

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2017
Hampden Town House**

Approved March 27, 2017

Called to order at 6:00pm

Members Present – Carol Fitzgerald & Doug Boyd, Co-Chairs, Jeff Smith, Matt Fisher and Heather Turcotte

Members Absent – none

Also Present – Cliff Bombard, Town Accountant, Bob Howarth, Town Moderator, Selectman John Flynn

FY18 Budget Process:

Carol made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6th meeting as presented, Doug seconded, 4-0 in favor.

General Discussion:

Discussion about presentation of Fire Department budget during ATM. It is included in the personal protection section. Carol is worried that if it is integrated and presented in the total budget line if the vote for the public safety line is no, what will that do to the rest of the personal protection budgets, (i.e. PD) Bob said he can present the public safety section without the Fire Department line item. Doug added that if the \$355,000 doesn't pass, there is still the \$100,000 consideration and a motion to amend the budget would be needed. Cliff added that a vote on regular expenses would add a new line item called 53.7 for new operating budget or 53.8 for a call department. If each amount on the budget is not specifically allocated, then the chief will have discretion on how he spends his budget.

Bob asked if the Advisory committee wanted a legal opinion on the two questions regarding the schools.

Cliff asked if there were any CPA expenditures and Doug informed him that the only request received is for a contribution to resurface the tennis courts at MRHS in the amount of \$15,000. Cliff questioned if this was appropriate and Doug answered that the money could be used anywhere in Massachusetts. Cliff will be providing a figure so that monies can be encumbered for affordable housing. The only other expense will be the collation dues for CPC. The establishment of bylaws for revolving funds has been deferred to 2019. These bylaws are part of the Municipal Modernization Act.

Salary spreadsheet – clerk to edit for minimum wage and grade five employees

Heather asked if there will need to be a 2 ½ override and John said no because we're not taxing at levy limit

Matt mentioned other items for discussion, additional officer for PD, addition to firehouse (before new truck) a new loader for the highway department and the fire department budget

There is a budget roundtable meeting scheduled with the HWRSD representative and the Wilbraham FinCom on March 20th at 6pm in the MRHS library. Meeting will be posted.

Next meeting at Town House scheduled for 6pm on March 27 2017

With no further business, Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm, Doug seconded, all in favor 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindi Connors, Clerk