

Approved 2/23/15

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

January 12, 2015
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Norman Charest, Vincent J. Villamaino
Vinnie Villamaino was not in town to attend the meeting.
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by John D. Flynn.

Budget Review with Chief Gorski: Chief Gorski came before the board with his 2016 budget. The first line items are salary numbers and the Chief takes no salary for the position. Most of the budget remains the same as last year's, with a slight increase in operations and an annual cost for the radio service agreement.

The board praised him for keeping his budget in line and for the job the department does. They then asked about future needs for the department.

The radio service agreement is actually \$540/mo and not \$540 for the year.

The board then asked about the warranty agreement and who will warranty the product once the Police Station is built on Allen Street. Mike suggested that Chief Farnsworth be asked that question.

The subject of training was discussed and Mike stated that training is well attended and if funding is left at year end, it would go back to the general fund. If additional staff is added, there may be the need for additional funds for training.

The staffing level was discussed and Mike said they are currently staffed at 28 or so firefighters which he thinks is a perfect number. The department would function at 40 members, but the Chief thinks that number is too high.

There was discussion of the call response during the day and Mike responded that it is fairly consistent. There are those members who work in town the majority of the time, and those are the members who respond. During the nights and weekends, the response pattern is different. Mike did state that 70% of the calls came in between 8:00 and 5:00. We do rely on mutual aid during the day and receive excellent responses from surrounding towns.

Mike did say that mutual aid has come in from Ludlow, Somers and Stafford.

He was asked about the dry hydrants and noted that there is one more due to be installed, (outside of the one being installed by the HCC) and he thinks he can do that within his current budget.

John acknowledged that the department does all that it can to take care of the equipment. The new Scott packs were discussed and Mike talked about the streamlined design and the ease with which the new ones can be used.

John asked the Chief about the need for a new truck and he responded that he would like to replace the 1974 tanker with a new vehicle in 2017. The cost would be approximately \$400,000

and a new truck would fit in the space where the tanker is housed now. We will check with the town treasurer for the debt schedule for the newest truck.

There was also discussion about the possibility of adding \$5,000 into the equipment line for the coming year. Mike did mention that the department may look for \$5,000-\$8,000 at the fall town meeting for lights for engine one. The spot lights on the front of the truck were inadvertently overlooked and Mike feels that they are a necessary piece of equipment.

In addition, Mike would like to get the next SUV taken out of rotation by the Police Department so Fire could use it as a dedicated medical vehicle. Given that there is not much of a value to a trade-in the board seems okay with that idea.

John would like the building committee to weigh in on moving the fire call center to the new Police Station once built, to ensure for a smooth transition.

Minutes of December 18th and January 5th: The minutes of January 5th were reviewed and a motion was made by Norm Charest to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The minutes of December 18th were held for review when Vinnie Villamaino is back in town.

Chief's Vacation Time: Chief Farnsworth requested holding over some of his vacation days as allowed in his contract. The request was so noted by the board.

Notice for Nichole Gura: The board noted that Nichole Gura is now scheduled for the Academy.

Country Club Litigation Update: The board reviewed the summary provided by Dave Martel which details the appeal taken by the Bechard's on the Planning Board's decision.

Warrant Article Request: The board reviewed the articles requested by Highway Superintendent, Dana Pixley for our annual town meeting. They will discuss with him when discussing his budget on January 20th at 6:00 pm

Inspections Report: Highway Superintendent submitted his list of inspections for the year ending 2014.

Memo regarding sidewalks: The highway Superintendent sent a memo to the board regarding the maintenance of the new sidewalks in the front of the Town House.

Kennedy Septic System: Property owner of 546-548, Ed Kennedy was directed by the Board of Health to install a tank by January 9th to satisfy the requirements set forth by the board of Health Agent. In response, Attorney Jim McEwan, sent an email to the board suggesting that the board's timeframe was unreasonable. The board decided that Norm should contact Dave Martel to send a letter to Attorney McEwan and Ed Kennedy with a final tank installation date.

Planning Board Minutes: The minutes were reviewed without comment.

Correspondence

Land donation to town: Property owner on Fernwood Drive sent a letter to John Flynn offering to donate her land to the town. There are 27 acres; 26 of which are wetlands. The board appreciates the offer, but has no use for the property.

Veterans' Service Agent: The board received a letter from a resident who is currently seeking a position as a Veterans' Service Agent. At this time, the veterans of Hampden are served by John Comerford who works as a district agent for a number of towns.

Sr. Tax Work Off Exemption Number: The board discussed this and arrived at a total of five positions.

Police Chief: The board wants to know how many self-initiated calls are made by the Police Department, and how many the department responds to.

Kennedy Property at 546-548 Main Street: Norm will call Dave Martel to draft a letter to Kennedy and Attorney McEwan with a drop dead date for the final septic installation work to be done.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc