



TOWN OF HADLEY  
SELECT BOARD  
March 19, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm, Room 203, Hadley Town Hall

**Present:** Daniel Dudkiewicz, Chair, Joyce Chunglo, Guilford Mooring, John Waskiewicz, Brian West

**Absent:** None

**Also in Attendance:** David Nixon (Town Administrator); Peg Jekanowski, (Admin. Assistant); Richard Trueswell, (TV-5); Frank Aquadro, Howard Koski, Linda Sanderson, Terry Yusko (Finance Committee); Molly Keegan, Robie Grant, Heather Klecsh, Donna Moyer, Ann McKenzie (School Department); Damion Shanley and Hadley Police Officers (Police Department); Michael Spanknebel (Fire Department); Elizabeth Faulkner (COA chair), Suzanne Travisano (Senior Center Director); Gary Girouard (DPW Director); Elsie Waskiewicz, Sean Kinlin (TV-5 Advisory Board) Attorney William Solomon; Jack Yusko, Kayla Reuss, Lori Reuss, Mark Reuss, Alan Ash

Approval of Warrants: # 75, 40, 40-S: **Motion: Mooring Second: West Vote: 5-0-0**

**Appointments:**

**7:00 pm: Acting Police Chief Damion Shanley – Appointment of Special Police Officers:** The Board reviewed the applicants for Special Police Officer as brought forward by Acting Chief Damion Shanley. The two candidates are Kayla Reuss and Alan Ash. The Board noted that both are academy trained and have time available to devote to the Hadley Police Department. **Motion to appoint Kayla Reuss and Alan Ash as Special Police Officers for the Town of Hadley: Chunglo Second: West Vote: 5-0-0.**

**FY2015 Budget**

- School – Members of the School Committee, Superintendent Donna Moyer and incoming Superintendent Ann McKenzie were present at the meeting. Mr. West stated the issue at hand is the shortfall between operating revenues and operating expenditures in the amount of \$658,967.00. The Board is hearing from departments tonight to look at ways to address the shortfall. He asked if schools had to cut, where the cuts would be. School Committee Chair stated that the budget presented is level programming, and any further cuts would mean elimination of services. (The increase amount of school budget is \$141,000.00.) It was further stated that the School Committee was willing to go to Town Meeting with this budget. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of absorbing some of the \$141,000.00 with School Choice funds, but the schools feel it would be fiscally imprudent to do so as School Choice is a fixed pool of money. It was also cited that school programs need to be maintained in order for schools to remain competitive. Mr. Dudkiewicz made a motion to place any amount of money over \$2 Million in Stabilization to the operating budget. Mr. West seconded for discussion. After discussion, including the statement that using stabilization for operating budget would hurt the Town's bond rating, Mr. Dudkiewicz withdrew the motion.
- Police – The Police Department were present at the meeting to answer budget questions from the Board. Discussion ensued about increased call volume and impact on the department. There was also discussion about moving two cruisers out of the operating budget. Mr. Mooring talked about time frames for hiring for new positions, and how new hires might impact on the use of overtime. Acting Chief Shanley stated that due to current staffing levels and the call volume, the Police department is reactive rather than proactive. He stated that the Town is a small town but Route 9 and the volume (of calls) it generates necessitates the need for additional service, also referencing the Badgequest Study which recommends hiring additional officers.
- COA – Suzanne Travisano, Sr. Service Director and Elizabeth Faulkner, Chair of the Council on Aging were present to answer budget questions from the Board. Ms. Travisano explained that service was added to her budget to cover senior needs 5 days a week (Monday through Friday during peak hours.) She added one hour of to the outreach position and reorganized to provide coverage five days. The difference from previous years is the increase in service of the Friday scheduled person. The Chair of the Council on Aging and a Town resident stated they support the budget, as did Fire Chief Spanknebel who stated that the Senior Center is very supportive by their outreach to Town seniors regarding fire and safety.
- Fire – Fire Chief Spanknebel was before the Board to answer budget questions. Discussion ensued regarding the status of the new position (replacing Mr. Spanknebel's prior position.) He stated revenue would increase with this position in terms of inspections, but that this person will also act as a regular fire fighter, and as calls are up it is



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hard to project a true number. Discussion ensued and it was stated that as call volume goes up, the budget is not even at level service, it is below level service.

- DPW – Director Gary Girouard was before the Board to discuss budget. Discussion ensued regarding whether certain positions, such as a highway worker who works in water to water or waste water, is allocated to that fund in the budget what impact that might have on the budget. Mr. Girouard will bring that information back to the Board. There was also discussion of placing items in capital budget, and the practicality of buying new (used) equipment rather than refurbishing old equipment that may not last.

The Board will meet next week to discuss how to bridge the budget deficit.

**David Moskin – Discussion of conservation area:** *(Passed over per request of Mr. Moskin.)*

**New Business # 3 Annual Town Election Warrant – Review for Signature:** *Motion to sign Warrant for Annual Town Election –review for signature: Motion to sign 2014 Annual Town Election Warrant: Chunglo Second: West Vote: 5-0-0*

**Review Cable TV Franchise Agreement with Charter Cable TV.** Attorney William Solomon and Hadley TV-5's Access Coordinator Richard Trueswell reviewed the points of an agreement with Charter Cable TV, including provisions for TV-5 capital and operating expenses. The Town will receive a revenue percentage from Charter that may vary from year to year. Mr. Trueswell, Attorney Solomon, and Mr. Nixon recommended the contract for signature by the Board. *Motion to sign the agreement between the Town of Hadley and Charter Cable Television: West: Second: Chunglo Vote: 5-0-0. The effective date of the contract will be March 19, 2014.*

**New Business**

1. Easement at Goodwin Memorial Library – Utility Pole *(Passed over.)*
2. **Appointment to PVTA – Elsie Waskiewicz:** *Motion to appoint Elsie Waskiewicz as the disability representative for Pioneer Valley Transit Authority: Chunglo Second: Mooring Vote: 4-0-1 (Waskiewicz abstaining.)*

Announcements: Mr. Waskiewicz announced that the Hadley Mothers' Club is holding candidates' night on Monday, March 31, 2014. Anyone wishing to participate should contact the Mothers' Club by Monday, March 24, 2014.

3. **Umass/ Top of the Campus Request for One Day Liquor License** – Commencement Ball: The Board reviewed an application from the University of Massachusetts Top of the Campus for a one day special permit to sell and serve alcohol at their commencement ball on May 2, 2014. Chief Shanley had indicated that he did not object to this license, but in the future wants more information on Mullins Center events. Discussion ensued and it was decided to invite representatives in from the University for more information before a decision is made on this permit.

**Adjournment: 9:45 PM** *Motion to adjourn: Chunglo Second: West Vote: 5-0-0*

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret J. Jekanowski  
Administrative Assistant