

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2017
Hampden Town House**

Approved January 30, 2017

Called to order at 6:00pm

Members Present – Carol Fitzgerald & Doug Boyd, Co-Chairs, and Matt Fisher

Members Absent – Jeff Smith, Heather Turcotte

Also Present – Board of Assessors Norm Charest, Bob Makuch, Library Director Ellen Moriarty, Trustee Kathy Hutchison, Richard Patullo, Treasurer, ZBA

FY18 Budget Process:

Board of Assessors reviewed their FY18 budget request. Elected officials request a 2.5% increase, Principal assessor and clerk positions increased per salary chart. No additional hours are being requested. Schooling is now paid out of their revolving account and software expenses have decreased, mapping remains level. Extra hours have been included for schooling only. The revolving account has a balance of approximately \$1778. Total overall budget is approximately 2.5% increase over FY17.

Library Ellen Moriarty and Kathleen Hutchison presented a level serviced budget. They are operating at 25 hours per week but would like to move back towards the 35 hours they were open before the library itself closed several years ago. Carol commented that most departments have not been restored back to pre-closing hours

ZBA is status quo, Richard would like to see parity between the ZBA clerk and Planning Admin hourly salary.

Treasurer remarked that \$10,000 was spent on the initial set up for records management, shelving is still needed and the software needs updating. The police department bond was originally on for FY19 and they have spent all but \$40,000 of the \$2,900,000, of which \$2,500,000 was borrowed short term and due on 03/31/2017.

An audit is needed for good bond rating and the next audit scheduled is in 2018 so he may push off borrowing until then and apply to FY19 A warrant article will be needed for \$20,000 to get a bond rating, this will save approximately \$500,000 over the life of the loan.

Debt schedule briefly reviewed: FY19 highway over rides, final \$47,000 due on air packs, retirement up \$40,000, highway infrastructure bond – payment in 19, last of money spent in 18. Richard asked why do an override when this can be taken care of inside 2 ½?

Doug remarked that capital planning should be on their list. Richard stated that we should pay down the dump truck more than the \$50,000 especially if a new loader is in the near future.

MVX and car sales are up

Richard went on to say that non-union town employees feel they are not being paid as well as union pd/teachers are and that they are not receiving increases at the same rate as union employees

Next meeting scheduled for 6pm on January 23, 2017

With no further business, Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm, Carol seconded, all in favor 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindi Connors, Clerk