

Approved 1/16/18

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

January 8, 2018
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 6:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made Norman Charest to enter into Executive Session at 6:05 for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, with return to Executive Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes, John Flynn yes.

Phill Schneider, a member of the Deregionalization Study Committee was asked to attend as well as he has been an integral part of the discussion regarding the schools and his presence will have no adverse effect on the Executive Session, as determined by Attorney Pikula.

With no further business, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to adjourn Executive Session and return to Open Session at 7:08 pm, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: Vinnie Villamaino yes, Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes.

Highway Superintendent: Mark Langone came before the board to discuss his budget preparation; whether he should seek another bond for additional paving in the coming years. The board suggested that this discussion be held with advisory at a later date as well as with the Capital Planning Committee to determine the priorities.

Mark spoke with Dick Patullo, Town Treasurer about various accounts to determine what we would have available for paving. He asked about increasing the road maintenance account and along with paving money, funds from the State, that there might be money to work on Wilbraham Road.

He then talked about the Gasboy system which is the system which tracks the gasoline usage and noted that it is in need of replacement. And this has been discussed in the past, and the department has limped along, but the vendor who services the system has gotten on the State Bid List and the cost has decreased recently, from around \$13k to approximately \$10k.

He then reported on snow and ice account and is a bit more than halfway through the account. In addition, the issue with cars parked in the road and basketball hoops and other equipment being an obstacle to plow routes needs to be addressed. The board suggested that Mark get together with Chief Farnsworth to have the department let homeowners know to move their

items. Mark will also draft something for the monthly newsletter alerting residents to be cognizant of these items.

Senior Tax Work Work-Off Program: The board reviewed the following positions that have been submitted by town departments or tax payers for inclusion in the Senior Tax Work-Off Program.

- Database Administrator for Town Clerk
- Handyman/woman for Town House/Senior Center
- Cemetery Fence Painter
- Cemetery Grave Marker
- Trail maintenance on town owned property
- Massage therapist for town employees
- Clerical assistant for Town House staff

The board will find out how many positions are available to be filled from Becky Moriarty, Senior Center Director. It was agreed that the Trail Maintenance work would have to be supervised by someone and given the need in other areas that that work could wait. In addition, as much as town employees might enjoy having a massage therapist available, the board thinks that spot should be used for another position.

The board reviewed the senior work off positions and made the decisions to allow the following:

- Town House Handyperson
- Town House Clerical
- Town Clerk Database Manager
- Senior Center Kitchen
- Senior Center Kitchen
- Senior Center Floating
- Library Assistant
- Cemetery Plotter
- Cemetery Fence Painter

Various departments will be notified once the Senior Center Director, Becky Moriarty employs the lottery system to choose those interested in working in the program.

School Discussion: Special Town Meeting, Upcoming Meetings and Next Steps:

Norman discussed in Open Session the meetings he attended on an informal basis with the Chair of the School Committee, the Chair of the Wilbraham Selectboard, School Superintendent and Finance Director Howie Barber. Those interested in the school discussion asked where the board stands with moving forward with a Special Town meeting on an injunction. The board issued a statement as follows:

“After meeting with legal counsel, in Executive Session, we (Board of Selectmen) have authorized our attorneys to file suit to seek an injunction unless the School Committee is agreeable to negotiate over the closing of TWB and consolidation of 6, 7 and 8th graders to Green Meadows.”

The board then discussed the upcoming meeting scheduled some time ago as an opportunity for the School Committee, both Board of Selectmen and School Superintendent to get together for topical discussions. Given the push by the School Committee to have two warrant articles voted at a Special Town Meeting, and the board's refusal to do so, board members see no need to meet with the School Committee. John Flynn feels that it is important to show up, as Hampden has always sought a resolution, and Vinnie and Norman feel as though there's nothing to discuss at this time.

Minutes: February 13, March 27, May 15, November 13, December 4, December 11, December 21. All of the meeting minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Norman Charest to approve all as presented, with the exception of December 4, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

The minutes of December 4 were reviewed and Norman made a revision. A motion was made by Norman Charest to approve as revised, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Used Car Dealer's Application: A new application has been established and sent to all previous license holders.

Mill Road Solar Project: A new applicant is interested in installing solar panels on Mill Road. John is concerned that it may affect the deal the town has for development at the Transfer Station. This will be pursued without consultant, Beth Greenblatt.

Request from Gina Kahn: Prevention Education Program: Gina is working on an information session to take place on January 23rd to discuss the opioid epidemic without youth and will post signs in town to publicize the event.

Ameresco update: Out attorneys continue to work with Ameresco (Transfer Station Solar developer) to finalize the contract so permitting can begin soon.

Board Reorganization: This term of the Chairman's position which was Norman Charest's has been held by John Flynn for half of that term. The board agreed that the second half of the term should be held by Vinnie Villamaino. With that, a motion was made by Norman Charest to appoint Vincent Villamaino as Chair of the Board of Selectmen, and John Flynn to the Chair of the Board of Health, for the rest of this term, seconded by Vinnie villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Various Board of Health Permits: The board reviewed the following permits and a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to approve all permits as presented for 2018, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

- Disposal Works Permits 2018
- Swimming Pools 2018 (all sign)

- Septage Haulers 2018 (John sign)
- Automatic Device 2018 (all sign)

NOTE: Senator Lesser will attend the BOS meeting on February 26th at 6:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant
/pbc