacturing of the lift.

One Day Special Permit: The Senior Center requested a one day permit to serve beer and margaritas for an event on . A motion as made by Norm Charest to approve the permit, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Meeting Minutes: The board reviewed minutes from June 16 and July 8. After amendments to minutes of the 8th, a motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Norm Charest, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Tax Abatement Program: The board reviewed the final program provided by the Personnel Committee and a motion was made by Norm Charest to approve as presented, subject to approved positions being available, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Architect's Agreement for Police Station Building: The board will hold on signing this until they speak again with the Police Department Building Committee.

McNaughton Agreement: The board is hoping to get this signed as soon as possible and will contact Paul McNaughton about doing so.

Resident Complaint: Eric Foisey from Raymond Drive came before the board with Joanne Soares to discuss the ongoing issues that neighbors have to deal with relative to Nick Stenta, residing at 70 Raymond Drive. Nick's grandparents owned the home that he currently occupies and Nick lives there with a woman and his child. The neighbors would like to find a way to resolve the issues, such as noise, fighting, debris in the yard, etc. John asked that Norm check in with Lorri McCool to see if the Board of Health might be an avenue to pursue. Norm will speak with the Police Chief to see what exactly has gone on at that residence and how they might proceed to resolve it.

10) Correspondence:

- EAP Services: Berry Insurance now handles this as part of our total package.
- Letter to Allegrezza re: Barba's kennel: Dave Martel wrote to Mr. Allegrezza stating that this issue is a civil case and neither the board nor the Police have any business being involved.
- MIIA handling Markham case: The discrimination case brought by Fred Markham is being handled by MIIA, our former insurance provider.
- Petition for Special Permit
- Receipt of 565 Energy Efficient Bulbs
- Vacation Request: Pam Courtney requested vacation time from August 4th until the 7th. It was approved by the board.

Board of Health: Mike Cimmino's Greenhouse was the topic of discussion. The board will ask that Lorri write a letter to Mike Cimmino telling him that upon further examination that he will be required to install a septic system before going any further with development at the site. He will be given a 2 week timeframe in which to get the work started.

Floor Replacement: The work to replace the floor in the auditorium will be done the week of the 11th with the library hallway being done shortly thereafter.

Meeting: The board would like to schedule a joint meeting with the Planning Board to ask Rick Green to continue the term vacated by Charlie Dolben and ask that Neil be the Alternate for the board. We will try to schedule that for the August 4th meeting.

Comcast/Charter Cable: The board will hold a public hearing to get input on the possible transfer from Charter Cable to Comcast.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norm Charest to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc