

Approved 9/21/15

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

August 24, 2015
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino John D. Flynn, Norman Charest
The meeting was called to order by Vinnie Villamaino at 6:00 pm.

Solar Installation: Steve Andwood and partner Joe Pellegrino of Heliovaas came before the Board to discuss a solar energy facility that has been approved with a Special Permit by the Planning Board with the following conditions: 1) The Solar Energy Facility will be screened with a chain-link fence with slats to code at minimum height with arborvitaes to provide a site impervious screen maintained at no higher than 8 feet, 2) The Special Permit is subject to Conservation Commission approval, 3) The first 20 feet of driveway are to be constructed of pavement or concrete.

The board thanked the partners for coming to this meeting. At the public hearing a resident asked if the Board of Selectmen had reviewed this and if they knew how the town will benefit from this installation. Chairman, John Matthews stated that they would be required to meet with the selectmen prior to receiving a building permit.

The partners stated that a stormwater prevention plan is in place to document if a spill were to take place. The site will generate 65 kW versus the 3 mw generated on Somers Road. There will be a 25 foot buffer from the property line. If they want to develop the property to the rear, it would require a new application. The board asked if a decommissioning bond was required, and it was not as yet a part of the bylaw governing solar installations. If a site is developed under 65 kilowatts there is no need for an impact study.

Resident: Deb Johnson from Riverside Drive came before the board to discuss the drainage that runs from Academy Hall across the road and drains through a pipe that comes through her stone wall into the paddock area. She is getting a lot of water into the paddock and wondered if it might be repositioned somehow. The board will ask that Dana Pixley look into it and/or Fletcher Drain to make some improvements. She also mentioned a fence post that was knocked down while some work was being done over in that area near her home.

Land Donation: Sherry Himmelstein, from the Land Trust group came before the board to discuss the donation of land on Minnechaug Mountain being made by the Hayes family. The property has been reviewed by the Conservation Commission and there is a value to the town's acceptance of the land. It would allow access to land presently in land protection; it is the best use for habitat and allows a wider corridor of protected land. The property title has been reviewed by Town Counsel, Dave Martel who sees no issues. Given that, a motion was made by

Norm Charest to put this question to accept the property to the voters on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 26th, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

South Ridge Road: There have been various discussions regarding property owned by Russ Morton on South Ridge Road, and whether or not certain restrictions exist on the property.

Dog Officer: Shelley Sears, the Town's current dog officer requested a pay raise for the job. She is currently paid \$25.00 per day. The board discussed the request and the fact that Shelley has worked for the same rate for five years. Given that, a motion was made by John Flynn to increase her daily rate to \$30.00, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Energy Savings Program: Resident Jeff Grassetti came before the board to discuss an opportunity for the town to save money on utilities. Historical information has been provided to Jeff and he will get back in touch with the board with additional information.

Minutes: The minutes of July 6, 2015 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 July 13, 2015 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 July 27, 2015 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 August 3, 2015 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 Executive Session minutes of August 3, 2015 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 August 10, 2015 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.

601 Main Street Agreement: The board discussed the status of the agreement and will sign off when all the exhibits are in order.

NOTE: The Police Station Building Committee informed the board that bids have been received from the subcontractors for the new building.

Community Compact Application: There is a new program being offered statewide for communities to come together for a common cause. This will be discussed further at the Regional Selectmen's Meeting.

VFW Fall Turkey Shoot: The Commander of the VFW, Glenn Trevallion sent a letter to the board requesting approval of the fall Turkey Shoot activity. The board reviewed the request with a start date of September 13, 2015 and end date of November 2, 2015. As has been past practice, a motion to approve the request as presented was made by Norman Charest, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Warrant Articles: The Town Clerk received approval from the Attorney General's office regarding the warrant articles approved at Annual Town Meeting in April 2015.

Regional Dispatch: The board discussed the concept of Regional Dispatch and a motion was made by Norman Charest to proceed with forming a Planning Committee for Regional Dispatch, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Regional Selectmen's Meeting: The board will meet with boards from Ludlow, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and Wilbraham on September 10 to discuss Regional Dispatch, Chapter 70 Funding and unfunded mandates.

Vacation Leave: The board approved vacation leave requested by the Highway Superintendent.

Fall Town Meeting: Meeting will be held on October 26, 2015.

ABCC Guideline Change: The board will review this at a later date.

Variance for 202 Mountain Road: A request for a variance was made for 202 Mountain Road. A motion was made by Norm Charest to approve a variance as recommended by Lorri McCool, BOH Agent, for a reduction in the separation between the groundwater and the SAS from 4' to 3', seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

NOTE: The board asked about the grass cutting at the school grounds and wondered about the cutting schedule followed by the schools. They will follow up with the district.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc