

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

November 16, 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.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to enter into Executive Session at 6:05 with return to Open Session for the discussion of the lawsuit brought forward by a resident, Mark Ogoley, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 6:10 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Accident Report: The board reviewed the insurance claim for the accident with the loader, as well as the police report generated from the incident. The reports differ in content, but have been forwarded to insurance carrier for coverage.

Grant for Senior Center: Becky Moriarty submitted a grant application that requires Vinnie's signature to be submitted for grant funds.

Discrimination Case: A discrimination suit had been filed by Fred Markham of Howlett Hill Road regarding the maintenance of that road. Since Mr. Markham has died, the suit has been closed.

Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement: The board will proceed with signing once the entire document has been delivered to this office by our MEMA representative.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to enter into Executive Session at 6:15 pm for the discussion of the employee discipline issue in the Police Department with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to leave Executive Session at 6:40 pm with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Police Department Server Needs: The Chief has been discussing the computer server needs of the department with John Flynn. The Chief explained that there is a \$40,000 line item in the budget for the new station to allow for servers and computers and John will determine if some of the funds can be expended now for immediate use with any necessary transfers taking place later. Jeff explained that the committee is working on a spreadsheet to determine what monies have been spent, and what is left in each line item.

Town House Public Water Supply Issue: Certified Water Operator, Mike Framarin has been working on DEP mandated improvements to the system in the Town House as well as the Fire Station to ensure compliance with all regulations. Further work needs to be done.

Tree Lighting Event: The Annual Tree Lighting will take place on December 6th at 6:30 pm.

Correspondence: The board reviewed without comment.

Capital Planning: To be discussed at a later date.

Solar Proposals: The board contacted consultant, Beth Greenblatt via speaker phone regarding the proposals received for the third piece of property at the Transfer Station that the board wants to develop for solar use. Beth outlined different options and touched on the subject of whether net metering will be increased by the legislature prior to the holiday recess. If it is not done prior, the vote will be pushed to the beginning of 2016. John said that he will reach out to Senator Lesser to determine what our best options are at this point. Beth did point out that any generation of energy will not benefit the town with this new installation, according to Ameresco's proposal. Beth also suggested sending a follow up letter to bidders if net metering is not increased prior to the holiday recess.

School Committee Members: Lena Buteau and Lisa Morace came to the meeting at the request of the board. The board would like to be filled in on the status of the middle school discussions and what the next steps are. Lisa Morace said she had made a motion at the last meeting to request that MSBA look at the program now and make a determination as to where the district should go from here.

It has been said that the Middle School Model is the best avenue to pursue and Norm had met with Marty O'Shea who does not have a good sense as to where the town of Hampden stands on the issue.

Norm asked Marty about changing the teaching model and Marty said you need about 100 to 125 students to make it work. That doesn't mean that another model wouldn't work. John mentioned that enrollment and education are the driving forces, and not the savings that can be realized as a result of merging. He went on to say that the board would not agree to a short term solution until the long term solution is agreed to by all.

There was also discussion about METCO students, that Hampden allows, but Wilbraham does not. Norm said that a vote could be taken to allow or prohibit future METCO students. We took twenty (20) school choice students last year.

The subject of renovating costs was brought up as well. If the WMS was used for all students but the school belongs to Wilbraham, then renovating costs would be borne by Wilbraham. The next Middle School Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4th.

The board will come up with a list of specific questions they would like answered by Marty O'Shea.

Used Car Licenses: Licenses need to be renewed at this time of year and the board has determined that they would like to meet with those existing licensees before permitting the license for another year. The board wants to ensure that licensees are adhering to the terms of their existing licenses.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to enter into Executive Session at 6:15 pm for the discussion of the employee discipline issue in the Police Department with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to leave Executive Session at 6:40 pm with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc