

Approved 4/24/17

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

January 3, 2017  
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 Flynn.

Advisory Meeting: Carol Fitzgerald, from the Advisory Board came before the board to discuss potential budget issues for the upcoming fiscal year. John listed a few of the items to be mindful of; namely establishing an outside consultant to review the Senior Center to determine any maintenance issues that need to be addressed. The board also discussed the needs of the Town House, that there are many issues that should be addressed but the town would have to pay a fee to have the building assessed. There is the issue of growth in the fire department and the board agreed to address the problem in this budget cycle. There was some hope of getting grant help and we have asked Gina Kahn and others to give us some ideas. There was mention of SAM.gov certification that will be investigated as well. Chief Gorski would like a three main crew on duty from 9 to 5 daily as this is when most volunteers are out of town. John also suggested that the Highway Department members be trained to respond as they are in town all day and available. In addition, the need for a new loader was discussed and Mark Langone will work to hone those numbers. Carol asked about the rumor of water and sewer being installed down Wilbraham Road and Allen Street and John responded that we don't have much information from GreatHorse at this time.

John then asked Carol about Personnel and the new wage scale for the coming year. There have been a couple of adjustments due to the increase in minimum wage rate, but she feels as though there will be step increases for staff, with no COLA increase. Schedules will be made up for budget reviews as soon as possible.

Highway Update: Mark Langone came before the board to give them an update on storm clean up work, tests and inspections completed for 2016 and equipment needs. As requested Mark has received some quotes for a new loader and the discussion turned to whether to keep the old loader or to trade it in. Given what Mark thinks he can get for a trade, it may make more sense to keep the loader as a backup. It can move a lot of snow and could be used at the garage to fill the trucks as they come in during a storm. They also talked about other equipment; maybe a mini excavator or backhoe. The loader should be less than 200k and will be a warrant article to be paid through stabilization. Mark would like to add some additional equipment to be used by the loader, perhaps a broom feature or forks. He will continue to research costs.

The board then talked about adding to the current funds for paving projects which currently stands at 50k. The board suggested adding 10% each year to the figure to cover the increase in costs for the mix.

The board also asked about the request from highway as to needing to run the Snow and Ice Account in the "red". Research will be done to determine if there was a percentage used by Dana Pixley or just a determination of low funds.

Public Records Law: There are new regulations relative to people seeking information from the town that are public record. The title for those appointed is Records Access Officer. Given the need for the Police Department and their number of requests as well as the need in the Town House offices, the board would like to appoint the following:

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Elaine Kingsbury, currently Assistant Town Clerk to the position of Records Access Officer for the Town House and to appoint Michele Moorhouse as the RAO for the Police Department, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

John then asked to find out who the school district has appointed.

Bridge Restoration: Mark has talked with a representative from the DOT, specifically about the bridge at Laughing Brook who said that the bridge is in very good shape, even redundant in its support system. There is some rust that should be taken care of and Mark will check with Tighe and Bond to discuss engineering fees. The DOT is also working on culvert connections.

Fire Assistance: The board then told Mark of their idea of having the Highway Department trained to assist on fire calls given that they are in town most of the time and could cover for those volunteers who are not. This discussion will continue.

Main Street Water: Mahlon Peterson, property owner on Main Street came before the board to discuss what amount the town would be willing to contribute to the repair work needed at his home. He has an estimate which the board reviewed. John reminded Mr. Peterson that the house had been vacant for some time and it would be difficult to determine the effect the salt had on the pipes compared to the normal aging as well as the absence of use for many years. Vinnie suggested a number the board could work with and it was settled at \$2900. The final agreement will be forwarded from Town Counsel and onto Mr. Peterson for signatures. At the time, a request for a reimbursement check will be made to the Treasurer.

National School Choice Week: The board reviewed this request and will determine as to whether they will sign or not.

Public Records Law: The Town Counsel sent in information on new laws and new requirements regarding revolving funds that will have to be addressed at Annual Town Meeting.

Minutes: The board will review these at a later date.

Capital Planning Committee: The board has a number of people interested in being part of this committee. They are Matt Fisher and Heather Turcotte from Advisory; Don Collins from Personnel, and citizens, Pam Rogers and Mark Casey. A decision will be made in the near future as to who the board will appoint.

Collective Bargaining process for HWRSD: The board wants to know what the schedule will be for the contract negotiations with the teachers.

Water Testing Schedules: The board wants to ensure that all water tests are scheduled; for resident's water, Academy Hall and the Federated Church.

Mass Gaming Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines: These will be reviewed at a later date.

Schedule Budget Meetings: The board will start reviewing budgets in February.

Use Car License Request for Main Street: This license is pending the receipt of additional information from the licensee and the Planning Board.

Mt. Vision Update: There was a proposal to purchase property on Mount Vision using Community Preservation funds at last year's town meeting. Before the final documents were available and a check was cut, the owner of the property died. The check has been returned to the town in the amount of \$49,850 which will be returned to the CPA fund account.

Planning Board: The board is hoping to bring forward 6 warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting on May 8, 2017.

Building Inspector: The board will meet with Wendel Hulbert to discuss business hours of operation and Zoning issues.

Volunteer Available: Town resident, Joe Costanzo came into the office and asked if there was a board or committee that he could offer his help to as a volunteer. There are two currently needing members; one is the Water Commission and the other possibility may be the Personnel Committee. This information will be relayed to the Personnel Committee.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

BOS 170103