

Approved 11/2/17

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

MINUTES

October 10, 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.

Present: Mary Ellen Glover, Rita Vail, Heather Zanetti, Linda DeVries, Nancy Zebert, Dick Patullo, Cliff Bombard, Doug Boyd, Carol Fitzgerald, Heather Turcotte, Matt Fisher, Maura Ryan, Phill Schneider, Cindi Connors

Advisory Board: The board came in to review the final STM warrant. The first warrant article relates to using funds from the Assessor's Overlay Account. The Assessors have agreed to release \$20,000 for the software improvements needed in their department.

The air conditioner at the Senior Center is the next item on the warrant. John asked Rita if this was an expense that would typically be taken care of by the Friends of the Seniors? Rita, responding for herself and not the Friends, stated that typically operating costs are paid within the COA budget and not by the Friends. The Friends would prefer to have the town pay for this expenditure.

Dick Patullo was asked to clarify the funds needed for the highway truck. There was a question of how much was owed and he confirmed that 100k is the amount needed.

Cliff still anticipates a 4% increase in taxes.

He stated that when going for a bond rating, the more money we have in free cash, the better our standing.

The departments have held the line at 2%.

Carol Fitzgerald mentioned that Advisory Board is working to keep the tax rate in good shape.

Deregionalization Study Group: The discussion turned to the money article and how much they will ask to do further research and perhaps file an injunction against the School Committee. The group continues to believe that the preamble to the agreement is part of the agreement itself, for a "unified school system with a commitment to providing equity and excellence in school programs in grades kindergarten through twelve. Elementary and middle school students will continue to be educated in their own communities..now and in the future". The group estimates needing approximately \$50,000 to pursue a resolution to the school issue, specifically to stop the closing of TWB. Phill has not checked into the cost of an injunction and there has been no estimate from the town as to what the cost for a K-8 program would look like at Green Meadows.

Dick Patullo stated that the group's charge was to find out the cost to investigate the process.

Cliff Bombard asked if \$20K would be sufficient to show the school that "we are serious".

Phill will ask the question of Attorney Alan Seewald. Mary Ellen Glover suggested that the injunction be put into place to stop the process of closing TWB right now. John Flynn would like to ask the question as to whether or not the town could win the battle.

The debate is what should we do now? The committee needs to find out what the cost of the deregionalization would be?

John wants a reason to file the injunction. How quickly can he get an answer to that? Phill said that by tomorrow he would have an opinion.

Carol Fitzgerald wants to clarify exactly what we are asking of the attorney.

Rita wants to make sure the attorney gets all the facts from the town votes, etc. Phill will get information to the board as soon as he has it.

A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to use \$50,000 in the warrant article requesting funds for deregionalization, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Historical Commission: Academy Hall exterior painting. One quote was received for the paint job we put out to bid. The amount was \$150,000. Although the board recognizes the need to restore the building, it would be better to really look at the property and building, study what needs to be done and perhaps go back out to bid. It could be offered to the Historical Society. John wondered about the Hampden history books and wondered if they would be reprinted.

Cemetery Commission: Commissioner Mindy Meeker and assistant Annie Daley came before the board to discuss the resignation of two commissioners. There is interest from a resident, but John asks that Tyler Witkop put a notice in the paper making residents aware of the need for members. John also mentioned that Ben Bump may have an interest as well.

Ann Daley is in need of a computer fix and John is aware of the problem and will ask for our computer expert to have a look at it.

Snow plowing will need to be addressed for the season as well.

Transfer Station: The board reviewed the sampling proposal from WjF GeoConsultants, Inc. for the transfer station monitoring. The price has been held by WjF and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve the proposal in the amount of \$5,070, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Cummins Northeast: The board reviewed the proposal for maintenance on the generator for the Town House. The agreement will be signed.

PVTA: Local Assessment in 2016, \$5,968 versus 2017, \$3,100 due to decrease in paratransit trips

Correspondence:

- IBPO re: Dispatch Regionalization
- Planning Board to Eversource re: Pole placement & Susan Alston
- Planning Board to Jack Arute
- Planning Board Minutes: Penny Peck property and Overlay District
- Planning Board Minutes: Scantic Meadows re: Kibbe Lane 12th amendment

NOTE:

Water/Sewer Study Group: Meeting 10/11 and Public Forum 10/17 (Notification – what is a DIF)

Regional Dispatch Meeting: October 11th 12:00 pm – Norm will contact Jeff regarding this meeting

Advisory Hearing: October 16th 7:00 pm

School committee meeting notes from October 5th presentation

School Committee Meeting: October 11, 2017

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn at 7:45 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc