

HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL GOALS & OBJECTIVES SESSION MINUTES
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015

Attending:

Mayor David Ryder
Councilor William Shakespeare
Councilor Terry McAvoy
Councilor Carol Duprey
Councilor Greg Sirois

Councilor Dennis Marble
Town Manager Susan Lessard
Resident Alex King

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Mayor Ryder.

Mutual Expectations/Ground Rules – The group adopted the following list of ground rules/expectations:

- Be respectful
- All ideas have value
- No tangents – stay on subject
- Be flexible
- Listen

Possible Areas of Focus & Budget Items– The Council identified work in the following areas as priorities for the 2015 year:

1. Public Works
 - a. Staffing (scheduling)
 - b. Reduce staffing through attrition
 - c. Outsource if additional help is needed
 - d. Evaluate equipment usage/hours
 - e. Advertise for Public Works Director to assist in Department Review
2. Recreation Fields
 - a. Location
 - b. Financing
 - c. Parking/traffic at Pool
 - d. Needs Assessment – now and 10 years from now
 - e. Needs more and better recreational fields
 - f. Skehan Center is not great for all kinds of programs
 - g. Town owns land that could be used for fields
 - h. A long term plan for recreation should include all recreation offerings including the pool and the library
3. Economic Development
 - a. Priority to reduce pressure on residential property owners
 - b. Local regulatory changes to be made to be more business friendly
 - c. Tax rate needs to be competitive to attract businesses
 - d. Development areas
 1. Route 1A North
 2. Route 1A/Western Avenue
 3. Coldbrook Road

4. Budget items
 - a. Insurances – Both health insurance and group comprehensive insurance should be put out to bid to provide options for reducing the costs of these programs.
5. Affordable Housing, particularly Senior Housing
6. State Budget Consequences
 - a. Meet with State Reps
 - b. Meet with School Board to discuss budget issues
7. Budget parameters
 - a. Zero increase for department budgets
 - b. School Resource Office reimbursed at actual % of time used
 - c. Present Budget with no increase in mil rate, considering new valuation as well as school and county increases

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Lessard
Town Manager