

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2015
Hampden Town House**

Approved February 9, 2015

Called to order at 6:10 pm.

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

Members Absent – Rick Rubin

Also Present – Richard Patullo, Treasurer/ZBA, Stan Witkop, Norman Charest, Robert Makuch & Carolyn Reed, Assessors, Terry Ford, Parks & Recreation

FY15 Budget Process –

Board of Assessors:

The Board of Assessors submitted a grade and step increase for the assistant assessor. She will be receiving her MAAA certification this spring and will become the principal assessor. This will eliminate the assistant assessor line item and relieve the Board of some of their duties which is why the Board's salary did not have a requested increase. A multiple step increase was requested for the clerk due to salary of position in surrounding communities and her continuing education. Carol Fitzgerald told both Norman and Robert that they would need to follow the proper procedure and go to the Personnel Committee in order to jump past the single step of the salary chart. Expense line has decreased due to continuing education. Software line has increased due to user fees and web hosting increases, and Mapping line has also increased due to mapping maintenance. 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. Doug 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.

Treasurer:

The Treasurer submitted 2.5% increases for both salary and clerical lines. Expense item requests remain the same as FY15. The treasurer and advisory committee reviewed the current debt, bonds, and interest rates. Richard also state that both the dump truck and air packs are not exempt and that there are one year notes on each of these. Carol asked about retirement and Richard responded that it is underfunded and the law limits the increase to 8% per year.

ZBA:

A step increase was requested for the ZBA clerk. Expense item requests remain the same as FY15.

Library:

A level serviced budget was submitted on behalf of the Library. They have been rescheduled for February 23, 2015 at 6:20pm.

Parks and Recreation:

Terry Ford, Parks and Recreation chairman gave an overview of the Parks & Recreation program from the past year. He presented the following requests:

The salary line 015301 is increased by \$6595.48. This request includes a single step raise and restoration of 450 hours that were originally granted to the maintenance position for FY14. A single step increase was requested for the administrative assistant. A multiple step increase was requested for the gym attendant, this increase was requested to match the attendant salary for the Suburban basketball program in conjunction with Wilbraham Parks & Recreation.

For the expense account 015302, there is a requested increase of \$175. This will cover the projected increased utility costs from opening the spray park at Memorial Park on weekends before the end of the school year.

After remaining the same for FY13, 14 & 15, an increase of \$505 is requested to the spray park account 015309 to cover increased electricity/operating costs

Next meeting scheduled for February 2nd, 2015 at 6pm in the Melville room.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi Connors, Clerk