

Northampton Elected officials Compensation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2014

Attending: Thompson, Higgins, Loux (late arrival), Matson, Baum-Hommes,
Helmus

Absent: Fortier

Elected Official Guests: Mayor Narkewicz, School Committee members Downey Meyer, Blue Duval, Chair Thompson will send written submission to Committee from member Lisa Minnick.

Mayor

Northampton has strong Mayor form of government so he is CEO of corporate entity responding to everything and anything. Responsible for Annual budget, Capital Planning, Appointments, Organizing city government, collective bargaining for city unions and sits as Chair of School Committee for city unions, long range planning, supervisory role over department heads; is Trustee of Smith Vocational, Look Park, Child's Park, Academy of Music; essentially on-call 24/7 if disaster or hot button issues arise from Fire/Police/DPW. Although hard to quantify, estimates 60-80 hours per week between office, ceremonial duties, committee work, school events. Does not have recommended salary for position; larger cities such as Worcester also have city managers; comparables are usual metrics such as population, size of budget, etc. Town Managers as 'professionals' are usually paid more than Mayors as have by education and training (e.g. MPA) are professional public employees vs. elected officials.

Meyer and Duval (Minnick)

By law in MA school committee has 3 main responsibilities – hire and evaluate superintendent; create policy; and approve annual budget. Members are appointed to one of 3 standing sub-committees but there are other ad hoc committees from time to time as well as 6 other appointed positions to serve on; member of MA Association of School Committees which offer training sessions. Meets monthly for most of year but for 3 or 4 months during budget season generally are 2 meetings. During school year are School Councils in the District. Often contacted by members of public or parents – so amount of time can vary

depending on level of involvement. Minimum number of hours estimated at 10-20 hours per month and going up from there depending on level of involvement and committee work or Association meetings or trainings.

Committee Business

- Minutes of 8/28/14 approved unanimously.
- Discussion of what, if any, other qualitative data should also be considered or included other than what currently working from (e.g. number of Council committees in each city, number of meetings, hours spent per week, number of councilors, specific job duties; research Higgins had previously brought forward such as youth crime statistics, etc.). Consensus was that some of the information would be more time consuming or difficult to obtain; or the value added was not germane or essential to the task at hand and given our timeline.
- Next meeting 10/2/14 at 6:00 p.m. at Lilly Library.
- Adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Helmus

OCT - 7 2014