

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2014
Hampden Town House**

Approved February 3, 2014

Called to order at 6:02 pm.

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

Also Present – Richard Patullo, Treasurer/ZBA, Robert Makuch & Carolyn Reed, Assessors, Fred, Frankie, Parks & Recreation, Ellen Moriarty & Kathy Hutchinson, Library

Absent - none

FY15 Budget Process –

Board of Assessors:

Bob Makuch, on behalf of the board, submitted a 2.1 % increase for the elected assessor's salary. He asked that the assistant assessor line be carried forward this year and that the principal assessor line be eliminated. He requested a step increases for their assistant assessor and clerk. Expense line has increased due to continuing education. Software line has decreased as billing has changed to a tiered system, and Mapping line has also decreased. Field review will now be included in the warrant item instead of as a line item.

In response to Carol's question about new growth figures, Bob replied that it was too early. Rick questioned revenue from the golf course/Hampden Country Club. The assessors abated some of the taxes due to the condition of the buildings. Some concern was expressed over how the assessors will tax the solar farm.

Library:

The library submitted both a level serviced budget and a pre-closing staff addition budget. They are requesting funding for the addition of a young adult librarian position for 15 hours per week. They are currently open 20 hours per week and would possibly be able to open a few extra hours per week with the additional young adult librarian position. Doug asked if the whole position couldn't be fully funded, could the library use the additional hours. Kathy responded that they could perhaps use the Kindergarten fund for the difference in salary.

Treasurer:

The treasurer submitted 2.5% increases for both salary and clerical lines. Tax title expense request was increased by \$10,500. This amount does not represent an increase in expense because in years past, this amount was on the recap sheet and was added to the tax rate without a vote. Dick noted that new interpretations on how the money can be spent make it smarter to raise this as a line item going forward.

The treasurer and advisory committee reviewed the current debt, bonds, interest rates, VA benefits, and the anticipated employee benefit rates through SVRHT. He has a bid out to refinance the dump truck. The Veteran's benefit from last year should be carried forward for FY15.

ZBA:

The ZBA has had a change in clerks. The new clerk also works for the planning board and is receiving the same rate of pay and looking for benefits.

*Jamie Collins excused himself at 7pm for a prior commitment.

Parks and Recreation:

Fred Frangie, Parks and Recreation chairman gave an overview of the Parks & Recreation program from the past year. He reviewed the Spray Park and the expense budget and presented the following requests:

The salary line 015301 has been reduced by \$105.30.

For the expense account 015302, there is a requested increase of \$275. This will cover the increased utility costs from opening the spray park on weekends before the end of the school year and the increased cost of both trash service and electricity at Memorial Park.

The spray park account 015309 remains at same funding amount as FY13 & FY14.

Fred also reviewed the warrant request items for a new playscape and pavilion at Memorial Park.

New Business-

Next meeting scheduled for February 3rd, 2013 at 6pm in the Melville room.

Rick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm. Carol seconded. All in favor, 4 to 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi Connors, Clerk