

Approved 11/21/16

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

October 31, 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 at 6:00 pm by John D Flynn.

Guest: Tyler Witkop, the Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Planning Board: John Matthews and Robert Howarth came before the board to discuss the board's make up which includes the resignation of board member Paige Gore. For the time being, the board suggested that Rick Green will stand in for the rest of Paige's term, but they need additional members as they are having a hard time getting quorums for meetings. The BOS suggested a joint meeting when the notice runs for a bit in the Wilbraham Hampden Times seeking interested parties to serve.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission: John O'Leary came before the board to explain the status of the Community Block Grant Application that we are pursuing with East Longmeadow. John Flynn asked when PVPC meets with representatives from EL and was told that it was during the day. John offered that he could meet during the day with EL to move the process along more quickly. There was also discussion of working to update our Master Plan which has not been updated in the recent past few years.

Middle School Issue: Mary Ellen Glover, opponent to the proposed merge voted at STM came before the board to ask that the board move forward to voice the sentiments of the residents to the School Committee. Due to the overwhelming opposition to the Unification Proposal at STM, Mary Ellen would like to ensure that the School Committee knows how strongly our residents feel about the issue. She would like a letter sent to the Wilbraham Finance Committee, our Advisory Board and to the School Committee stating that we will continue to work to keep TWB open and that we have every expectation that the education will be equal to that given to the Wilbraham Middle School students.

Mary Ellen further contends that the plan to move our fifth grade students to Green Meadows would show a further reduction in the TWB enrollment, thereby strengthening the SC's plan to close TWB and push the merge.

BOS 161031

The board members responded that this was their first meeting since the STM vote and therefore they have not had the opportunity to discuss their next steps.

Rita Vail was also in attendance and asked if this board will meet with the Wilbraham Board of Selectmen and the School Committee and also wondered about meeting with the new superintendent, Al Ganem.

Town House Custodial: Bev and Steve Smart came into the office, at the board's request, to discuss the work load reduction with the move of the Police Department. The response was that the children's play production made additional work for the staff; that the material used on the front sidewalk is difficult to clean up and with winter coming, additional cleanup is required for salt and sand brought into the building. They also mentioned that food is eaten in the library area which creates work above the "normal" tasks.

There were suggestions for additional waste baskets and larger baskets in the Women's Room and the auditorium.

Appointments: The Town Clerk requested that Elaine Kingsbury be appointed to Assistant Town Clerk, as a result of Judy Mikkola's retirement. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Elaine Kingsbury as Assistant Town Clerk as of this date, through June 30, 2017, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so approved.

A request was made to appoint Barbara Bennett to the Cultural Council for a period of two years, through June 30, 2018. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the appointment, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Health Insurance Question: Mark Reisner, a disabled police officer, has requested permission to purchase health insurance out of state with the ability to be reimbursed by the town, as is part of the Town's current policy. The board agreed that he be allowed to buy his insurance elsewhere and arrange payment and reimbursement with the Treasurer. A letter will be sent to Mr. Reisner stating same.

Letter to Resident: A resident has written a formal complaint regarding a barking dog in his neighborhood, whose owner has been put on notice by the Animal Inspector. With no change made in the behavior, the board has sent a letter demanding compliance with Hampden bylaws or risk receiving a violation notice.

Minutes: Minutes will be reviewed at a later date.

Response from Chief regarding Liquor Licensees: The board received a response from the Police Chief that there have been no issues with any of the current licensees regarding the sale of alcohol in the past year. All license renewals will be sent out.

Review of Website Proposal: The board reviewed the proposal sent by Revize.com. John will investigate other sites as well.

First Responder No Shave November: The Chief had asked the board if they had any objections to his staff participating in “No Shave November” which is a national campaign that supports men’s health awareness. The board agreed that there are no restrictions against it.

Code on Police Station Door: Jane Budynkiewicz asked about getting a locksmith in to change the passcode for the Police Station doors. People continue going in there and creating havoc.

Regional Selectmen Meeting: Wednesday, November 16th in Longmeadow.

BOH Variance Request: The board reviewed septic plans presented for 300 Allen Street. The Board of Health Agent recommends that a variance be granted to allow a sieve analysis as a substitute for a perc test. Based on the recommendation, John Flynn made a motion to approve the variance, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc