

Approved 3/21/11

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2011
Town Hall**

Called to order at 6:05pm.

Members Present – Carol Fitzgerald, Acting Chair, Doug Boyd, Jeff Smith, Jamie Collins and Rick Rubin.

Minutes – The minutes from the March 7th meeting were reviewed. Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

Review of Operating Budget:

Jeff put together a preliminary budget based on the requested amounts from the departments. The Board reviewed it line by line making minor adjustments.

The Advisory Board joined the Selectmen's meeting at approximately 7:50pm along with the Assessors and the Accountant. Discussion included:

1. Possibly using some monies from Stabilization to offset some of the \$355,000 first year cost for the new high school. (the first year cost was supposed to be \$211,000. After bonding, the cost was brought up to \$355,000)
2. Possibly using \$180,000 from Stabilization to keep the tax rate under 16.
3. Possibly using \$100,000 from Stabilization to expand the Fire Department in preparation for a new truck.
4. Possibly using \$10,000 to update one of the fire trucks (Maxim?)

The Stabilization account should be between 5-10% of the budget. We are slightly over that. Some monies could be used for capital requests. Cliff noted that the revenues are pretty good this year. Free cash can be put into the Stabilization account in the fall. Cliff will send the levy sheet to Advisory in a few days. Advisory currently has a preliminary operating budget (grand total) of \$10,273,735.

The schools voted on their budget last week.

Jamie made a motion to adjourn at 7:20pm. Jeff seconded. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

Submitted by: Deborah House