

Approved 4/11/16

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

March 28, 2016
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino John D. Flynn, Norman Charest
Vinnie Villamaino was unable to attend the meeting due to recent surgery.

The meeting was called to order by John Flynn at 6:00 pm.

Guests: Tyler Witkop, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Residents interested in School Issues:
John Niemi, Nancy Zebert, Ann Marie Noel,

Highway Department: Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent came before the board to discuss possible construction projects for the coming construction season. The first project that should be done is Bennett Road. John remarked that Gary Weiner has offered to do the NOI that needs to be submitted to the Conservation commission in order for the project to proceed. Dana suggested that in addition to the full reclamation on a portion of the road near the O'Brien's' home, that upper Bennett is in pretty good shape but will need a chip seal. In addition, a leveler will need to be used on the lower part of the road and will need some patching and repaving. John will ask that Gary get started right away on the NOI so the project can proceed as quickly as possible. The project should begin right after the school buses stop running; Dana will touch base with Gary Weiner to get the project permitted.

Dana then mentioned Wilbraham Road and the need for improvements there. He stated that repairs need to be made from Raymond Drive down to the end in Hampden. The discussion turned to what GreatHorse Country Club will be doing with the property, prior to Highway starting any improvements. There was also talk of Mike Cimmino possibly tying into a septic John will reach out to Tom Couture,

Dana would like hard and fast numbers as to what GreatHorse intends to do relative to Wilbraham Road.

Main Street needs a mill and fill, go up to where the sidewalks start, and start there, all aprons at businesses will have to be done as well.

All sidewalks down Main Street and up to Green Meadows need to be redone.

Residents on Steepleview are complaining about the condition of the road, but given the few people who benefit from using that road, others will be priority before Steepleview will.

There will be consideration to add Steepleview to the Main Street project or maybe do Country Club and Steepleview as one project.

Next year South Road and North Road will be priorities because of their need, their locations and to share the cost for mobilization of equipment and material.

Dana mentioned that Tracey Adamski from Tighe and Bond visited with him recently to discuss the reporting needed for our annual submission for Stormwater reporting to the State.

There will be a more detailed report that will need to be done later in the year and Tighe and Bond will help to navigate us through that process as well.

BOS 160328

Town Accountant and Town Treasurer: Cliff Bombard and Dick Patullo came to the board meeting to discuss finances of the town, our current debt schedule, borrowing needed for the new Highway Dump Truck and for second and third year for Fire Department air equipment pack equipment. A motion was made by Norman Charest to sign both requests as submitted, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The documents were signed as requested and returned to the Town Treasurer.

- All were reminded that the Public Hearing held by Advisory will take place on April 4, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Town House Auditorium.

Other items were discussed as follows:

Conservation Commission: Funds are running low for clerical, but any needed funding can be taken out of the Revolving Fund.

Leap Year: Cliff will be able to handle the additional day of pay internally with no problem.

Academy Hall: Is currently running in the red, which too can be taken care of.

Software Program: The program that Cliff uses for his ledgers, etc. has become an issue. Two companies have combined and Cliff is not getting the support from them that he has been accustomed to. He explained that he has some time to think about other options and will let the board know his decision at a later date.

There was discussion about using some of the revolving funds from Building for other purposes. John mentioned that there is an old account that had been allocated for bat removal in Academy Hall and John wondered if that money might be incorporated into available funds for Academy Hall improvements.

Advisory Board: Board members, Doug Boyd, Carol Fitzgerald, Heather Turcotte, Jeff Smith and Assistant Cindi Connors came before the board to do a final review of the warrant and money articles to ensure we were all on the same page for Town Meeting. All articles were reviewed and fully described.

7:00 pm National Grid Pole Petition: A representative from National Grid came before the board for a pole petition. It is necessary for a pole to be installed on Chapin Road to handle a long span of cable. Robbie Ober, an abutter to the property was present wondering why he was notified. When it was explained, Robbie had no objection to the installation. A motion was made by Norman Charest to approve the pole petition and installation as submitted, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: all in favor and so voted.

Water/testing costs ongoing: Back up information and costs associated with ongoing water testing for the well at 589 Main Street which was drilled to provide water to three households down gradient from the Highway Garage. Those tests will be done on at the time of connection, on a quarterly basis and thereafter on an annual basis. We want to make sure we capture that cost in the budget from this year forward.

Minutes of March 24, 2016: The minutes 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.

Superintendent Resumes Review: Copies of all resumes for Highway Superintendent's position will be delivered to Vinnie Villamaino so the board can discuss at the next meeting.

Residents concerned about Middle School Education: Ann Marie Noel sent an email with a request to the board, asking that the board bring certain questions forward to the School Committee relative to ongoing education at TWB and the equity of course offerings. Both Norm and John suggested that a concerned group of residents bring their concerns first to Lisa Morace and Lena Buteau, their School Committee representatives, elected by Hampden residents. Once the group hears from the School Committee members, they will be satisfied with the answers or not. If they are not, John and Norm urged the residents to bring those concerns to the board for support in getting answers from the SC. It was suggested that a letter be written to clarify how and why course offerings are different from TWB to WMS.

There was a request from Ann Marie Noel to send a Connect CTY (robo) call to residents tonight to inform them of the date and time for the two school tours that are scheduled to take place tomorrow, March 29th at 4:00 and 5:30 pm. These will allow residents to tour the schools to see for themselves the conditions of the two facilities. A motion was made by Norman Charest to approve the robo call, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

GreatHorse/DEP: There are flags marking the locations for monitoring wells to be drilled on town property, namely at the Senior Center and at TWB. Those wells will be drilled to monitor the additional water usage requested by GreatHorse Country Club. Those costs will be borne entirely by GreatHorse.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc