

Approved 11/2/15

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

September 14, 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.

Norm Charest was not immediately available as he was attending the Board of Assessor's meeting.

Financial Discussion: The board asked that the Advisory Committee meet with the Town Accountant and Treasurer to get an idea of where the town's finances stand. It was noted that this is the first year the excise taxes collected have declined. There may be some personal property tax numbers that have not come in yet that may help. Some of the increases in the budget will be for county retirement, building inspector, schools, debt increase and the Minnechaug bond. Special Town Meeting will be on October 26th and the following items were discussed relative to that:

Cruiser funding; not previously accounted for can come out of free cash, in the amount of \$6,000. May or may not be a warrant article.

The consensus is to put \$20,000 into the Reserve Fund. As Doug Boyd mentioned he thinks keeping the Reserve at \$25k allows us room to pay for unexpected expenses at year end.

The Highway Department will need \$23k for a new dump truck body.

There are dangerous and rotted trees that should be cleaned up before winter at a cost of \$20k.

Legal advertising will need to be replenished; it is anticipated that it will be short around \$1k; we can take it out of Reserve or deal with it later. The thought is to take it out of Reserve later.

Building Department: It was noted that there is \$70k in funds that are not committed at this point, that exist in the Building Department's Revolving Account. A new position will be added to provide clerical help, and that will be paid out of revolving. The rest of the money may be rolled into free cash next year.

The revenues from the permit fees go into the General Fund.

Cliff would like to get a number at year end to sweep the revolving account at year end.

The group will target November 16th as the date for the Tax Assessment Hearing and October 5th to close the warrant for STM.

Advisory will post for a public hearing on October 19th.

Historical Commission: Connie Witt came before the board with an updated list of maintenance issues needing attention at Academy Hall. This has been an ongoing conversation that this work was to be funded at Annual Town Meeting, but Connie has been pushing to get funding at Special Town Meeting. To do that she needs estimates which she is working on. It was suggested that she contact Doug Boyd about getting CPA funds to help with the costs.

Chief Gorski: Mike Gorski came before the board with two new candidates wishing to join the ranks in the Fire Department. Taran Savoie has extensive training with the Air Force and Matt Murphy will go through the training required. They have both had drug tests, background checks, notes from doctors and are ready to go. Based on Chief Gorski's recommendation, a motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Taran Savoie and Matthew Murphy as provisional Fire Fighters, effective today, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Personnel Committee: The board invited the Personnel Committee to discuss the report completed by Personnel Auditor, Peter Brunault from Employer Association. Those present from Personnel were Don Collins, Carol Fitzgerald and Bill Gouzounis. After a short summary done by Peter Brunault about his findings, the personnel committee determined that they will look at those recommendations made, and prioritize the list. Once the list has been determined, communications will go out to department heads and we will work to phase in new forms, etc., that are mandated by law. It was also determined that the handbook is a critical area to concentrate on.

It was also noted that the Personnel Committee is looking for new members. They are currently a four member committee.

GreatHorse Entertainment License: The board reviewed the request made by the General Manager of GreatHorse. There will be further research done prior to the issuance of this license. There is also a State license that can be issued that will be researched as well.

Letter of Complaint: Two residents sent a letter to the board concerning an attack that occurred on their chickens by two dogs who came onto their property. One of their chickens was killed as a result of the attack. The Dog Officer was notified by the residents and this board will contact all involved to schedule a meeting to discuss next steps for the dogs and their owner.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to enter into Executive Session at 7:30 pm to discuss contract details, with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norm Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norm Charest to return to Open Session at 7:40 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc