

Approved 5/21/18

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

April 9, 2018
6:00 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden MA

Board Members: Vincent J. Villamaino, Norman Charest, John D. Flynn
The meeting was called to order by Vinnie Villamaino at 6:00 pm.

Town Audit: Tom Scanlon came before the board to conduct an Exit Interview to review the findings of his company after performing the annual audit for the town. Tom explained that the town is in good shape and he always encourages reserve funds. He suggested that the surety bonds for the Treasurer and Tax Collector be increased to \$120k or more and suggested biweekly paychecks, which could save the town \$2-3k per year. There was some concern whether that was necessary or not for the town. He also suggested that the salary lines for Library and Highway be broken out for better transparency and mentioned finding a way to account for snow and ice salary and snow and ice expenses. All in all, the town is in good shape and well run financially.

Chief Gorski: Chief came before the board with Brett Hebert who has applied for the full time firefighter appointment. Brett was interviewed for the full time, day shift position and comes highly recommended by the Chief and Chairman, Vinnie Villamaino. Based on these recommendations, a motion was made by John Flynn to appoint Brett Hebert to the full time position as fire fighter, seconded by Norman Charest. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

A motion was made by Norm Charest to enter into Executive Session at 7:02 pm to discuss lease negotiations with Ameresco Solar, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the town, with return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

With that a motion was made by Norman Charest to return to Open Session at 7:20 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to enter into Executive Session with Chief Farnsworth at 7:21 pm to discuss strategy with respect to Combined Dispatch if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn Executive Session at 7:32 and return to Open Session, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, John Flynn yes and Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Advisory: The board met with Advisory to review the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and to discuss the Combined Dispatch proposal.

There was discussion about the Town Administrator position that has been talked about and Eva Wiseman, Town Clerk thinks the position is unnecessary and thinks increasing salaries of people in the town house would achieve the same results as an administrator.

Eva also talked about meeting postings and wondered about accessing a service online that could serve this purpose. There would be 24/7 postings available and there will be further discussion about this.

Correspondence: Reviewed without comment.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Norman Charest to adjourn at 8:30 pm, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant
/pbc