

Approved 3/15/10

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2010**

Meeting called to order: 6:05pm

Members Present – Jamie Collins, Acting Chair, Carol Fitzgerald, and Doug Boyd.

Absent – Timm Marini and Jeff Smith

Minutes – The minutes from the February 8th meeting were reviewed. Doug made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Transfer Requests – The Board reviewed the four transfer requests received. Carol made a motion to approve the transfer of \$15.00 from the Reserve Fund to the Assessor's Expense account #015043 for supplies purchased. Doug seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Carol made a motion to approve the transfer of \$150.00 from the Reserve Fund to the Planning Board Clerical account #015102 for additional meetings expense. Doug seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Carol made a motion to approve the transfer of \$2262.00 from the Reserve Fund to the Library Control account #015260 for a new outside book return. Doug seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Carol made a motion to approve the transfer of \$250.00 from the Reserve Fund to the Assessor's Expense account #015043 for education supplies. Doug seconded. The vote was unanimous.

School Department – Superintendent Marty O'Shea and Assistant Superintendent Beth Regulbuto attended the meeting. There will be a public budget hearing on Tuesday at 6pm. The School Committee meeting will be after the hearing. Mr. O'Shea presented enrollment tracking charts to the Board showing 1999 enrollment through the present. Enrollment has been consistently dropping; Hampden will be down 45 children for FY11. Hampden's total preliminary assessment should be around \$6,176,000, a 2.1%-2.2% increase over last year. The School Department is looking at \$1.65 million in cuts in order to achieve a level-funded budget for FY11. FY10 cuts will be rolled over to FY11 and still more cuts are needed on top of that. Chapter 70 aid and the Regional School transportation reimbursement will be lower for FY11. Wilbraham's restrictions will be driving the budget due to Hampden's lower enrollment. The School Department is still waiting for the state funding numbers to come in. Mr. O'Shea thought maybe mid-March he would hear something. He is putting a letter in this month's school newsletter to make parents aware of what is coming.

Assessors – Bob Makuch, Norm Charest and Dawn Barnes attended the meeting. They reviewed their budget requests with the Board. They have requested an increase to the Assistant to Board line item in anticipation of a grade change if approved by the Personnel Committee. Other line items either remained the same or have a slight increase in service costs.

Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Board of Registrars – Eva Wiseman attended the meeting. A printer is needed for the Collector side. The voting box is starting to stick and the plywood voting booths are in poor condition and will need to be replaced soon. East Longmeadow may have a voting box available as they are electronic now per Eva. There will be three elections for FY11. The state will reimburse the towns for the two unanticipated elections that were held in FY10.

Carol made a motion to adjourn at 7:20pm. Doug seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Submitted by: Deborah House, Clerk