

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 8, 2018  
Hampden Town House**

Approved January 15, 2018

Called to order at 6pm

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

**Members Absent** – - none

**Invited Guests** – Alan Fritts

**Also Present** – Bob Howarth

**Minutes:**

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

**Discussions:**

General discussion in regards to increase in retirement assessment. Doug stated that it seems out of whack, Matt explained that increase is a result of a comparison of liability versus invested assets of market. Carol would like to look at the number of employees and has that number increased. There are currently 39 pensionable employees. The board would like to know what factor goes into calculating our assessment.

The Board of Assessors want to send their clerk to additional school which would occur on a day that she is not regularly schedule, (Friday) This may result in an overage of that salary line. Carol explained that this will be an unanticipated expense and that a request for a transfer from the reserve account at the end of the year would cover it.

With regards to this same employee, the Conservation Commission may overextend their clerk salary line as well.

Bonnie will need to be contacted to plan for FY19 and bringing expenditures down to the grade/step of the clerks position.

Alan Fritts came into the meeting to express his interest in being appointed to the Advisory committee. When asked why he would like to be appointed, he stated that “having citizens informed enough to make considerate decision” was a priority. Alan was previously on the Water and Sewer Committee, and the school committee for K-8 before the regionalization.

Carol asked Alan about his professional background and Alan offered that he had a degree in Industrial Management, Finance and Engineering. He had worked in the chemical industry for 30 years, 20 of those on the management side. Alan would like to see more hearing, he thinks the forma communication is going well but would like to see more hearings. He also suggested a microphone and speakers be used at meetings so residents can hear what is being discussed. Doug replied that we don't have a town manager/administrator and that there was no one person to set up for town meeting. Mr. Fritts responded that the Town Moderator should push for this. He went on to add that he is fascinated by the town meeting form of government. Doug explained that 'our' authority is limited, we can vote to spend \$25,000 from the reserve account. Carol added that a lot of people don't understand town meeting. Heather also added that a lot of people will vote but don't understand the full extent of and in (on tax rate and taxes).

The Advisory Committee members thanked Alan for his interest and taking the time to come and speak with them.

**FY19 Budget Process:** Review of budget submission sheet and schedule. BOS rescheduled.

Doug let the rest of the committee know that the Lt Governor will be at the Senior Center this week and that he will be raising the question of regional transportation reimbursement.

The HWRSD school committee wants a STM on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Selectmen cannot be directed by the school committee to take any action

*With no further business Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm, Heather seconded, all in favor 4-0*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindi Connors,  
Admin Asst.