

Approved 12/8/15

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

November 23, 2015
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino John D. Flynn, Norman Charest
Vinnie Villamaino called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
Guest: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Solar Discussion: The board made a phone call to Beth Greenblatt, our consultant for the solar system arrays at the Transfer Station. This is the second round of submittals for a 3rd parcel at the Transfer Station and after some discussion, the board agreed that they need further information from those bidding.

Specifically, since the net metering credits did not get increased through legislation, what impact will that have on the proposal submitted? If a decision is made within the next 20 days, is the proposal still valid? Will there be any new qualifications, restrictions or conditions that the firms will require, that are not addressed in the original proposal?

The bidders need to be reminded that all solar photovoltaic assets to be installed on the Town's property are privately owned and will be taxable property. Beth will ask if the pricing proposal submitted includes obligation to pay property tax, or is the lease payment offer strictly a lease payment or a combination lease and tax payment? Beth will ask that these questions get answered before the board's next meeting on November 30th.

Dog Bite Incidents: Jim and Helga Stevens, 38 Fernwood Drive, were asked to attend the meeting to discuss the issue of numerous dog bites reported to Shelley Sears. The dog's owners related the story that a surveyor who came onto their property was bitten by the dog, as it was protecting the property and owner. Shelley Sears noted that she had been notified twice by a gentleman who has been bitten twice by this dog; the second time seriously enough to warrant medical attention. The Stevens said they were not aware of the second incident. Shelley noted that the dog is a nice dog but is concerned about it being around the public, particularly is used as a "service dog". Jim Stevens contends that the dog is under his control at all times, when in service he is tethered and not a threat to anyone. Shelley is not convinced of that. Shelley noted that she has quarantined the dog three times, to which the owners responded, they were unaware of these quarantines. The board asked that Shelley provide copies to both the board and the Steven's. John Flynn questioned whether or not Jim Stevens was physically able to control the dog, and Jim responded that he was. The dog is a combination of Black Lab and Newfoundland and very strong.

Shelley was instructed to check in with the state regarding the use of "service" dogs, what sort of qualifications they must have in order to work as one and will report back to the board.

Pole Petition: A representative from Mass Electric came before the board to discuss the need for a pole installation to provide support for another existing pole. An abutter was present and concerned about the placement and wanted to ensure no difficulty in using her driveway, etc. Once she saw the map and location, she was fine with the installation. A motion was made by Norman Charest to allow the pole installation on the westerly side of Glendale Road, as shown on map, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes: The minutes of October 26th were reviewed and a motion was made by Norman Charest to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The Open Session and Executive Session Minutes of November 16th were reviewed. Norman Charest made a motion to approve with a correction about the number of students needed for a program, from 125 to 100 to 125 students, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Streetlight List: The Police Department was asked to review all streets in town to determine a list of locations that might benefit from the addition of street lights. The list was comprised of a priority list as well as additional locations, depending on funding. The board requested this in the event the town benefits from free electricity and/or new LED lamps to come into service through National Grid.

Correspondence:

- Maintenance of ROW for Wire Zone: FYI for the board that was sent to all abutters regarding maintenance of power lines.
- Kibbe Lane memo: Planning Board will meet with Ed Speight in January to determine the next steps for this development.

Budget Meeting: The board will hold the annual Budget Kick-Off Meeting on November 30th at 7:00 pm after their regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting.

Federated Church: A church member requested permission from the town to perform a live nativity in the parking lot of the church on December 5th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, with cars using Riverside Drive and exiting out of the church parking lot. The board has no concerns and will alert the Police Department to the event.

Schedule for Used Car License Holders: The board would like to schedule meetings with all holders of current used car licenses before sending out renewed licenses. The goal is to ensure all requirements stated on their permits are being adhered to.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc