

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2013
Hampden Town House**

Approved March 4, 2013

Called to order at 6:00 pm.

Members Present – Carol Fitzgerald, Rick Rubin, Jeff Smith and Jamie Collins

Absent – Doug Boyd

Also Present – Jay Ray, Parks & Recreation, Chief Farnsworth and Sgt. Joy, HPD, Chief Gorski, HFD, Town Accountant Cliff Bombard, Selectmen Vinnie Villamaino, John D Flynn and Norm Charest

FY14 Budget Process –

Parks and Recreation:

The Parks and Recreation chair gave an overview of the Parks & Recreation program from the past year. He went on to explain the Memorial Park project is back before the CPC needing additional funding due to an Army Corps of Engineer permit. He reviewed the Spray Park and the expense budget and presented the following requests:

For the salary account 015301, there is a requested increase of \$4414. This will cover expanding the current duties of the maintenance person to include preventative maintenance in addition to the current duties at the spray park, and an increase for the clerk pending personnel committee review and recommendation. The gym attendant position remains unchanged.

All other budget line items remain at same funding amount as FY13.

Police:

Chief Farnsworth and Sgt Joy attended the meeting. The bulk of the increases were due to contractual obligations to staff and the substantial increase to dispatchers. The department is requesting \$25,000 to hire an additional patrolman would cover courts, evidence, investigative work as well as vacation and sick time. There has also been an increase in state mandated training although the state has ceased offering the training. Clothing allowances for officers has increased as has vehicle maintenance. The department currently has an officer in the academy. The Chief will also be looking to purchase a new cruiser to replace the 2011 Crown Victoria

Fire Department:

Chief Mike Gorski attended the meeting and submitted a level serviced and level funded budget. The training stipend is working well, there are more attendees and the department is the best trained that it has ever been, however it is hard to attract volunteers since there is so much state mandated training. The Chief reviewed the 911 dispatcher's procedures for setting out the tones and asking for mutual help from neighboring towns.

Town Accountant: Cliff met with the Board and reviewed the revenue budget for FY14. This is a full audit year therefore the Accountant's budget request sheet reflects an increase to line 01501.3 for the full audit. He will be putting together a projected revenues report for the board.

Board of Selectmen: John Flynn, Vinnie Villamaino and Norman Charest all attended. Budget sheets were submitted for FY14. County Retirement is up again. Gasoline and employee benefits and unemployment compensation, office supplies, animal inspector, emergency management, BOH agent salary and mapping maintenance accounts have requested increases. Salary lines 12.2 and 56.2 requested step raises.

General topics of conversation between the Select Board and the Advisory Committee followed including the highway department salary shortage and bond issues.

Carol would like a debt schedule, clerk to request from Treasurer. Vinnie will be coming back to the board with current rates.

Transfer Requests for FY13 – One transfer request was received from the Reserve Fund.

1. *Rick made a motion to approve the transfer of \$300.00 from the Reserve Fund to account 015406, Mapping maintenance. Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous 5-0.*

The minutes from February 11, 2013 regular meeting were reviewed.

Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Rick seconded, all in favor, 3 to 0.

Next meeting scheduled for February 25th, 2013 at 6pm in the Melville room.

Rick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Carol seconded. All in favor, 5 to 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi Connors, Clerk