



TOWN OF HADLEY
SELECT BOARD
March 13, 2013
Meeting Minutes

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

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

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: David Nixon (Town Administrator); Peg Jekanowski, (Administrative Assistant), Richard Trueswell (TV-5); Molly Keegan, Robie Grant, Tom Waskiewicz (School Committee); Linda Sanderson, Glenn Clark, Matthew Lustig (Finance Committee); Guilford Mooring, John Mieczkowski, Willy Danylieko, Dylan McCoy

5 Year Financial Plan for Town of Hadley:

Chair DiFulvio opened the meeting by stating that although this meeting is for a long range plan, the current budget shortfall of \$800,000.00 has to be addressed. Initial discussion was regarding if everything is out of the school budget that could be considered capital. The new doors for Hopkins could go to capital, but the school committee wants to make sure it will go forward immediately for safety reasons. Discussion ensued regarding having a menu type selection at Town Meeting (for capital projects) so people can pick what is funded.

Town Administrator David Nixon reviewed a proposal that he has prepared (attached to these minutes) to balance the budget.

Discussion of the school budget featured looking at fees, and it was stated that various booster clubs contribute funds to offset fees, and feel that their fundraising would not be as successful as it currently is if fees are charged. It was also stated that the transportation contract will be looked at next spring to see if there are opportunities for savings.

Molly Keegan asked how we move forward in future years, and suggested having a series of community forums to ask what the people want, and how they value services that the town currently provides. She also stated the Town needs to be a plan to move forward and map out how services are delivered.

David Moskin stated that revenues need to be increased, and that community forums would be helpful in finding out if the Town is willing to pay more in taxes to be able to fund the Town's needs. Mr. Dudkiewicz noted that taxes have been raised over the years.

Discussion ensued regarding cost saving by converting schools to natural gas (from oil). It was agreed that there are savings by converting, and this is being worked on by the schools but won't come in to play until next year.

It was reiterated that there still needs to be a plan in place for the Town for managing finances. Mr. West stated that one plan he envisions is keeping stabilization intact but using interest for capital items. Long term he would like to look at regionalization of dispatch. On the revenue side he would like to see the Fire revenue enhanced and that commercial real estate needs to be analyzed. Ms. Keegan stated that she agrees but there still needs to be a plan and decisions made. Ms. Chunglo stated that they are waiting on studies in order to move forward, and that the Fire Chief job has been advertised for, so decisions have been made. So the question remained, how at this point does the tri-board move forward?

Take aways from this meeting include:

- The Boards agreed that a final budget for FY 2014 will be finalized at the next Select Board meeting.
- Long Term Decisions need to be made – the next tri-board meeting will be dedicated to future planning.

The next tri-board meeting was set for after Town Meeting, May 15th, 2013.

7:10 PM - Motion to adjourn: Dudkiewicz

Second: Chunglo

Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret J. Jekanowski
Administrative Assistant