

Approved 4/9/09

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
April 6, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.

Members present – Doug Boyd, acting Chair, Carol Fitzgerald, Jeff Smith and Jamie Collins.
Absent – Timm Marini

The warrants for the special town meeting and the annual town meeting were made available to the public as well as the preliminary budget sheets showing the appropriated amounts for FY09 and the level funded and 5% decrease amounts requested by departments for FY10.

Doug, as acting chair, explained that all departments were asked to submit a level funded budget and a 5% decrease budget. The warrants and budget were read.

Special Town Meeting Warrant – 3 articles

1. Highway Dept - \$29,000 for the purchase of a pick-up truck.
2. TWB - \$115,000 gym capital improvements.
3. Stabilization Fund – put in warrant if needed per Rick Green.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant – 20 articles

1. Town Reports
2. Budget – Doug read each department total. A new line item for traffic control, 51.5, will be added. Rick Green explained that it will not be used to pay highway employees, just outside hired help. It has not been decided yet whether the 5% decrease column will be printed in the green sheets. Some people felt that it would be confusing.
3. Previous Bills – 1 bill, PVPC \$750 membership dues from 2005.
4. Revolving Funds for FY10 – 8 revolving accounts. The Library trustees questioned the wording of their revolving account.
5. Enterprise Fund Transfer Station – standard
6. Community Preservation Committee – 3 requests: 2nd conservation restriction Chapin Road \$30,000, Cemetery fence \$8000, membership fee Community Preservation Group \$250.
7. Conservation Fund – annual
8. Highway State Aid – Chapter 90 funds.
9. Library Additional State Aid – money from the state.
10. Assessors

11. Dare Program - \$2500 to fund the TWB program.
12. School Resource Officer – Minnechaug \$10,000 Hampden portion.
13. Zoning Bylaw – Wilbraham Road – citizen petition, Hampden Country Club.
14. Zoning Bylaw – Hampden Nurseries – citizen petition, Michael Cimmino.
15. General Bylaw – Scenic Roads – Historical Commission petition. Selectmen are opposed to this.
16. General Bylaw – Scenic Roads – companion article of 15.
17. Road Hazards – portable basketball hoops among other things have been a problem.
18. Reserve Fund – standard
19. Stabilization Fund – standard
20. Reducing Tax Rate – standard

Doug informed the audience that the Advisory Board will make recommendations and the green sheets will be produced shortly.

Jeff made a motion to approve the \$60.30 transfer request for the Board of Assessors to line 4.3 expenses. Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget. The departments, in submitting their budget request sheets, figured their “level funding” in different ways. The Advisory Board expected “level funding” request sheets for FY10 to show the same total amounts that were appropriated for FY09. In preparing the preliminary budget, Jeff kept expenses level and bumped up the salaries to 2.5% or tabor, whatever was appropriate. Jeff will check with the Selectmen on their salaries and Carol will check with Larry Forrest from Parks & Recreation on their salary line item.

Jamie made a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm. Jeff seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Submitted by: Deborah House, Clerk