

**HAMPDEN
MASSACHUSETTS**



GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting: July 10, 2023; 6:30pm

Attendees:

X	Cliff Bombard	X	Keith Pixley
X	Michal Boudreau		Luis Severino
X	Eric Brewer		
X	Donna Hatch		
X	John Matthews		

Minutes

Meeting with 2 members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), Form of Government committee. Blythe and Charlie.

- Changes in government in other towns were done because no action being taken / nothing getting done, reasons vary from town to town
- Discussed other towns BOS, BOH, Tax Collector, Treasurer etc, appointed or elected positions some pros and cons.
- Combine some positions for greater efficiency
- Discussed what roll a Town Administrator (T/A), Town Manager (T/M) could have depending on the job description “strong” or “weak” administrator / manager
- T/A or T/M should have a vast knowledge of HR, legal issues, town budgets etc. Needs to be able work with a various groups of people. If a town goes with a T/A or T/M the Select-Board should relinquish some of their authority, “night government” vs “day government”
- Select-board sets policy
- If town feels a need for a T/A or a T/M best to use a recruiter to discover qualified people to fill the position, the job or position must be well defined
- Changes from one form of government to another may require a “Home Rule Petition” this would take time as it goes through the State government for approvals.
- Possible change from 3 member Select-board to a 5 member board pros and cons of each
- Approvals at Town Meeting helpful to have the “front of the room” in agreement
- Recommend to look to other towns that are successful and see why their government works

Next Meeting July 24, 2023