

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

**MINUTES**

February 22, 2016  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino John D. Flynn, Norman Charest  
Guests: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Robert Howarth, Town Moderator,  
Andrew Netherwood and Nancy Zebert

The meeting was called to order by Vinnie Villamaino at 6:00 pm.

Police Department: Chief Farnsworth introduced the board to Brenda Tirando as a candidate for a part time position as Dispatcher. Norm Charest immediately recused himself as he knows Brenda from her job working for the Assistant District Attorney. The Chief explained that Sgt. Cooney had done all necessary background checks and recommended that Brenda be brought forward. Given the recommendation, John Flynn made a motion to appoint Brenda G. Tirando to the position of Part-Time Dispatcher, for a probationary period of six months, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Note: Norman Charest recused himself from the vote.

The board left their office to attend a budget review meeting with the Advisory Board at 6:15 pm.

Advisory Committee: The committee members present were: Doug Boyd, Carol Fitzgerald, Jeff Smith, Heather Turcotte, Matt Fisher and Cindi Connors, Assistant.

Fire Department: Mike Gorski brought forward his budget with a slight increase which was explained by John Flynn. Given that there are repairs that invariably come up each year, it seems to be prudent to put a bit of money in the operations account to fund necessary repairs and/or maintenance. The line item will be increased from 36,182 to \$40,000. There is a slight increase due to minimum wage increase, and increased cost for annual flow testing of new Breathing Apparatus. The board supported the requests and the Advisory had no further questions.

Highway Department: Dana Pixley came before the board, for the last time, to present a fairly level funded budget. All salaries are no fully funded by the town. He does not recommend an increase for the Snow and Ice account, (currently at \$80k) as this has been a mild winter and we are in good shape. He remarked that the buildings are all in good shape, with new roofs and new windows (installed by the highway department). He said equipment is in good shape, that a new Mack truck will be coming in, but that a dump body will need to be replaced at a cost of \$25k. The salt shed has been filled and Dana has a pending bill to pay for that. He suggested that we keep the loader until it no longer runs, purchase a new one, but keep the old loader as a back up,

because the new piece of equipment will break down and the old loader will have to take over until the new one is repaired.

The highway union has not negotiated their new contract and are scheduled to come before the board on February 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 to start the process. The final numbers will be forwarded to Advisory once the contract is finalized, prior to Town Meeting.

Retirement Notice: The board reviewed the letter from Dana Pixley regarding his upcoming retirement, effective June 30, 2016 and his schedule prior to that. He has vacation accrued and will use that prior to June 30, so his final day at work will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. There are other issues that need to be discussed and finalized prior to Dana's departure. The board has posted the Superintendent's job description on a website, in the newspaper and are running another ad in the Wilbraham Hampden Times. The goal is to have someone on board some time before Dana leaves so he can learn "the ropes" while Dana is still around.

Snow and Ice Budget: Dana submitted a letter to the board making them aware that the Snow and Ice Account is down and doesn't have sufficient funding to pay for salt that has already been delivered. As always, Dana keeps the salt shed filled at the end of the winter season to be prepared for the next year. Given that, a motion was made by Norman Charest to allow the Highway Superintendent to run the Snow and Ice Account "in the red" so all snow and ice bills can be paid, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

GreatHorse well installation: The board wishes to hold a meeting with Jonathan Murray from GreatHorse, Joe Dilk, from CT Valley Well Co., our water operator, Mike Framarin and Lorri McCool, Board of Health Agent on February 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The purpose is to discuss the additional monitoring wells that the town requested be drilled on town property to ensure the Senior Center and TWB have no effects from the expansion that GreatHorse wants to do with their water usage.

Resolution regarding net metering: The board reviewed a petition drafted by Northampton to our legislature to support an increase in net metering. A motion was made by John Flynn to send a petition from Hampden in support of net metering, seconded by Norm Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of February 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

Berry Insurance: The board reviewed the new proposed premium for Fiscal 2017 for Property and Liability insurance. A 2.5% increase was proposed. A motion was made by Norm Charest to approve the proposal at a cost of \$63,981, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Request for Medical Leave: The board reviewed the request from Matt Frederick to take a Family Medical Leave. The board approved the request and discussed if additional time was needed, they would make an attempt to accommodate his needs.

PVPC Municipal Accounting and Finance: The board will not attend a seminar sponsored by PVPC.

Highway Superintendent: The board reviewed a resume from Mark Langone from East Longmeadow.

Town Projects: The board has asked for estimates to repair the Fire House cupola and the Melville Room stairway to the exterior.

NOTE: Contract Negotiations with Highway on February 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

With no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc