

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
April 7, 2014
Hampden Town House**

Approved April 19, 2014

Hearing opened at 7:10pm

Members Present – Carol Fitzgerald, Co-Chair, Doug Boyd, Co-Chair, Jamie Collins and Jeff Smith.

Absent – Rick Rubin

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. Doug read through the warrant articles and budget line by line, periodically stopping for questions.

The total budget recommended by the Advisory Committee is \$11,722,891

Questions/concerns/comments regarding the warrant articles are noted below:

Article 2

Richard Patullo asked if the Advisory Committee had a tax rate and stated that there is \$420,000 in pre-authorized debt set to kick in this year. He went on to ask if there is a goal for an acceptable tax rate. He stated that a 2 ½% increase is fairly reasonable and that \$420,000 debt with the proposed/presented budget would be \$350,000 above and beyond a 2 ½% increase.

Selectman Flynn stated that \$175,000 reduction in article 2 would be needed to meet 2 ½%

Article 6

Selectman Flynn noted that there may be \$10,000 needed for this

Article 23

Rick Green spoke on behalf of the Police Station Project

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

The annual Town Meeting will be held on April 28th at TWB Middle School.
The public hearing closed at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindi Connors, clerk