

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
April 9, 2012
Town Hall**

Approved April 23, 2012

Opened at 7:00pm.

Members Present – Carol Fitzgerald, Co-Chair, Doug Boyd, Co-Chair, Jamie Collins and Rick Rubin.

Absent – Jeff Smith

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public input on the warrant articles and budget prior to Town Meeting. The Advisory Board will make their recommendations on the warrant articles from the floor due to the timing of the printing of the green sheets. The green sheets will be mailed to residents one week prior to Town Meeting. Carol read through the warrant articles and budget line by line, periodically stopping for questions.

The total Advisory recommended budget is \$10,629,450 with anticipated revenues being \$10,990,029.

Some questions/concerns regarding the warrant articles are noted below:

- Article 6 Enterprise Fund Transfer Station – Selectman Flynn stated that due to increased fuel charges and lessened use they are looking for a \$20,000 subsidy, (in addition to line item 23) Article 8 Conservation Fund – Cliff will have the balance of the account at Town Meeting.
- Article 16 Police Department Study - \$12,700. The Treasurer questioned what this money will get the town –
- Article 17 Chair lift – Mandated by the state and the town is out of compliance and has received an extension until June 30, 2012 – It was suggested by the Treasurer that we retrofit the building with an elevator as there are only three floors that need to be accessed now.
- Article 20 General Bylaw – Hunting - Doug questioned how many persons hunt in town – Eva Wiseman estimated about 100.
- Article 21 General Bylaw – Property owner’s water – The Treasurer questioned whether this would affect people diverting water on to town property.

The town accountant urged that the advisory board look at the impact of the requests on the tax rate.

There will also be a Town Meeting on April 30th. The Town Meeting warrants were received at the Public Hearing (4/09/12).
Hearing closed at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindi Connors, clerk