

approved 3/1/10

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2010**

Meeting called to order: 6:10pm

Members Present – Doug Boyd, Acting Chair, Carol Fitzgerald, and Jamie Collins. Jeff Smith joined the meeting later.

Absent – Timm Marini

Minutes – The minutes from the January 11th meeting were reviewed. Carol made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

Bills – The Clerk's payroll voucher was approved.

Transfer Requests – The Board reviewed the transfer request received from the Parks and Recreation Department. Doug made a motion to approve the transfer of \$800.00 from the Reserve Fund to the Parks and Recreation Expense account #015302. Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

Meeting Schedule FY11 Budget Reviews – The elected departments submitted their budget request sheets for FY11. The Board is scheduled to meet with the individual departments each Monday in March. The Public Hearing is scheduled for April 5th and the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 26th.

Demolition Delay Bylaw/Historical Commission – The Demolition Delay Bylaw is on the warrant for the annual Town Meeting and is being brought forward by the Historical Commission. Connie Witt attended the meeting and supplied the Board with copies of the proposed bylaw. According to Connie, there are approximately 332 historic homes in town, 124 towns in Massachusetts have adopted this bylaw and the town will earn a capital point if this bylaw is accepted. Capital points are used when applying for grants. Hampden is very low on these points and has lost out on a land grant recently because of it. The proposed bylaw calls for a six month waiting period before the Building Inspector will issue a permit for demolition. This waiting period is an opportunity to seek other options. This bylaw will also include barns, not just homes. The Historical Commission has a list of historic homes in town. There may be older homes that are not on the list, these homes would not be subject to this bylaw. There will be an enforcement procedure if a historic building is demolished without a permit. The Historic Commission is looking for the Advisory Board's support of the proposed bylaw at the Town Meeting. The Board will take this into account.

Selectmen's Meeting – The Board met with the Selectmen (all three Selectmen were present) to coordinate and make sure that everyone was on the same page for the budget process. There are different interpretations of level-serviced and level-funded budgets. The Advisory Board has requested that the elected departments submit a level-serviced budget with step increases. The Selectmen noted that at their department head meeting they mentioned no salary increases for the FY11 budgets. The Selectmen are looking for level-funded salaries. The Boards were in agreement that they would look at the same salary figures as FY10 with level-services. Advisory develops the budget, the Selectmen determine if the town can support it. Doug noted that we are still working with a lean budget. Some departments still have not been restored to where they were. Advisory's objective is a level-serviced budget with step increases if possible.

Doug made a motion to adjourn at 7:25pm. Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Submitted by: Deborah House, Clerk