

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 3, 2014  
Hampden Town House**

Approved February 10, 2014

Called to order at 6:03 pm.

**Members Present** – Doug Boyd, Carol Fitzgerald, and Jeff Smith  
Also Present – **Selectman John Flynn, Pam Courtney, Dana Pixley, Highway Superintendent, Chief Michael Gorski, HVFD, Becky Moriarty, Senior Center Director**  
**Absent** – Jamie Collins and Rick Rubin

**FY15 Budget Process –**

\*\*Selectman Flynn noted that he and Betty Howarth, Cultural Council and Town House Building Committee member, will be meeting this week to walk through the Town House and review potential projects.

**Highway Department:**

Selectman Flynn reviewed the recap sheet and noted the increase in snow and ice. The highway department is trying to come to a reasonable number with average expenditures. They are also trying for a three year cycle on street sweeping and catch basin cleaning. The department is on the second year of a three year cycle of trying to work the seasonal salary back into the regular budget instead of using chapter 90 funds for the shortfall. This will allow all of the chapter 90 funds to go into road projects. The projected increase would be (\$15,000 FY14), \$14,600 for FY15 and \$13,600 for FY16.

The rest of the budget increases cover contractual expenses and salaries  
Highway did not submit any capital requests this year. They may look for \$8000 later in the year for sanders. They now have stainless and are tracking to see how long they last. There will also be approximately \$9000 returning to free cash from the warrant article from the truck & sander purchase.

Next anticipated large capital request could possibly be in FY17 to replace dump bodies on older trucks.

**Fire Department:**

Chief Mike Gorski attended the meeting and submitted a capital request for \$125,000 for the replacement of the air packs the firefighters use. The cost is from the state bid list, and the Chief has applied for a FEMA grant to cover the cost as well. Doug Boyd questioned if there could be a contingent approval/appropriate up to \$125,000 at town meeting.

The AED's, (Fire has 4, COA has 1, PD has 6), are also in need of replacement since all are a model that is no longer being produced. The company will service them for one additional year, and parts are not available.

Doug Boyd questioned how the stipend was working. Chief Gorski replied that is has become an incentive.

The Chief noted that he doesn't budget for yearly repairs; the money is requested as a transfer. Carol quested whether money should be budgeted on a yearly basis. Selectman Flynn suggested looking at the past three to four years of transfers to get an average number

& to perhaps budget for that number, and if the money is not used it can be rolled back to free cash.

**Council on Aging:**

Becky reviewed her requested budget and salary increases were in accordance with Tabor for the steps and grades. She went on to elaborate that their greatest need was in the outreach line item. They have seen an increase in the number of people they are serving, particularly in the under 60 segment of the population for food from their food pantry, food stamps and fuel assistance. She remarked that they are increasingly becoming a social service agency to the community.

The COA has had multiple issues with the building recently. They have had a gas leak, a broken freezer, an issue with the sink and the dish machine, and the generator battery exploded. Becky anticipates that she will have enough money in her current budget. She also stated that the floors in both the great room and kitchen need to be re done.

It was suggested that they could perhaps get a committee together to do a study of the building.

The Senior Center utility charges may be on the rise due to connectivity. (They have VOIP phones.)

The Two-Town Trolley, which is completely grant funded, is one of their largest utilized programs. They are currently dispatching but that will transition out of town after July 1, 2014.

\*\*Selectman Flynn noted that the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative will not hook up connectivity at TWB School or the Senior Center since they are not within the required distance of each other. Currently Green Meadows School, the Town House, the Fire House, Police Department/911 and CWMars/Library have been hooked up.

**Town Accountant:** This is not a full audit year therefore the Accountant's budget request sheet reflects a \$9000 decrease to line 01501.3 for the receivables only audit.

Selectman Flynn questioned whether a stabilization account should be set up for the Accountant. Doug Boyd remarked that he was not sure there was enough to justify setting up a separate account.

\*\*Carol Fitzgerald questioned Selectman Flynn if COA director Becky Moriarty was working the 30 hours budgeted for her position? Selectman Flynn replied that she is not at this point, but that they are still requesting/budgeting the position for 30 hours and returning the surplus funds to free cash at the end of the year.

**New Business-**

Next meeting scheduled for February 10th, 2013 at 6pm in the Melville room.

*Carol made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting. Doug seconded. All in favor 3-0*

*Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Jeff seconded. All in favor, 4 to 0.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi Connors, Clerk