



TOWN OF HADLEY
SELECT BOARD
January 9, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 6:00 pm, Room 203, Hadley Town Hall

Present: Chair Gloria DiFulvio, Daniel Dudkiewicz, David Moskin, Brian West

Absent: Joyce Chunglo

Also in Attendance: David Nixon (Town Administrator); Peg Jekanowski, (Administrative Assistant), Richard Trueswell (TV-5); Molly Keegan, Robie Grant (School Committee); Frank Aquadro, Linda Sanderson, Matthew Lustig (Finance Committee)

5 Year Financial Plan for Town of Hadley:

The School Committee opened discussions stating that this year they will have a budget request of \$6 Million from the Town plus expect to go to Town Meeting with an article for \$148,000.00 for Elementary School technology funding. The \$6 Million represents a level service budget, the Town Meeting Article is for technology that will bring Elementary School technology to a level that is comparable with other districts. They stressed they are still in conversation and will have more detail after meeting later in January. This information will be brought to the Select Board at their February 6, 2013 meeting. Current overall budget for the school is \$6.3 to \$6.4 million, including grant money.

Town Administrator presented a budget forecast using the Department of Revenue forecasting tool, but stated that he had just learned of the \$6 million dollar figure for the school and had not included it. He summarized that it will be a difficult year, and with forecasting, the farther out the forecast the lower the surplus becomes, but also stated the farther out the forecast, the more imprecise the numbers. He further presented trends and analysis for the Boards to consider as well as information for policies to be recommended for adoption by the Town.

Discussion ensued regarding the fact that in addition to the schools needing more money, other Town expenses (buildings, aging equipment, infrastructure) are also increasing, and there is not enough money to meet all the needs. Further discussion included unfunded liabilities of the Town. One strategy for OPEB is increase contribution over the course of 10 years, adding an additional 10% of the ARC per year until full funding is achieved in 10 years.

Some key “take aways” were identified by School Committee member Molly Keegan, including:

- The forecast information is valuable
- Revenue figures are probably “fairly correct”
- Any surplus is going to be gone by next year
- Many costs are not in the forecast (Expenditure Line does not contemplate upcoming changes)
- Since Revenue is not changing, key decisions will need to be made about expenditures

Discussion ensued regarding efficiency in budgets, and the fact that there needs to be a plan-especially in terms of borrowing needs. Next steps include getting department budgets in, Capital plan, revenue projections (for VADAR). There will be a lot more information coming in the next two weeks for 2014. The School and Finance Committee will plan to attend the next Select Board meeting (Feb. 6, 2013).

In the next month the FY 2014 budgets will be worked on; with the three Boards continuing to meet together for long term planning. The next meeting of the three boards will be 03/13/2013 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

At 7:20 pm Dan Dudkiewicz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian West.
Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret J. Jekanowski
Administrative Assistant