

Approved 3/16/15

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES

March 9, 2015
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Board Members: John D. Flynn, Norman Charest, Vincent J. Villamaino
Vinnie Villamaino was unable to attend the meeting.

Financial Discussion: Doug Boyd and Carol Fitzgerald, both from the Advisory Board were here to discuss budget numbers as were Town Treasurer, Dick Patullo and Town Accountant, Cliff Bombard.

Doug stated that there was a 3.23% increase in the school budget which amounts to \$223,000 dollars. The school budget will stretch our budget. When Carol reviewed all of the town budgets, the entire amount came in at about a 2% increase, and that is without the COA wish list.

Cliff said that the year has been good so far. The state wants us to be as conservative as possible; and what monies can be spent is last year's amount with a 2.5% only. Also mentioned was the ability to ask for additional help at the Fall Town Meeting.

Anything appropriated should be for capital needs, and not operational.

Dick stated that 300k would be the number financed each year when the police station is completed; for a total of 20 years.

Advisory meets next Monday night (March 16th) to finalize numbers for the green sheets.

The money (\$140,000) received from the solar agreement with Altus Power will go right into the General Fund and it will be determined at a later date how it will be allocated. The \$140,000 will go into the Free Cash. And we should know our free cash number by October 1st.

There was discussion about the building department funds and perhaps not sweeping the account at fiscal year-end, rather holding off until the following year, given the changes in the department.

Dick suggested that with the increase in highway money, the bond may not need to be tapped this year at all. Dana Pixley is working on his project list for the selectmen to review.

Dick also suggested that additional funds go into stabilization, maybe 6 to 7%, rather than the 5% where we currently are.

The need for a new highway truck was discussed and Dick stated that he could borrow the full \$200,000 needed.

Cliff would like to add 4,000 to the account that carries his software maintenance as there are some changes coming down the line and Cliff would like to be at the front of the line when the changes are implemented. Given that this is an unforeseen expense, it may be that a transfer request will take care of the expense. Cliff will check the timing of this.

BOS 150309

John asked Cliff if the roof clearing at the Senior Center could be paid through the snow and ice account and Cliff will check with his state contact on this.

The Advisory Board members asked about a Building Inspector budget and it will be handled through this office.

Minutes of February 23 and March 2: Minutes were held for review at the next meeting.

Request for Transfer Station Employees: This will be discussed at the board's next meeting.

Warrant Review: This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Letter to Senior Tax Abatement Participants: The first two seniors have been placed in the Sr. Tax Work Off Abatement program; one at the library and the other at the senior center.

Highway Department, Morton Salt Issue: The highway department entered into a contract with a group of other communities to buy road salt from Morton Salt at an agreed upon price. The contract allows for other vendors to be used if Morton does not make good on all deliveries. Dana Pixley wanted to ensure we were not going to be liable for the cost of the additional salt and asked to hold off payment of invoices to Morton Salt. He and town counsel worked on a letter to be sent to Morton Salt explaining our view.

A motion was made by Norman Charest to authorize the Chairman, John Flynn to review and execute a demand letter to be sent by the town to Morton Salt concerning its contract with the Town, seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Zoning Notices: Reviewed without comment.

NOTE: There is a mandatory meeting for interested bidders on the RFP for the solar installation at the landfill on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:00 pm.

With no further business, a motion was made by Norm Charest to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm, seconded by John Flynn.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

