

Approved October 22, 2012

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
October 15, 2012
Town Hall**

Called to order at 7:06pm.

Members Present – Doug Boyd, Jamie Collins, Jeff Smith and Rick Rubin.

Doug read through the warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 7:00 pm at Thornton Burgess School. Free cash was certified by the state at \$417,807.

Article 1 – Town House Improvements - \$30,000 requested for the on-going maintenance to the Town Hall and the replacement of the ADA transport system.

Article 2 – Employee Benefits – \$20,000 requested to restore line item 7.2. This will be used for increases in health insurance costs and upcoming retirees.

Article 3 – Police Department – \$15,000 requested to fund a proposal for a new police station. A discussion followed the presentation of this article on the feasibility of the police station remaining in its current location with the construction of an addition.

Article 4 – Town House Records- \$5000 requested for the management and storage of records.

Article 5 – Community Preservation Committee – The CPC may recommend to fund the rebinding, digitizing and conversion of the town's vital records, and to put into place the means for future records management, in the amount of \$2376.

Article 6 – Town Clerk Records Management Consultant- \$2376 requested for the rebinding, digitizing and conversion of the town's vital records, and to put into place the means for future records management.

**The CPC will meet on 10/17/2012 and vote on whether to support article 5. If supported then article 6 will be a take no action vote. If article 5 is not supported by the CPC, then article 6 will be brought forward to the STM.

Article 7 – Fire Department Equipment – \$9600 requested to purchase three new hoses for the fire apparatus.

Article 8 – Fire Department Equipment – \$14,000 requested to purchase a thermal imaging camera. A discussion followed the presentation of this article questioning the timeliness and appropriateness of this request and whether it would be prudent to place this request on the warrant for the ATM.

Article 9 – Council on Aging – \$396 requested to cover an error in the calculation of the pay rate of a COA clerk.

Article 10 – Office Supplies – \$1,000 requested to increase the line item 29.3, Office supplies due to the increase in toner prices.

Article 11 – Temporary Help – \$7500 requested for temporary clerical help for the cemetery commission.

Article 12 – Highway Dept Underground Storage Tank Management – \$5,250 requested to fund a DEP mandated underground storage tank Operator and training.

Article 13 – Town Hall Phone System – \$9000 requested for the purchase and installation of equipment. A discussion followed on the differences of VOIP versus copper systems.

Article 14 – October Storm Reimbursement – \$187,294.20 requested to be borrowed by the Treasurer to cover the non reimbursed costs of the October 2011 snow storm. A discussion followed clarifying that the authorization to borrow will protect the tax rate. Dana has applied to FEMA for reimbursement as well.

Article 15 Hampden Heights Road Clarification – Attorney for Michael Cimmino presented a plan to expand the cul-de-sac at the end of Highland Circle granting land back to the town to increase the circumference of the cul-de-sac so that the adjacent parcel owned by Mr Cimmino could be divided into three distinct parcels.

Article 16 – Abandon Portion of Hampden Heights – This article is a reaffirmation of a 2002 action.

Article 17 – Land Conveyance – This article is a reaffirmation of a 2002 action.

Article 18 – Fire Truck – \$150,000 requested to transfer from un-appropriated funds to cover the un- borrowed balance for the new fire truck.

Article 19 – Reducing Tax Rate – \$150,000 has already been transferred.

Article 20 – Stabilization Account – \$860,000 will be the current balance after November 2, 2012 when \$400,000 borrowed from the account will be returned to it.

With no further questions or comments, Doug closed the Public Hearing at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi Connors, Clerk