

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
May 7, 2018
Hampden Town House**

Approved June 25, 2018

Called to order at 6:31pm

Members Present – Carol Fitzgerald & Doug Boyd, Co-Chairs, Heather Turcotte and Alan Fritts

Members Absent – Matt Fisher

Also Present – public

Carol asked that last names be added to the minutes from 04/23/2018, and made a motion to accept the meeting as amended, Heather seconded, all in favor, 4-0

Discussion, review of amended/new articles and preparation for public hearing. Comfort level having BOS enter into contract without knowing details. Doug is relatively comfortable that the cost to the town will be minimal. Heather asked that is minimal?

Article 2: Budget

Article 3: Regional Dispatch

Article 8: CPA

Article 17: Town Administrator

Articles 20/21/22: School articles

Recess to Public Hearing at 7:04pm

PUBLIC HEARING: FY19 Draft Warrant and Budget Recommendations review:

Doug announced to the audience that the Advisory Committee would only be reviewing the amended/added articles.

Article 3: Regional Dispatch: Jeff Farnsworth presented numbers \$39,781 in additional benefits, \$232,763 in additional salaries, and \$69,800 for general equipment. The numbers have been worked and he is pretty comfortable with them. This is what we will be billing East Longmeadow. Jeff has sat with the president of the East Longmeadow council IMA, fundamentally the pieces are in place, the cornerstones of the agreement. Carol asked about the salary number with the additional five dispatchers. Jeff replied that all additional expenses have been included down to the price of paychecks. Line item ending in 7.2 will be fully billed to East Longmeadow, 57.4 most will come back plus half of the cost of the fiber line. Jeff went on to say that for 911 we will have to fund in order to get a grant and that this has always been fully funded by state. He anticipates this cost being returned to the general fund. Dick Patullo believes that the estimated increase will be equal to the three numbers Jeff provided. This is the increase in service very close to one half of the total cost. East Longmeadow will reimburse one half of the total cost. Reimbursement will be based on actual cost not estimated cost. Carol - EL paying one half of the cost of running combined dispatch, right now we may be paying less than what that one half will be. Dick – potential because of 911 grants to receive more funding. These increases will return to the general fund. Any monetary difference will be absorbed by increase in funding. This may cost a few grand, maybe \$10,000 but there is downstream potential. Jeff added that we need to keep in sight the increase in safety and service because we are falling short of best practices and he believes the state will begin to force regionalization. He added that 911 is shopping for land in Western Mass currently. He stated that there is over one million dollars in expense for radios in the agreement and EL will apply for grant money that is available to combined dispatch centers only. If they are not successful in obtaining grant money then EL will allow us to piggy back off of their system, (\$250,000 cost) Their system is five years old with a life expectancy of 15-18 years. Doug- 50/50 premised largely on call volume - Jeff said that language has been added based on variance triggered at 20% spread, less than 2 calls per hour will shift % from 50/50 to wherever the metric drives. Doug asked about the capability to track call numbers and Jeff stated there is confusion on calls, we track every duty dispatched calls, and we will only receive EL 911 calls as they will have a fully funded clerk for all business and routine calls. Jeff stated that once the call is open on screen the dispatcher makes an entry and once apparatus

has been sent the call remains open and the time on scene is tracked. He added that the dispatchers spend about 10% of their time on calls. Jeff went on to say that he has sat with dispatchers and their union has endorsed this plan. Jim feels that this is not ready for prime time with all of the disparities in the agreement. Pamela Rogers added that she is troubled with the 50/50 split EL is breaking out business calls and we aren't, she asked why they are not paying a lease amount. Jeff responded with we're a good neighbor, we are also getting dedicated IT support. Doug added that the 50/50 threw us off, seems like we are paying a disproportionate share. Jeff responded that it came down to a couple of thousand dollars. Duane Mosier spoke from the crowd saying the proposal has merit but lack of information and transparency. Rita Vail asked Jeff is he were getting paid more and Jeff responded that he would be receiving \$8,000 additional with \$4,000 coming from EL. Rita asked if it was for just one year and Jeff replied that it would be for every year that we are in the agreement. Carol reminded Jeff that this was a small group compared to next week, (ATM) and that he should be prepared to give the information to the town that people need.

Article 17 Town Administrator: The BOS has amended the warrant and added this article. Norman spoke and said that this has changed from the start. There are a lot of HR issues popping up lately, day to day issues, and after speaking with Advisory again they have decided not to postpone and now want to see if the town is interested. Doug added that it was apparent on this budget cycle there were a lot of issues and as a board, (the Advisory Committee) thinks it is time. Rita Vail asked what will happen if this fails since the funds are included in article two. The fund will be swept into free cash. Bob Howarth may bring article 17 forward before the budget

Article 19/20/21: Proposed Amendments to the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District Agreement HWRSC may change or withdraw these. They are meeting later this week, 04/26/2018. Jim Smith asked how they could be amended with the warrant closed. John replied that there could be no articles added.

Article 18: Purchase and Sale Agreement for 500 Main St This is Cumberland Farms property. The committee voted to take negative action on the purchase and sale due to the limitation of use and indemnification agreements proposed by Cumberland Farms

CPC has received an additional request for \$75,000 for renovation to the former police department space. Discussion regarding ADA requirements.

Linda DeVries - there is not enough information in warrant articles. She feels the wording proposed or anticipated should not be used – she would like to know the information and costs.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED

General discussion:

Line item transfer presented. Committee voted to take no action at this time, they would like more information

Next meeting scheduled for 6:30pm on May 14, 2018 prior to ATM

With no further business, Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39pm, Doug seconded, all in favor 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindi Connors, Admin Asst