

Approved 4/11/16

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

March 7, 2016
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino John D. Flynn, Norman Charest

Guests: Robert Howarth, Town Moderator, Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Nancy Zebert, Ann Marie Noel and Lisa Sternberg.

Town Moderator: Bob Howarth came before the board to discuss the idea of having Annual Town Meeting at another venue in order to accommodate the anticipated attendees at the upcoming meeting. It had been suggested that Bethlehem Baptist Church might hold the crowd that night, and Bob Howarth approached Pastor Brian MacLeod about the possible use of his building. Pastor MacLeod is happy to open the doors for our meeting and Moderator Howarth suggested that the board have a real discussion about changing the location for the meeting.

GreatHorse DEP application: Guy Antonacci came before the board to discuss plans submitted for the well locations to be drilled as directed by the DEP. All of those wells have been drilled. The other wells, recommended by Tom Couture, Town Engineer from Tighe and Bond were discussed. It was determined that Jonathan Murray from GreatHorse would meet on site with Mike Framarin, Certified Water Operator to determine the location for drilling both at the Senior Center and at TWB. Mike will be contacted, as will Jonathan to schedule that meeting. DEP will be asked about location of the wells in relation to the Public Water Supply locations.

Mt. Vision Warrant Article: Sherry Himmelstein and Judy Brewer met with the board to discuss the acquisition of property on North Road/Mt. Vision that has access through Burleigh Road and consists of 39 acres that may be purchased for the sum of \$49,850. The property would be used for conservation and passive recreation purposes and will be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission with certain conservation restrictions in favor of the Minnechaug Land Trust. The board will allow Sherry to present the article at Annual Town Meeting, but don't have a strong opinion in acquiring the property.

Medical Leave: The board reviewed the request made by Matt Frederick for the Federal Medical Leave Act. Given the need for the leave, a motion was made by Norman Charest to approve the leave requested for Matt Frederick, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Highway Superintendent Resumes: The board asked about a final date to no longer accept applications and stated that April 1st would be the cutoff date. There have been 5 or 6 resumes

submitted and another ad was placed in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times. They will ask that Dana review all resumes and suggest questions that should be asked in the interview process.

Academy Hall Repairs: Vinnie and Dave Markham met at AH to review the conditions. Vinnie asked that Dave find gutters and get them up as soon as possible. Dave thinks the majority of the leaking problem stems from waterfall from the roof directly down onto the rocks running the length of both sides of the building. In addition, sill work will have to be done and Dave will get an estimate for that work. We are under some time constraints as the contents of the building are being housed in a resident's barn and need to be removed by early spring.

Stormwater Report Proposal: The board reviewed the proposal from Tighe and bond to compile the annual Stormwater report that must be submitted to the state. Tom Couture explained that this report will mirror what was done last year, but new conditions are being mandated and a supplemental report will need to be submitted to the state at a later date.

Review Warrant: The board reviewed the warrant again, a few questions were asked; clarifications were made and as a reminder the warrant closes on March 28th.

Bid Review: The board reviewed the information regarding the mix up with the bid open times and upon the advice of counsel will have the street sweeping work rebid with an open date as soon as possible.

Middle School Update: Nancy Zebert, Ann Marie Noel and Lisa Sternberg came to the meeting to discuss the status of the warrant article and express concern about questions that were still lingering; for which they had not received answers from either Marty O'Shea or the School Committee. John suggested that any questions they had should be forwarded to the board and the board would in turn, ask the questions of the Superintendent and disseminate the information when received.

Proposal from Chambers Advisory Group: The board reviewed information submitted by a group who does a study of community's phone bills to determine if they are paying the correct rates in a given contract. The company only gets paid, if/when they find a discrepancy in the bills and they get a percentage of the incorrect charge they find. The board is happy to pursue as needed.

MA Gaming Commission: The board received information from the MA Gaming Commission stating that Hampden qualified to be eligible to receive monies from a Reserve fund established to offset possible impacts as a result of the construction of the casino in Springfield.

Minutes: Minutes from February 22, 2016 and February 29, Open and Executive Sessions were reviewed. A motion was made by Norm Charest to approve minutes as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

ZBA Notices: The board noted that the VFW and Country Auto have upcoming zoning hearings.

Insurance claim: There was an incident the day of primary election in which a resident tripped and fell coming up the front stairs of the town house. A claim has been filed with our insurance company to ensure medical bills are covered by the town.

Main Street Water Issue: Connecticut Valley submitted a proposal to remediate the manganese issue at 601 Main Street that was \$15,000. John will continue to follow up with CT Valley to find a less costly resolution.

Solar Status: Waiting for check from Ameresco and finalization of the contract.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc

