

Approved 3/16/09

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Members present – Timm Marini, Doug Boyd, Jeff Smith and Jamie Collins

Member absent – Carol Fitzgerald

Also in attendance – Becky Moriarty, Council on Aging, Rick Green, John Flynn, Vinny Villamaino and Cliff Bombard.

Minutes – The minutes from the March 2, 2009 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Council on Aging – Rick Green presented the two budgets for the Council on Aging. One level funded budget and one showing a 5% decrease. He pointed out that the salary lines are frozen in both presentations. No salary increases were built in when the budgets were prepared. The Senior Center will be 10 years old in September and will be signed up for an energy audit. Two grants were applied for:

- Title IIIB Grant – pays for the Outreach Coordinator.
- Formula Grant – pays for the Activities Director. This grant was cut mid-year this year.

Extra money is anticipated in Building Maintenance. Last year additional money was asked for utilities in order to open the Senior Center for extra hours. It was not opened the extra hours but the money was used up.

Selectmen – Rick Green reported that they are still gathering numbers for health insurance and employee benefits. He stated that two things will happen:

- Two week holiday – not collecting premiums, not matching.
- Pay out from surplus to suppress rates.

They are looking at other cost-saving plans. Currently, 50% of the highest cost plan is paid. There was a brief discussion about health insurance options.

Town Hall building plans are:

- Energy audits
- Maintenance
- Air conditioning still not done

Rick noted that some things like retirement are fixed and non-negotiable. Adjustments will be made to make things work.

Town Accountant – Cliff will be at the meeting on March 23rd. He gave his budget to the Selectmen. Right now his only adjustment is to the snow and ice account.

Jamie made a motion to adjourn at 6:45pm. Jeff seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Submitted by: Deborah House, Clerk