

Approved 6/26/17

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

MINUTES

April 18, 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.

Highway Update: Mark Langone, Highway Superintendent came before the board to discuss a number of items.

Mark has a number for the new loader which is \$165,130. He might get \$20k in trade, but the plan has been to keep the loader for back up for the department. This will allow the old loader to be used at the garage to load sand and salt while the new loader can be out on the streets working with the snow. Mark also got a number for the pick-up replacement for his truck, at \$39,645. He anticipates a \$7-9k trade in price and the board agreed that the warrant article will be for a "not to exceed" number. This price includes everything but the radio swap over and lettering on the doors.

Mark also worked on an estimate for the drainage for Wilbraham Road, and came up with \$314,195k which does not include a number of items so Mark rounded to \$325k.

The board would like Mark to do more due diligence; check out outlets from the golf course, and bring the drainage down to the Somers Road intersection. The board suggested that they wait until they have more information on the water/gas line project from GreatHorse.

Mark will come back with a revised road paving schedule and will check with Melissa from Wilbraham about the tree cutting plan they were planning to do.

A last directive to Mark was to reseed Mahlon Peterson's property on Main Street.

Conservation Commission: Phil Grant and Ted Zebert came before the board with Branden Harvey, a Westfield State University student who has interest in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission. Phil suggested that he be appointed as an Associate Member, as he is working on wetland planning and is a resident of Hampden. He will not be a voting member at the start, but with the experience that he will gain with the other board members will be good for him. With that, Vinnie Villamaino made a motion to appoint Branden Harvey as an Associate member to the board as in a temporary position, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

South Monson Road Residents: The board invited residents back in to see the change to the plans made by Ameresco. The board went back to Ameresco to explain that the neighbors are concerned with the existing plan and they did downsize the field and reduced the buffer zone considerate of the residents. As John explained the town will receive revenue from this project, and the selectmen have a responsibility to the townspeople to find revenue sources other than property taxes. John also mentioned that this question will be on the STM warrant and will be voted on May 8th. Norm suggested that stakes be placed on the property so residents could visualize the extent of the installation.

BOS 170418

Advisory Board: Doug Boyd and Matt Fisher came before the board to discuss revenue, and newly increased revenue from the National Grid building on Allen Street. The numbers have increased due to increased equipment in the building.

They also discussed the need for \$15k for transfer station bags, the fire operating budget at just under \$100k, \$226k for 3 employees on the Fire Department, as well as 27% of salary charged for pension purposes. The question was how to fund everything; all through stabilization? The board and assessors will worry about the tax rate in the fall.

The School issue was raised and question asked about what additional monies will be required to study the regional agreement. The board also discussed the snow and ice number and noted that if the line is increased; it can never be decreased afterwards.

Minutes: The minutes of March 6, 2017 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.

Service Agreements: The board reviewed the service agreements for the Town House and Senior Center generators. They will be signed and returned to Cummins Northeast.

Historical Commission: The board received a letter of request from Connie Witt to appoint new resident Mahlon Peterson to the Historical Commission. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Mr. Peterson to an appropriate term, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

COA Board: The board received letters of interest from two board members who wish to continue on in their positions. They are Deanna Vermette and Ed Norman. The board will make a note.

Eversource Mill Road Solar Project: The solar project proposed will have to go for a Special Permit in Planning as well as meeting with Conservation Commission.

4th of July Parade Invitation: The board has been invited to march in the annual East Longmeadow parade.

The board received a request from resident Joe Trosky to meet with the board to discuss his ongoing building issues of the barn on Scantic Road. A meeting will be scheduled.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to enter into Executive Session without return to Open Session at 7:20 pm to discuss potential litigation, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc