

Approved 11/20/17

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

November 2, 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.

The board reviewed their meeting minutes from the August 29th BOS meeting. During that meeting they discussed the appointment of Bill Joy as a Reserve Officer. Due to lack of a quorum in the meeting, it was discussed again tonight.

Retired Sgt. Bill Joy: Based on the recommendation from Chief Farnsworth and Sgt. Mike Cooney a motion was made by Norman Charest to appoint Bill Joy as a Reserve Officer, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Deregionalization Study Committee: Phill Schneider came before the board to discuss his interview with Attorney Edward Pikula and Attorney Christine Pikula. Phill attended the meeting with Norm Charest. He presented a letter discussing the meeting held with all parties. In it C Pikula discussed the 1) pursuit of a claim for Breach of Contract of the Agreement Between the Towns of Hampden and Wilbraham, 2) petition the taxable inhabitants of the town to seek an injunction to restrain the payment of any funds to the Regional School Committee, and 3) restrain violations of state and federal laws protecting the educational rights of disabled students. She would pursue a legal injunction based on the language in the "preamble" of the agreement, which states in part, "Elementary and middle school students will continue to be educated in their own communities...now and in the future." In mentioning petitioning the inhabitants of the town to seek injunction, they would ask for funding from those inhabitants, which is not going to happen. It was noted that Edward Pikula is the City Solicitor for Springfield and a well-respected attorney.

John Flynn questioned whether the attorneys had an opinion on how "winnable" the case is. Vinnie states that our town counsel, Mike Schneider now agrees that the preamble is part of the agreement; whereas in the past he was of the opinion that it wasn't. John would like a letter from the firm stating that the case is "winnable". He stated that he would have a conference call with Phill Schneider and the attorneys the next day to get a better sense of their feelings on the case.

Howie Barber, Financial Officer of HWRSD estimates that the 5 year plan will save 635k. The savings projected has gone from 150k to 350k to 635k – what is the real number?

The question was asked what should happen if the 50k is approved. The board will discuss this at a later meeting. They may have to appoint the members to continue on their mission.

Highway Superintendent: Mark Langone, came before the board with a general update of the department and asked the board to sign off on the Chapter 90 Reimbursement package he would like to submit. The board mentioned a Capital Improvement Plan for him to work on so those needs can be incorporated into the Town's overall needs. Mark also wonders about a 5 year bond and will ask Capital Planning members if they would consider that.

Chief Farnsworth: The board asked Chief Farnsworth to come in with an update on the status of Regional Dispatch. Jeff reported that we still have not received a reply from the State as to how much they will contribute to the project. John asked Norm how he felt about the project and Norm responded that he thinks the way other communities do; if the money is not there, there will be no moving forward.

The Chief also presented an updated policy for the board to review regarding juveniles and how they are handled by law enforcement. The board will review this. In addition, the Chief showed the board members that the winter parking ban will be in effect on November 15th through April 15th.

John asked about the tower on Mountain Road that has fallen to disrepair and Jeff has asked Goosetown (the Police radio group) if they have a tower that we could go on. There is nothing available at this time.

Jeff noted that during the recent power outage there was an issue with communications between Police and Fire responses, but there was good coordination between Wilbraham and Hampden.

Cemetery Commission: The board received a letter of interest from Linda Casey to serve as a Cemetery Commissioner. Given the recent resignation of Tim and Cindi Connors from the commission, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to appoint Linda Casey to serve as a commissioner until the next election, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Minutes:

July 10, 2017: A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

July 24, 2017: A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

August 8, 2017: A motion was made by Norman Charest to approve as presented, with one revision, from "ex officer to ex-officio", seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

September 5, 2017: A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Norman Charest did not attend the meeting and therefore abstained from voting.

September 11, 2017: A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Norman Charest did not attend the meeting and therefore abstained from voting.

September 25, 2017: The board reviewed and Norman Charest made a motion to approve with one revision, to change the Doctor's name from "Beltrane to Beltran", seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

October 10, 2017: The board reviewed and Norman Charest made a motion to approve. John suggested a change from "computer guru" to "computer expert", and motioned to approve, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

August 29, 2017. These minutes were reviewed and are still in draft form.

May 31, 2016: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve as presented, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. Norm Charest did not attend the meeting and therefore abstained from the vote.

Motions for Special Town Meeting (STM): John made a recommendation to withdraw/take no action on the District Improvement Financing.

Architectural Service Quotes: Bathroom Improvement and Office Improvements. The board received quotes for architectural services for office improvements in the amount of \$2,800 and \$2,700 for bathroom designs. Once funds are approved at STM, seek bids from three sources for the work.

Sign Formula Grant Application for Senior Center: Becky Moriarty asked that the board sign paperwork for the annual formula grant that is received for the activities director at the center. Norm would like some back up documentation so he fully understands what the grant is. Becky will be asked to forward that information.

Fire Department: Career and Call Department Hiring Policy. The board reviewed the policy drafted by the Chief, but would like some additional language added to the policy. The board would like the criteria for hiring to be clearly stated and fact based, not subjective. The Chief will be asked to revise the policy and return it to the board for review.

Open Meeting Law: As a result of a resident's concern regarding posting of all meetings and making the information for all residents, the board will order an outdoor sign to be installed at the back of the Town House. This will allow people to drive up to it to read the postings. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to purchase the board in the amount of \$1,353.60 (including shipping), seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Tax Classification Date: The Board of Assessors and Board of Selectmen have scheduled the tax classification date for November 27th at 6:30 pm in the Auditorium.

Notice: The board will schedule a robo call to alert residents to early registration time for the Special Town Meeting to be held on November 6th at 7:00 pm at the Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Open Meeting Law Complaint: The board will compose a response to Jack Arute regarding his concern about the posting of meeting minutes and outdoor posting.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc