

Approved 4/21/15

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

March 23, 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 by John Flynn at 6:00 pm.
Norm Charest was attending an Assessor's meeting and was not available.

Cell Tower Discussion: The board invited property owner Bill Pepin to come in to discuss the value of the cell tower located at the transfer station on Cross Road. Bill has experience given his ownership of Channel 22 in Springfield. There was a general discussion and Bill did think that the current rent received is low. He suggested that the board contact Jim Rossi from Wilbraham as he has some experience with this.

Police Department Building Committee: Gary Weiner, Don Collins, John Shay, Chief Farnsworth, Rick Green and Phil Schneider came before the board to explain the status of the project is and what happened with the first bid opening. The group met with the bidders and discovered that the bids were much higher than expected, in some part due to the site work being overinflated; due to modular construction contractors having little experience contracting site work. As a result the board and the committee agreed that the site work should be bid outside of the building bid. In addition, the roof was not what the committee wanted; they want a modest pitched roof. New information has gone to the Central Register with a new bid opening date of April 16th at 10:00 am. One company suggested that the bid will come in where expected, another suggested that it will come in lower than projected. The building has been downsized and the sally port has been changed a bit so the entire building is modular. Resident, Vinnie Mandolini has proposed an article for the ATM warrant requesting a delay in the construction of the building until the issue of the middle school debate has been resolved. John asked if the group would meet with Vinnie Mandolini prior to town meeting. Rick suggested that this is the path that this group has been on; that dates haven't changed as a result of the article brought forth by Mr. Mandolini. The same day that the original bids came in, the bidders were contacted to determine where things went awry. It appears that the site work is the main reason for the high bids. More modular building contractors are interested in the project now that the site work has been taken out of the project. Emails were sent to anyone who had requested information originally, notifying them of the change to the project. April 16th is the new bid deadline. John asked that the group meet with residents and Rick responded that they have a time scheduled on April 1st at the Senior Center. The group had looked at other locations prior to settling on the Allen Street location. John would like them to meet with others to discuss the issues before ATM.

BOS 150330

Community Garden: Don Collins asked for time to discuss the water issue at the community gardens established at Green Meadows School. The well exploration has not worked out well. They located the existing well inside the school and have talked with a driller about a new well that could cost up to \$6300. The board is fine with the group proceeding and Don explained that they will be going before Community Preservation Commission to seek funding from them.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino at 7:10 pm to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues with Chief Farnsworth with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

With no further issues, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 7:20 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

Norman Charest arrived at the meeting.

Regional Dispatching: The preliminary results of the regional dispatch study came back, showing an estimated savings of \$166,000 for Hampden per year. Right now the location is looking likely for Longmeadow and the community where it is located will be responsible for the staffing of the dispatchers. The question was asked why we would save so much money. Jeff's response was that we would get incentive money and if pooled with other communities, we all benefit. Currently we spend 263k for dispatch, and Jeff thinks we would reduce that cost by approximately \$166k a year with regional dispatching. Five towns would be involved and the staff would fluctuate at 4, 5 or 6. The participating towns are Hampden, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Ludlow and Wilbraham. They are looking at a 4,500 to 5,000 square foot building. If we located dispatch at the new police station location we would encroach on the wetlands.

State Contract Signing: The state has allotted additional money for winter road repairs as they did last year. The commitment is for \$38,461.

Board of Health: Lorri McCool visited the Bagel Nook and gave the owners one to two weeks to get a certified water operator in to complete the required water testing.

Letter from Highway Superintendent: Dana Pixley sent a letter to the board asking if the board wanted his assistance in implementing drug and alcohol testing for all employees of the town. The board will respond that they are in process of contract negotiations with the Police Officers and Dispatchers about this issue.

Vacation Notice: Dana submitted a letter notifying the board of an upcoming vacation.

Hampden Housing Authority: The board is still looking for someone to serve on the HHA.

Personnel Committee: The board received a letter of resignation from longtime committee member Dick Ayers. The board appreciates his years of commitment to the community.

Historical Commission: The board received a letter of interest from Will D'Angelo who wants to volunteer for the commission. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Will D'Angelo to the Historical Commission for a one year term, expiring June 30, 2016, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Community Mitigation Reserve: The board received a response to their submittal for possible funding. The town will have to reapply in 2016.

Bennett Road: Jay O'Brien has requested a plan showing plantings to replace the few trees that will have be felled for the drainage work to be completed. John will contact Gary Weiner to have a plan drawn.

Letter of thanks: The board received a letter from residents thanking the Police and Fire Departments for their excellent work.

Executive Session Minutes: The Executive Session Minutes of February 23, 2015 were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Health Insurance Question: A question was asked by an employee about eligibility requirements for retiree's health insurance. This will be researched.

Liquor License Transfer: The board will hold a hearing for the Mt. View license transfer on April 6, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Town House auditorium.

Revenue Projection from Town Accountant: The board reviewed the latest projection from Cliff Bombard; one that will be used for discussion at the Advisory Hearing on April 6th at 7:00 pm in the Town House auditorium.

Warrant Review: The board reviewed the warrant and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to close the warrant, accepting no additional warrant articles, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

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The Chief also mentioned an award that he would like to present at Annual Town Meeting.

Vinnie Villamaino would like to find out how the selectmen in East Longmeadow are able to get health insurance through the town.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc