

Approved 11/21/16

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

MINUTES

October 17, 2016  
6:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Hampden MA

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

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

Guest: Mary Ellen Glover

School Committee Proposal: Mary Ellen Glover came before the board to speak about a "proposed Plan B" that was being talked about by the School Committee adding a modular to the Green Meadows to allow TWB students to continue their studies there. She wondered how that could possibly "fix the problem" of low enrollment that they have claimed from the onset. The board agreed that any discussion of this is premature, as it has not been an option openly discussed with the board members.

Mary Ellen then suggested that the town ask GreatHorse Country Club to build a school large enough to accommodate all students from Wilbraham and Hampden, located in Hampden and named after the owners of GreatHorse.

The discussion went back to the model currently recommended by the School Committee as the best mode of teaching students and Mary Ellen stated that although the SC says that the Middle School Model is in place, she contends that it is not being used.

National Grid Pole Petition: A representative from National Grid came before the board to discuss a pole petition for location on Stony Hill Road, to accommodate another solar facility. Also in attendance was Steve Andwood, owner of the property proposed for solar development. In viewing the plan, John asked about tying both projects into one pole and if there was any other way in which to handle the source, but the representative said that this was the only option. In part, due to the solar installation, there is a special hook up required. Vinnie Villamaino made a motion to approve the pole petition as shown, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Special Town Meeting: The board reviewed the warrant and motions to determine who would handle which articles. The board is in favor of putting \$310,000 from free cash towards the tax rate.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to reconvene to the auditorium to attend the Advisory Hearing scheduled for 7:00 pm; and to adjourn the meeting upon the end of the Advisory Hearing, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

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The board left their office to attend the Advisory Hearing in the Auditorium at 7:00 pm.

Retiree Health Insurance Policy: The board reviewed the recommendation made by the Personnel Committee regarding a policy for retiree's health insurance coverage. This will allow those not enrolled in town offered plans prior to retirement, an opportunity to enroll prior to their retirement date. They will be allowed to do so at the time of the annual Open Enrollment period. The committee will be notified and the Employee Handbook will be revised to reflect the change.

SVRHT Health Plan Options: BlueCross/Blue Shield, Health New England and Tufts plans have been distributed by SVRHT with current costs. The Tufts plan is offered at a lower rate than the other two plans and the board agrees to offer the retiree plan to our plan holders so they might benefit from the savings. An enrollment letter will go out to all retirees notifying them of the changes in plans as well as costs which go into effect on January 1, 2017.

Rock-A-Dundee Road Bus Issue: The board was brought up to date on the situation regarding a resident requesting assistance in having her child picked up at their home on Rock-A-Dundee Road. The issue has been researched in this office, with attempts for assistance from the School Administrators. Not finding a resolution for Julie Zanetti, she will be directed to contact the school as transportation issues are theirs to handle.

One Day Liquor License Request: A one day liquor license was requested by Becky Moriarty for a seminar at the Senior Center on October 20, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 pm. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the license, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A request for a one day liquor license was requested by the Hampden Police Association to hold a Spaghetti Dinner at the Senior Center on November 12 from 4:00-7:00 pm. John asked if they were a non-profit organization. Vinnie Villamaino made a motion to approve the license, contingent upon the Association being non-profit, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of September 1, 2016: Minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Norman Charest to approve as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of September 6, 2016: Minutes were reviewed and John asked that the minutes reflect that it is possible that Town Counsel, Mike Callan may be appointed as a Superior Court Judge. With that change made, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve with change, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes of September 26, 2016: Minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Winter Policy Review and Traffic Control Account: Information provided by Mark Langone, Highway Superintendent and was reviewed without comment.

Note: Tax Classification Hearing is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to reconvene to the auditorium to attend the Advisory Hearing scheduled for 7:00 pm; and to adjourn the meeting upon the end of the Advisory Hearing, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc

