

Approved 4/2/18

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

March 12, 2018
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden MA

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino, John D. Flynn, Norman Charest

The meeting was called to order by Vinnie Villamaino at 6:00 pm. Norman Charest was unable to attend tonight's meeting

Board of Health Agent: Lorri McCool, our BOH Agent came before the board to discuss the requirements for Title 5 (regulations for septic systems). Our Title 5 Requirements are currently more strict than the State's requirements and Lorri no longer wants to be the arbiter of making decisions that the State doesn't. Lorri was put in a position to determine if a resident is telling the truth or not in adhering to the Town's regulations and the State doesn't mandate this, so Lorri would like to revert back to the State's regulations. Given this information, a motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to change back to the State's regulations, as recommended by Lorri McCool, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Historical Commission: Members of the Historical Commission came before the board to discuss the status of Academy Hall. Those members are Connie Witt, Betty Howarth, Mahlon Peterson and Joyce Dunklee. They are concerned that the town is spending money on the upkeep of this building that is not used for much, other than housing the artifacts collected by the Historical Society. They claim that the meeting room does not get used to its full potential and the town might be better off if the property were sold. The building is currently assessed at over \$300,000 and Alan Fritts mentioned the endowment the Society has received in the recent past. John mentioned that he thinks the early Hampden book should be reprinted and available for sale to bring more attention to the history of Hampden. The board listened and will invite the Historical Society in to discuss their feelings about the building; to perhaps explore using the press or social media to bring attention to the building so it might be used by other groups.

Ameresco Solar Project: Joel Lindsay came before the board to discuss the stalemate that has occurred with the Solar Project at the Transfer Station. The want to clarify the lease, perhaps drop using the capped landfill parcel, need to have provisions in the lease in the event of damage to the landfill. Joel did say that in the 12 in state installations they have done, that they have never had to perform any repairs. Joel will check on the timeframe to get them repaired, should panels be damaged so the board has a better idea of the cost associated with them

Park Avenue Solar Solutions Tax Agreement Warrant Article: John Flynn made a motion to add a warrant article for Annual Town Meeting to allow the Board to enter into a Tax Agreement with Park Avenue Solar Solutions without going to the Town Meeting for a vote, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Snow and Ice: Mark Langone submitted a request to the board to be allowed to run the snow and ice account “in the red” for the duration of the winter season. A motion was made by Vinnie Villamaino to do so, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Special Town Meeting: A motion was made by John Flynn to close the warrant for Special Town Meeting, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Sidewalk Project: The board received a response from the Community Compact program stating that money will be forthcoming to the town for the purposes of sidewalk installation. We will add a placeholder to the warrant for additional funds at Annual Town Meeting. The board will speak with the Community Preservation Commission to seek funds.

Transfer Request: A motion was made by John Flynn to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund to the account for Office Equipment Maintenance in the amount of \$3,000 to cover necessary expenses, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Correspondence from School Committee:

Request for Warrant Articles at next Town Meeting
Request for Meeting, “Safety Summit: A Community Conversation”

Town Administrator Ad: The board asked for a sample ad to be used for the Town Administrator position.

Website Awards: The board received a positive response from the Community Compact Program for funds to establish a new website for the town providing better and easier access for residents wishing to interact with the town government and various services.

Annual Town Meeting: The ATM will be held on May 14th and the Advisory Hearing has been scheduled for April 23rd.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn at 7:25 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant
/pbc