

Approved 2/9/15

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

January 20, 2015
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by John D. Flynn.

Guest: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Budget Review: Highway superintendent, Dana Pixley came before the board for the annual budget review for the highway department. The board started the discussion with the winter storm costs and Dana explained that the majority of the snow and ice account has been used for salt, as the snowfall has not been like some year's past, but the roads have needed a lot of salting. The tree warden expense line has gone up as Dana will request the use of an alpine truck for two additional days in the coming year to take down unsafe and hazardous trees.

Highway maintenance has gone up minimally as has public grounds. Highway maintenance has gone up additionally to accommodate ten days of labor that had not been carried in the highway budget. It had previously been paid through State Aid funds. Highway paving has stayed level funded.

Catch basin cleaning and street sweeping have gone up as costs have increased. Road machinery maintenance has increased and building utilities have remained level from last year.

In total the budget went up by \$29,922 due to a 3% salary increase, tree warden's account and road machinery maintenance.

There are currently 2 more years to pay on the newest truck.

Wish list for 2016:

Loader and/or dump truck: Dana's preference and greatest need is the truck. The cost would be \$200k or so.

The loader may be looked at again in the fall.

Wilbraham Road: Dana discussed the needs for repair of Wilbraham Road once the Hampden Country Club has completed their work. There should be a full road reclamation (might be \$450k), pipes need to be replaced, with all necessary draining the project could run up to a million dollars.

Dana mentioned meeting in March with the board to review upcoming road projects and mentioned that Fernwood Drive continues to have drainage issues. There are currently three outlets for drainage and they are in the wetlands. There are trees to be removed and it is a considerable project.

BOS 150120

Bennett Road will be added to list for completion as the necessary easement is in process now; and Mountain Road needs additional work as well.

Dana mentioned a drainage problem on Somers Road with the installation of the solar farm. There is a stream that due to earth removal is now running down Somers Road, and going so far as to the homes behind Martin Farms Road. John sent a message to the solar company in charge of the installation and asked that they contact Dana directly to discuss his concerns.

Personnel Committee Vacancy: The board met with Susanne Simon, town resident who has a 30 year career in the human resource community. The board should be a five member board, with staggering terms. A motion was made by Norman Charest to appoint Susanne Simon to the Personnel Board for a two year term to expire on June 30, 2017, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Pioneer Valley Transportation Authority: The board met with Jeanne Liddy, new resident in town who would like to volunteer for the vacant position as our PVTA Representative. The board discussed the position with her; told her that there are monthly meetings to attend and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Jeanne Liddy as the PVTA Representative, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Department of Public Utilities: The board discussed the solar host agreement that is in process on Somers Road and discussed the need for the chair to sign the application so the town may get a DPU number. A motion was made by Norman Charest to authorize Chairman John Flynn to sign for the town for a DPU numbers, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Massachusetts Gaming Commission Community Mitigation Fund Application: The Gaming Commission sent an application to communities offering mitigation funds for those affected by the pending casino construction. John Flynn agreed to complete the application for submission by February 2, 2016.

Unregistered Vehicle Permit Applications: Two residents applied to have an additional unregistered car on their property; as one is currently allowed in our bylaws. The board reviewed the application from Anthony Fantone of Evergreen Terrace. The board discussed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to not grant the permit and to send a letter of notice to Mr. Fantone giving him a deadline to remove one of the cars, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The other application came from Thomas Dufresne, Jr. of Somers Road. The board discussed the application and a motion was made by Norman Charest to deny the permit and to send a letter of notice to Mr. Defense giving him a deadline to remove one of the cars, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of December 17, 2015: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Norm Charest to approve as presented, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Board of Health: Jane Budynkiewicz, BOH coordinator secured a grant from the state for \$750.00. As chairman of the Board of Health, Norm Charest signed the acceptance form.

Technical Service Support Agreement: The board reviewed the agreement that Chief Farnsworth submitted for the technical service for all defibrillators in town. The board asked that the Chief do a comparison with other communities to ensure the town is getting the best deal possible.

Solar Project Proposal for site in Palmer: The board has been contacted by a new solar company asking if we would like to purchase net metered credits from the installation in Palmer ready to go online now. The information has been forwarded to Dave Hayward, town resident for his review. John also asked that we invite the attorney we have available to us through a grant be asked about the deal. That information will be forwarded to Beth Greenblatt as well.

Unison Cell Tower Proposal: The board has received a number of proposals for one time payments for the cell tower located at the Transfer Station. Vinnie will contact resident Bill Pepin again to ask his advice on the proposals.

Building Inspector Certification Information: The board received information from the state relative to the application for Building Inspector made by Wendel Hulbert. He has been accepted as an applicant for the position and must apply for testing by May 31, 2015.

Letter of Appreciation: The board sent a letter thanking Marty McQuade for his years of service while being a park commissioner for the town.

Valentine's Day Dance: Becky Moriarty, Sr. Center Director requested a one day wine permit for February 14, 2015. A motion was made by Norman Charest to grant a one day permit to the Senior Center to serve wine from 5:00 to 10:00 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Sr. Tax Work Off Abatement Program: The board discussed the number of positions they would allow in town. A definitive number was not determined.

Bennett Road Update: The board is awaiting a survey of the easement area.

Kennedy Property Update: Dave Martel suggested that the board get an idea of what a reasonable time frame to get the tank installation done in order to right a demand letter to Ed Kennedy at 546-548 Main Street. Once done, a letter will be drafted to Ed Kennedy/Attorney McEwan with a final date for installation.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norm Charest to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant