

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
April 10, 2017
Hampden Town House**

Approved May 1, 2017

Hearing opened at 7:01pm

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

Members Absent – Jeff Smith

Also Present – public

FY18 Budget Process:

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to clarify and receive public input on the warrant articles and budget prior to Town Meeting. There will be an informational Special Town Meeting within the Annual Town Meeting and a hearing on the STM on April 24th at 7pm.

Doug read through the warrant articles and budget line by line, periodically stopping for questions.

Questions/concerns/comments regarding the warrant articles are noted below:

Review of Articles:

Article 1 Town Reports

Article 2 Budget

Requested/recommended Budget line items reviewed. The total budget recommended by the Advisory Committee is \$12,995,871. The conservative revenue expected is \$13,896,743. This revenue will cover budget and expense requests. Carol explained to the audience that normally the salary chart is used but due to the new minimum wage law changes, the chart became compressed so they opted for a different approach this year. All employees will receive a 2 ½% increase. That difference will show in the difference between the requested and recommended budget lines. Hours have been added to the Building Inspector, this line will be broken into salary and expense lines next year. Temporary help was increase by \$2000. Additional five hours for COA receptionist.

Article 3 Fire Department Change to Call Department, cost is approximately \$226,000

Discussion on how to handle if fulltime staffing doesn't pass in main budget so that they will still have an operating budget.

Article 4 Previous Bills

Article 5 Revolving Funds for FY2018

Article 6 Revolving Fund reports

Article 7 Enterprise Fund transfer station

Article 8 Community Preservation Committee – There are three items; a request for \$15,000 to resurface the tennis courts at MRHS, an encumbrance of 10% of the balance for affordable housing, and \$300 in Community Preservation dues.

Article 9 Conservation Fund - \$1000

Article 10 Highway State Aid - \$257,000

Article 11 Highway Equipment Replacement - loader

Article 12 Highway Equipment Replacement – pickup truck with plow

Article 13 Commercial Bond Rating for Police Station Financing without this financing could cost +/- \$100,000 more

Article 14 Library Additional State Aid

Article 15 Assessors- transfer into their stabilization account

Article 16 Assessors - transfer out of their stabilization account

Article 17 Intermunicipal Agreement for Paratransit

Article 18 Fire Department Article – Raise and appropriate and/or transfer a sum of money to build an addition (\$200,000) to house potential new firetruck (Fy19)

Article 19 Hampden – Wilbraham Regional Agreement – Citizen Petition

Article 20 Withdrawal from Formation of a Regional School District as Amended– Citizen Petition

Article 21 Amendment Zoning Bylaw – Auto sales in residential areas

Article 22 General Bylaw, Demolition Delay

Article 23 School Resource Officer

Article 24 Reserve Fund - \$25,000

Article 25 General Stabilization Fund – no action will be taken on this now; action will be taken in the fall

Article 26 Reducing Tax Rate – no action will be taken on this now; action will be taken in the fall

Heather Jolicoeur asked who is responsible for additions to Green Meadows if K-8 are all schooled there and do Hampden residents get to vote? It was explained that any expenditure or capital improvements the town is responsible for and as a capital item will be voted on at a Town Meeting. The nature of the expenditure determines where the vote is taken

With no further questions, the Public Hearing concluded at 8:13pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindi Connors, Clerk