

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2015
Hampden Town House**

Approved March 16, 2015

Called to order at 6:07 pm.

Members Present – Doug Boyd, Carol Fitzgerald, Rick Rubin

Members Absent –Jamie Collins and Jeff Smith

Also Present –Hampden Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mike Gorski, COA Director Becky Moriarty Selectman John Flynn, BOS Admin Pam Courtney, John Wilkinson and Superintendent of Schools Marty O’Shea

Minutes:

Doug made a motion to accept the February 23, 2015 meeting minutes as presented Carol seconded. All in favor, 3-0

FY15 Budget Process –

Fire Department:

Selectman Flynn stated that Mike Gorski had come with an extremely conservative budget and that he had worked out a radio maintenance agreement with the Police Chief. Chief Gorski is asking for the funds to purchase a rescue saw. Doug Boyd asked if there were any big expenses and Chief Gorski replied that he will be asking for another truck once this one is paid for, (FY17). The new truck he wants will be a hybrid that will carry water and be able to fit into the 10ft door on the right side of the station. Selectman Flynn asked the Chief if he wants to explore the 1 mile limit and the Chief said that they were going to “stick where we are.” Doug Boyd asked about the anticipated cost of the truck and Selectman Flynn stated it would be \$350-\$400,000 for this type of truck

COA:

Becky presented a revised copy of her budget. Stating it was straightforward and as close to level serviced as it could be with salaries based on Tabor. Small increases were requested for conferences, building maintenance and utilities. Becky also presented a ‘wish list’ budget with request for additional staff hours for both the outreach coordinator and receptionist positions. Doug asked if these were want or need requests for additional hours and Becky told him that the need for the outreach coordinator was most important since the Senior Center seemed to be turning into a community center rather than just a senior center. She said the receptionist increase hours were more of a wish and that they could maintain at 15 hours. There is some concern over the roof leaking. If the building needs a new roof they may come in for a warrant article for a new roof with a cost of \$15-\$20,000.

HWRSD:

Marty O’Shea explained that enrollment is down for both towns. Wilbraham is down 62 students and Hampden is down 40 students with an enrollment percentage of 24.1. He went on to say that they received below level funding for regional transportation and that there was a big increase in GIC and retiree health plans and last year’s gap was manageable due to negotiations. Teachers took a 0% increase and a 1 ½ day furlough.

Cemetery Commission:

John Wilkinson stated that they will need to put up a fence on the south side of the cemetery on Chapin because they are receiving various degrees of complaints from neighbors. Carol asked if the Cemetery Commission was planning on using the same landscaping contractor and John replied that they don’t have a contract for this year but want them to remove the grass clippings.

Rick asked what the clerk has been up against and John explained that the previous recordkeeping was not good. When multiple lots were sold the computer people who came in only marked one as being sold through the software and now multiple people own the same plots and some people are buried in the wrong plots. In the past six years only two funerals have gone without a hitch. Maintenance and snow removal budgets reviewed and Rick asked why it had not been put out to bid and John replied that it was his understanding that they didn’t have to put out to bid if it was under a certain amount. Rick suggested that they throw out bids to see what the market is like.

Rick also asked when John thought they would have it all straightened out and what was needed to help get the whole office organized. Doug asked if they were selling many lots. John said they are trying to sell the new section so they have some semblance of order. He went on to say that Prospect Cemetery, (Scantic Road) was more of a problem and that the town also owned a small piece past what St Mary’s owns and that they think someone is buried up there since there is a stone.

Next meeting scheduled for March 16th, 2015 at 6pm in the Melville room.

Rick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28. Doug seconded. All in favor, 4 to 0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindi Connors, Clerk