

Approved 11/2/17

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

September 11, 2017
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden MA

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Norman Charest, Vincent J. Villamaino
Norman Charest was unable to attend the meeting due to a medical issue.
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by John Flynn.

Chief Farnsworth: The Chief came before the board to discuss a public forum to be held to inform the residents about the details of the proposed Regional Dispatch. Jeff stated that whether we move on this now or later; the State will force this to go forward in the future. He emphasized that this is not his decision, but rather the Board's. He anticipates an annual savings of \$125K in salary; noted that the radio equipment is obsolete and in the next few meetings the town should have a real number to make a final decision about joining. The agreement has been agreed to; contingent upon the savings being what we anticipate. Any questions on the minds of residents should be sent to the Police Department or to the BOS at selectmen@hampden.org. Then a date will be set for the public forum.

Public comments reminded everyone how the regional agreement worked out for us with the School District; it sounds good at the onset, but who would have imagined the present day predicament.

They discussed staffing and Jeff mentioned that there will be two dispatch positions for Hampden, there are no East Longmeadow dispatchers currently and the center needs 26 dispatchers to run it. There is a need for dispatchers who are familiar with our town.

Policy Review: The board then reviewed various policies brought forward by the Chief. They are: Holding Cell Evacuation, Domestic Violence and Nasal Naloxone. All of these policies have been reviewed by the Massachusetts Chief's Counsel (John asked that this be stated in all cover letters sent with new policies) and the board approved. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve all policies as written, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

New Cruiser: The PD have possession of their new vehicle and need to get the proper forms to our insurance agency, Berry Insurance for the registration.

The Chief stated that he had sent information to the BOS and will resend as there is no record in emails about it.

Historical Commission: Joyce Dunklee, a longtime resident in town has an interest in history in general and Hampden particularly. She is a history teacher in CT, has been in town for 30 years and met with Connie Witt recently, and would like to serve on the Commission. John mentioned that these are three year terms and she agreed to participate. An appointment slip will be done so she may become a new member.

School Discussion: Rita Vail and Heather Zanetti came before the board with an update on the Degregionalization Study Group. The Group is working well together with each member is taking an assignment to be discussed at the following meeting. Phill Schneider and Norm have been in contact and will speak with an attorney for another review of the regional agreements. From what we know now, it appears that a questions can be brought forward to the School Committee for discussion, but if the committee votes against it, the question is dead upon arrival. Mary Ellen Glover remarked that a vote for Hampden's question would be unlikely with the seven member board.

Nancy Zebert was present and mentioned the existence of school unions and wondered if that might work in the town's favor.

John mentioned educational equity; how are TWB student's experience versus MMS. It depends on who you talk to, according to Mary Ellen Glover. It appears that language and math are subjects that are lacking at TWB.

Rita would like to get back to the agreements; must the SC come forward with the warrant article? She is also dissatisfied with the opinion from Mike Schneider. Rita would like to submit an article for STM.

Mary Ellen noted that the Superintendent is looking at a five year plan and would like to do so in Executive Session. Mary Ellen questioned why Executive Session and Lena Buteau suggested that purchasing would be the reason. There is an updated calendar of SC meetings.

It was mentioned by Maura Netherwood that Howie Barber presents himself well, has good ideas and is working on refinancing the school bond which will be a huge savings for the district.

Survey for Town's Opinion: John brought up the idea of a town wide survey asking our residents what their individual priorities are; how the town might be able to achieve them. John has reached out to Tony Cignoli, Political Consultant for assistance and Mary Ellen has drafted some questions to be presented. John then suggested using WNEU students to conduct the survey through Survey Monkey. We would then need someone to analyze the findings. Students can do the analysis and John will speak with his brother Mike about making this happen. Mary Ellen also asked about an administrator's position for the town.

VFW Turkey Shoot: Heath Joseph, Commander of the VFW came before the board to discuss the annual turkey shoot at the VFW. He will be in charge of the event this season and asked for a start date of September 17 through November 19 as they have done in the past. The day's event runs from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. He emphasized that safety is of the utmost concern and that every underage shooter will have an adult to accompany them. Board members asked if a sign is posted on the trail to Minnechaug Mountain and Heath explained that there is a verbal

warning announced before shots are fired for people to make themselves known if they are up on the trail.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino allow the VFW to have their weekly Turkey Shoots as described, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes: July 10, July 24, and August 21: The minutes will be reviewed at a later date.

Letter of Concern: Resident Lynne Wallace submitted a letter to the board about her concern for missiles striking the US and creating an electromagnetic pulse that could weaken our power grid. She recommends that the board join with the Wilbraham BOS to study the subject and educate our residents. The board appreciates her submittal.

LED Streetlights: The board has investigated the use of new lights, but understand that the light emitted is a direct light rather than one that spreads under a pole. National Grid will be contacted to see if there are other options available for LED lighting.

Water and Sewer Update: John reported that there was a meeting last Thursday at which time phases of the project were reviewed. Tom Couture, from Tighe and Bond will draft a plan to reflect the options to be reviewed at a later date.

Solar Update: John will be meeting with Rose Crowley to discuss the Ameresco development at the Transfer Station. He also learned that they are part of the Eversource development on Mill Road.

Federated Church Easement Agreement: The attorney for the Church has returned from vacation and will continue to work on the easement agreement. Meanwhile we are holding the check until the agreement is signed.

Dog Bite Issue: This will be discussed when Norman is at our next meeting.

Outdoor Patio Regulations: Not reviewed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn at 7:00 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney

/pbc