

Approved 12/29/14

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

December 8, 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 Flynn.

Tax Classification Hearing: The Board of Assessors (Stan Witkop, Bob Makuch and Carolyn Reed) came before the board to hold the annual tax hearing. There was a recommendation made by the Assessor's that a single tax rate be held for all classes as has been past practice. Carolyn explained that the values have been certified by the state and that the total full and fair cash values of all classes, residential, open space, commercial, industrial, personal property is \$548,903,070, up from 2014 total of \$545,146,154. Based on this number, the tax rate comes in at \$18.98.

John mentioned that even with a 4% jump for infrastructure improvements the rate has been held at a decent level.

A motion was made by John Flynn to keep the taxes at a single tax rate, as is past practice, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by John Flynn to not adopt the residential exemption for seasonal/vacation homes, as is past practice, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by John Flynn to not adopt the commercial exemption, as is past practice, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

There was some discussion about the Hampden Country Club and the improvements that have been made there. The response from the Assessor's was that the values have basically been a wash, with the building that had been there, that has now been razed and the new structure that is up. On January 1, 2015, the Assessors will visit the property for an assessment then.

Minutes: The minutes of November 24, 2014 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.

Planning Board: The board reviewed the decision made by the board for the Special Permit use for the Hampden Country Club.

BOS 141208

Police Department: The board reviewed the notice from the Chief that Officer Ben Tucker will be leaving our department and joining South Hadley's department. The Chief had mentioned this possibility previously and discussed with the board the plan to hire Nichole Gura as soon as possible to get her into the Academy. The next class she can attend is in February. The Chief has requested a letter of appointment for her enrollment in the class. The board will send a note to the Chief directing him to proceed with the enrollment process; as a letter of appointment will be forthcoming.

Cell Tower Buy Out Offers: The board discussed one offer to negotiate with the current owner of the cell tower as well as another offer for a buy out now from Unison. It was suggested that Vinnie will get in touch with Bill Pepin, owner of Channel 22 and get his advice on moving forward.

Federated Church Water Issue: John stated that he is waiting to hear back from board member, Jack Germaine on next steps to rectify the water issue at the church.

PVTA Advisory By-Law: The PVTA has requested that Hampden appoint an ADA representative to the board. Vinnie Villamaino has volunteered to become the town appointee to the board. We need to find someone willing to act as the ADA appointee.

Reimbursement Procedure: The board will forward a note to the Police Chief advising him of the proper procedures when seeking reimbursements of expenses. The receipts are to be attached to a payroll voucher as done by all other employees.

A motion was made by Norm Charest to go into Executive Session at 6:40 pm for the purpose of contract negotiations with the Dispatcher's without return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Norm Charest yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc