

Approved 6/26/17

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

MINUTES

January 30, 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 by John Flynn at 6:00 pm.

BOH Coordinator: Jane Budynekiewicz came before the board to discuss the ongoing issue of having a building assessment done on the Town House. The board agreed and suggested that she call Robert Hall to get an estimate on what they would charge for the work.

Highway Budget Review: Mark Langone came before the board to present the department budget and explained the necessary increases for contractual agreements, highway maintenance and look for increase for catch basin cleaning. We are still awaiting the new ten year contract from the DOT so do not know the amount of funds from Chapter 90 to expect. Mark did request a warrant article for the replacement of the 2008 pick-up truck as he has checked on the mileage that Dana had traditionally used in the past for trade in using the vehicle as a plowing vehicle as well. The board agreed to place it on the warrant.

Mark requested to run the Snow and Ice Account "in the red" as he is near the end of funds in that account. A motion was made by John Flynn to allow the overspending in that account, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Senior Center Budget Review: Becky Moriarty came before the board to review her budget requests. The salaries used are based on the salary chart from Advisory but did note that she has added responsibilities to the receptionist's position, who will train senior tax abatement workers and support two other staff members. She also does clerical work as requested. Becky has increased the budget for utilities and building maintenance by 2.5% for the next year. The center is currently tracking below budget in the utilities line. She mentioned the new building group established to review building needs; some of which are parking lot painting, septic pump controls (fortunately this has not been an issue before), but the equipment is now 17 years old and they need to be mindful and anticipate future needs. John asked that she break out the electric usage on her utility line, to see what kind of savings she might anticipate with solar options the town is working on. The board asked that she present two budgets, one for level service and the other with the increases she is requesting.

Becky presented a chart to show the increase in usage and has surpassed numbers in most categories. The State also tracks programs and their effectiveness. The board thanked her and will have a full review with Advisory on the 13th.

Planning Board members were present in anticipation of a discussion between the board and Eversource who wish to develop a solar field on Mill Road. When asked about ATM John Matthews (Chair of Planning) stated that there are two bylaw revisions that will require public hearings prior to ATM, and those proposals would then go on the warrant.

Eversource: Edgar Alejandro, associates and consultants from Eversource came before the board to discuss their plans to develop a solar field on Mill Road. They currently have one in Pittsfield and two in Springfield. They are working throughout the state, moving forward with properties they own, working in a cost effective manner and within the regulations of communities and property owners. The consultants and engineers were here to discuss the specifics.

The location is 227 Mill Road, right on the line, on 18.5 acres and is zoned light industrial.

The board explained that we have a contract with Ameresco for the Transfer Station.

After going through the details of the project they were told that the permit process is now done through the Building Inspector due to new bylaw regulations.

They are sensitive to environmental concerns, know about the existing wetlands and will stay outside of wetland buffers, as they will stay on the flat area of the property.

Is this subject to personal property tax? Potential new revenue to city/town?

They would install screened fencing, at 6 feet high and John Matthews stated that if they meet all requirements there is no need to go before Planning Board.

They were asked what their timeline is and explained that they thought it would be a 3-4 month build out.

All panels will be tilted away from the road. They also may need to make an upgrade to the substation.

The town will get no direct revenue, but will get tax revenue.

Mary Ellen Glover: Mary Ellen came before the board to give a Middle School Update. 48 kids have requested and will be transferred from Hampden to WMS in September. If the students change their minds they will have to go before the School Committee again to get approval to do so. Mary Ellen had asked about transportation for the students and the SC did not respond. The group is in process of planning the questions they want the board to bring forward to Town Counsel. The group firmly believes that the intent of the SC is to close TWB and then move to close Green Meadows.

There are 2 teachers at TWB who will have to work part time, so they will have to look at other jobs.

They are undermining the community by taking one half of the students and the math scores have not improved since 2012.

Norm thinks if we should gather all of this information and forward to attorney, for answers to some of these questions.

A warrant article may be added to the warrant seeking funding to proceed against the School Committee.

The judge asked about a quorum, if the quorum is declared by the Town Moderator, the quorum exists for the duration of the meeting.

Warrant/Close date: Will be at the end of March.

Family Medical Care Act: The board reviewed the request for leave for a member of the Police Department.

Board of Health: The owner of 169 Scantic Road has brought forward a number of different scenarios for the use of the barn he is currently building. The BOH Agent is seeking some assistance in the matter.

Accident Report for Scantic and Cross Roads: There were reported accident at these two locations and the board wants to see additional information Additional information

Homeowner: Water tie in has been completed for Ogoley.

NOTE: Deadline for CPA applications February 20
John Flynn out on the 6th

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn at 8:00 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc