

Approved 11/2/17

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

September 5, 2017
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden MA

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Norman Charest, Vincent J. Villamaino
Norman Charest had a previous commitment and could not attend the meeting.
John Flynn called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

HWRSD Superintendent, Al Ganem came before the board with the new Director of Finance and Human Resources for the 600 employees within the school district. Howard Barber was introduced and told of his experience with business and municipal financing. Al assured the board that it was their intent to meet more frequently with board, rather than just for budget meetings. They hope to bring transparency to the budget and the process of building one. He went on to say that they will start with a zero based budget; and when asked what that meant, responded that they start from the ground up by looking at enrollment, class size, etc., rather than working off of last year's budget and just increasing that by a certain percentage. John remarked that payments to the district have gone very well, in that the district cooperates with our financial staff and bills us after our tax receipts are in.

John asked about the past practice of the financial statements and audits being performed by the same company for the school district. Howard said he will look into the practice and get back to the board with an answer.

The last item discussed was a concern a family has in town regarding bus transportation for their young son. They brought their concern to the school and board last September and although the issue was reviewed by the bus company and Mark Langone, Highway Superintendent, the issue has not been resolved. When told about the problem, Al and Howard drove to the site and will be contacting the family over the next day or two.

School Discussion: Rita Vail, Heather Zanetti, Mary Ellen Glover, Lisa Sternberg and Bob Moreau were in attendance. Rita stated that she disagrees with the opinion provided by Town Counsel, Mike Schneider, and would like to have the question regarding the SC regional agreement reviewed by another attorney. The board will look into additional attorneys for their review. Rita believes that John is pro merge and that the School Committee is acting without the consideration of Hampden residents, even with the outcome of the vote at our Annual Town Meeting.

John stated I work for the people of Hampden, and the opinion expressed was a unanimous consensus of the Doherty law firm, not just one lawyer.

Mary Ellen believes that the SC is violating the intent of the SC agreement. Further she is concerned about the changes she sees in Hampden; the fire department, water and sewer installation, the Regional Dispatch project, the septic at Dunkin Donuts, town house use, and wonders where the town is going. She added the ongoing school issue and the fear that the School Committee will close TWB.

She believes that with these changes the residents should be polled to determine what they see as priorities and in what direction they would like the town to move. She suggested a timeline on these projects and those to come. John offered that the Master Plan should be relooked at and updated. Mary Ellen also wondered about a town administrator as she recognizes that the board members all have very full days with little time left to commit to the selectmen's position.

She suggested that the board conduct the survey and then have a public meeting for all residents to voice their opinions on issues.

Conservation Commission: The board reviewed the current status of ConCom members and discussed their desire to continue to serve. Judy McKinley Brewer will remain on till 2018 as will Tim Hanley.

Judy mentioned what an asset Branden Garvey has been; and noted the number of environmental classes he has taken at Westfield State University. The board will appoint him to ConCom until 2019. Phil Grant and Bonnie Geromini will be appointed until 2020 and Ted Zebert and Andrew Netherwood will be appointed till 2019, along with Branden. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve all appointments, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Judy also discussed the status of the Open Space Survey and will hold a public hearing at the end of September to discuss the results.

Entertainment License Review: Mike Connors, owner of Casa Bella came before the board to review his request for hours of operation for entertainment. The Board will allow indoor entertainment until 11:00 pm and Thursday outdoor entertainment from 6:00 to 8:30. John asked about the patio seating and how the area was supervised and Mike responded that there is a fence around the seating on the inner sidewalk, and a railing around the deck/patio. He is vigilant about his servers and their attention to the customers to make sure no one gets served unless they are in the serving area.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to grant the license as stated, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Entertainment License Review: Rich DeMattia, Manager of La Cucina came before the board to discuss the entertainment license at their location. The Board will allow outdoor entertainment the same hours as Casa Bella, 6:00-8:30 and allow indoor entertainment until 11:30 pm.

Entertainment License Review: Michela Paolucci, from GreatHorse came before the board to discuss the hours for entertainment for GreatHorse. The board will allow entertainment at poolside until 9:30 pm. The Club House and Banquet Hall can have live entertainment or other until 12:00 am, as long as entertainment is inside with doors closed. A motion was made by

Vinnie Villamaino to approve these conditions, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

In addition, GreatHorse requested the use of the parking lot at TWB on September 16th. After checking with Park and Rec, the board will allow parking in the lot as GreatHorse is hosting a wedding and golf tournament that day.

Used Car License for Safe Auto Sales: The board reviewed the application for a used car license at 484 Main Street. After reviewed, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the license, subject to the conditions on the license, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Appointed Positions: Will be reviewed at a later date.

Police Department Policy Review: Will be reviewed at a later date when Norm Charest is available.

- Holding Cell Evacuation
- Domestic Violence

Correspondence:

- Outside Attorney Review
- Capital Planning Bylaws
- Regional Selectmen Meeting: Thursday, September 14 in Wilbraham?
- Partners for Youth Coalition: Invitation from Gina Kahn for September 15th.

LED Streetlights: Need additional information on lights.

Water Sewer Project: Sub-committee meeting to discuss phases on Wednesday, September 6th at 4:00 pm.

- Invite COA board members in for September 25th.
- Schedule Department Head Meeting for 9/18
- John to schedule meeting with East Longmeadow to discuss water/sewer project.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn at 7:20 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc

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