

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 11, 2019  
Hampden Town House**

**Approved March 18, 2019**

Called to order at 6:08pm.

**Members Present** – Carol Fitzgerald and Doug Boyd co-chairs, Matt Fisher, Alan Fritts and Heather Turcotte  
**Members Absent** – None

**Also Present** – Highway Superintendent Mark Langone, Fire Chief Michael Gorski, John Plaster, Ted & Nancy Zeibert, Andrew Netherwood, Selectmen Vinnie Villamaino & John Flynn, Pam Courtney, BOS Admin, Senior Center Director Becky Moriarty, and Town Admin Mary McNally

**FY20 ATM Budget Process**

**General Discussion** – Options for printing for green sheets

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Mike Gorski stated that the budget is pretty much the same as last year, fire detection service being restored after PD move and boiler preventative maintenance added to operations. Doug asked about the radio and Mike responded that the Police Chief is looking at different configurations. The current system is 10 years old. It was noted that the benefits and retirements entry from last year's budget had 'fallen off' as they were included in town benefits – it was presented last year so that voters could see all of the expenses. Carol asked what the call volume was. Mike replied that there were 557 calls, and of those calls 130 were for fire, the rest were for EMS and false alarms. Carol asked when the calls were coming in and Mike explained that 53-55% came in Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm with the remainder spread out, Monday and Tuesday were the highest call volumes of the week. Doug questioned the building addition and new truck and Vinnie explained that the tanker was leaking and out of service and the proposed new truck won't fit into the space the old one occupied so they will need to add on. Doug inquired if the \$5,000 that was allocated last year was spent for a building study and Mike informed him that they have a document from PVPC to go out to bid with. Doug asked if there was a proposed rendering that had been costed out, (no). Mike explained that the initial rough estimate was \$180,000 and now PVPC people are estimating \$300,000. John Flynn asked if that was inclusive with base building upgraded and Mike replied it was not. He went on to say that every five years they have put in for a new truck and now they are behind that curve and questioned whether to do the addition and buy the new truck or just buy a smaller truck? His officers want a 3,000 gallon tanker. They currently have a 2,500 gallon 1991 tanker they would keep if there was room. It has more life in it but it's getting tired. John Flynn asked about delivery time, (within a year), and Heather Turcotte asked if any thought to put more emphasis on medical versus fire since there were three times as many EMS calls. Mike responded that they are internally struggling to staff calls. EMT's sign up for a week at a time and after working all day he feels it's a huge commitment. Carol inquired about the slight reduction to the clerical line and Mike replied that last years was an estimate. Doug asked if the Board is going to come to an agreement on what to bring to ATM and John Flynn replied #1 the building and #2 the truck, both outside of the budget

**Highway Department** – Superintendent Mark Langone has concerns about Storm Water requirements from the State. John Flynn has suggested that Mark 'job it out' and use a vendor as he does with street sweeping. Doug asked if this was feasible and Mark explained that Monson does this and uses a company from Chelmsford. This has been talked about in the storm water committee meetings. Mark expressed that these mandates are too much with his current responsibilities and Doug commented that this is analogous with the Assessors hiring an outside appraisal company. Mark is currently waiting for a quote from Tighe & Bond. Carol informed Mark that we will need a conservative number for ATM and an explanation of what the money is being spent on. Mark explained that several requirements have been added – data collection, systems digitally mapped, outfalls measured in both dry and wet scenarios.

John Flynn pointed out that paving will now be folded in since the bond has expired; department payroll will be shifting out of highway expense, this will be a better way of tracking payroll, with it consolidated into one account with other accounts dropping off. Doug questioned if putting the \$400,000 into paving limits what the money can

be used for – can it be used for culverts, drainage, etc? Mark responded that the wording can be changed to include ancillary costs. Snow & Ice is about \$100,000 and Mark expects to use \$29,000 to fill the shed and to deficit spend by mid-March.

Mark reviewed his 5 year equipment plan from a few years back, he is due for a Mack dump truck, the 1996 is tired and has trouble with hills, and the 1993 is in better condition. He is also looking to replace a small pick up at or under \$42,000. Doug asked the cost to replace the Mack, \$248,000; which will be pushed closer to 2021 as builder is 300 days out due to steel tariffs. They will be out garage space with the purchase of a new dump truck. Alan asked if these were part of the budget or would they be bonded and John said they were looking to the following year. Doug remarked that it would be a good item for the fall, asking then about building additions or renovations and Vinnie replied that they would need three more bays on the side and that Mark has someone working on a sketch. In the continued review of his budget, Mark questioned if the Storm Water account should be placed in the BOS or the Storm Water Committee and Carol replied that they can figure out where it should sit.

**Senior Center** – Executive Director Becky Moriarty presented her budget. Doug asked her how she comes up with the number of people using the center and Becky replied that she counts anyone who signs in. On her staffing she would like to increase the grade level from grade 4 step four to grade six step 5 and add five hours for the receptionist bringing the position to 30 hrs/week. She would also like to increase the clerical hours from 20 to 30 with a 4% salary increase, also requesting a weekly increase of 2.5 hours for her position with a 4% cost of living adjustment. Building utilities and maintenance have a 2 ½% increase and expenses remain the same. Doug asked if she sees any major expenses and Becky replied that the building is 20 years old, there could be things coming but nothing immediate. Becky outlined her goals for becoming a regional SNAP outreach center and for becoming a dementia friendly community. She would like to have a feasibility study done, (\$15-\$25,000) to expand the building and after that expansion be able to increase service offerings. Carol asked Becky if she sees needs in town and Becky replied that they have 85 individuals that take part in the Brown Bag program and that they have a shelf stable food pantry that isn't just for seniors. Doug asked how the Trolley was working and Becky replied that they transport five people in town to the Senior Center and they have volunteer drivers that help with doctors appointments. Carol asked about liability and Becky explained that there is a bill before the legislature revising the current Good Samaritan law and that currently automobile liability insurance covers. Doug asked about any regionalized services and Becky stated that they work with other towns on some programs such as the Brown Bag and transportation with the Town of East Longmeadow. She went on to say that the Memory Café is the only one in the Western Mass area. Doug asked if she kept track of the residence of attendees and she replied that she did and 20-25% are out of town residents. Doug asked Becky to describe the RN role and she elaborated that they have a blood pressure nurse on Tuesdays/Thursdays. They have more mental health issues which are more complex to deal with and that a nurse with a mental health background would be beneficial. She went on to say that they feel fortunate that the Fire Department has full-time paramedics.

### **Closing Discussion/Comments:**

Some significant conversations need to be had with both Cliff and Dick and the BOS with priorities. Matt thinks a master priority list with the cost of each item and the expected impact on the tax rate would be good. The Senior Center, Fire and Highway Departments looking at expansions and almost everyone has come in with and increase request. We should plan on paying for what we have. Townspeople know we are in a good financial situation right now, but it can flip around. Stormwater is complicated and burdensome

### **Previous meeting minutes**

*Matt motioned to approve the February 4th meeting minutes as presented, Heather seconded, all in favor 5-0.*

*With no further comments or discussions, Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Doug seconded, all in favor 5-0*

Respectfully submitted,

Cindi Connors, Admin Asst