

Approved 6/11/18

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

June 4, 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.
John Flynn was unable to attend the meeting.

Purchase and Sale Agreement: Sherry Himmelstein from the Minnechaug Land Trust brought forward a contract for the property purchase that was approved at Annual Town Meeting in 2016. The transaction was never finalized due to the death of the owner, and subsequent probate. Those obstacles have been resolved and the sale can finally take place. The board approved Vinnie to sign the agreement which will be sent to the seller for signatures.

Town House Improvements: There is concern about the condition of the Town House and some repairs that need to be made immediately. The cupola is leaking and creating an issue in the upstairs hallway. Jane Budynkiewicz came in to discuss getting the repairs done. The board asked that Jane make the contacts to get the work scheduled, using a crane and a roofer. The Town House is in need of some very costly improvements and there is concern that spending money now, without a good look at all of our options would not be in the best interest of the town.

Minutes: Minutes will be reviewed at our next meeting.

Correspondence:

- Letter to Al Ganem re: Mental Health Awareness Training Grant: This is a letter stating the Board's support of Gina Kahn's pursuit for a grant for this training.
- Pay Rate for Chief: This will be reviewed by Norman and the Chief.
- Quote for Mice Control: A motion was made by Norman Charest to approve the cost of dealing with mice in the building, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.
- School Project Clarification: Every year we budget for a school improvement project to be completed in Green Meadows and/or TWB. The amount allotted is \$15k. There is a fence project to be done which will come out of the District budget and Ed Cenedella will be contacted to find out what he plans to do prior to the end of the fiscal year.

- Historical Commission: The board received a letter of interest to serve on the Historical Commission from Mark Casey. A motion was made by Norman Charest to appoint Mark to the commission as requested, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Tighe and Bond Consultants: Tom Couture and Dan Buttrick came before the board to discuss the Scantic River Dam at Chapin Road. Mark Langone, Highway Superintendent was also in attendance. Tom started the discussion and then asked Dan to elaborate. If we make any changes/improvements to the dam we will have to meet every regulatory requirement. The process to repair would include looking at the hydrology, the foundation for the dam, whether the material underneath can support a structure on it and calculate how it would handle storms as well as performing Geotech borings. The cost to have Tighe and Bond just do this would be in the \$150-200k range. We would have to deal with the Army Corps of Engineers and Natural Heritage.

Mark asked that Dan elaborate on the rating system that is used for dams in the state. He stated that dams are rated as to the potential hazard to the residents and property would be should or because of the dam failure. Given that there is not a large amount of water held with this dam, it would be considered a low potential for harm or damage.

Vinnie asked if there are any programs available for failed dams and Dan responded that there are programs for failed dams and grants to design and permit for repairs. There is usually a 25% match requirement and those dams with a high impact would be restored first. Dan does not think this dam would qualify as there is no impact to the public water supply or ecological damage.

It was suggested that the Fire Department uses this spot as a place to fill their tankers, and they still could if we dug out some of the silt.

The subject of some wood pylons or such came up and it was noted that these poles or pylons are sharp and have the potential to do some real harm to people who might be tempted to get in the river. Ted Zebert from the Conservation Commission was in attendance and was asked if this was considered a safety hazard would Con Com allow the removal of these old structures. Dave Cameron is the contact at DEP who Vinnie and John met with some months ago and offered whatever help they could provide.

Mark, Tom Couture and Dan Buttrick will stop at Ms. Anderson's home (red house situated on Main Street with the Scantic on the other) to assess the situation and report back to the board. Tom will research the safety aspect for fire-fighting purposes and will get to us with a plan.

Board Reorganization: Given the election, the board reviewed the current positions of the board. A motion was made by Norman Charest to have Vinnie Villamaino remain as Chair of the BOS and John as Chair of the BOH, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Ameresco Status: Waiting to hear from Town Counsel as to where this project stands.

Entertainment Licenses: The noise level for a nuisance needs to be established by the board before permits can be reissued.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to enter into Executive Session at 7:00 pm to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining body and the chair do declares, without return to Open Session, seconded by Vinnie Villamaino. VOTE: Norman Charest yes, Vinnie Villamaino yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B Courtney
Administrative Assistant
/pbc