

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
April 6, 2015
Hampden Town House**

Approved April 27, 2015

Hearing opened at 7:04pm

Members Present –Carol Fitzgerald, Doug Boyd, Rick Rubin and Jeff Smith

Members Absent – Jamie Collins

Also Present –

FY16 Budget Process:

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to clarify and receive public input on the warrant articles and budget 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 \$12,255,120

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

Revenue sheet reviewed.

Art. 10 Highway Dump Truck Replacement – Mr Mandolini asked how much money is left on current new truck. Doug replied that the last payment will be made before this new truck debt will be incurred. Connie Witt asked how many trucks we have and it was explained that there are currently four big dump trucks, one little dump truck and four pickups, all of which are used to plow

Art. 12 Assessors Stabilization Fund– Dick Patullo stated he felt that the need for the stabilization has run its course and that by having the fund it was taxing a year in advance to put money in the bank. He would like to fund as needed instead of having the stabilization fund. Doug stated they will plan on further discussion before ATM to see if it makes sense to keep the stabilization fund.

Art. 14 Zoning Bylaws – Restaurant

Art. 15 Zoning Bylaws – Special Permits

Art. 16 Zoning Bylaws – Buffer Strip

Art. 17 Zoning Bylaws – Golf Recreational District

Art. 18 Zoning Bylaws – Illumination Standards of Signs

Art. 19 Zoning Bylaws – Add Veterinary Clinic and Veterinary Hospital

Art. 20 Zoning Bylaws – Add Solar Section

Art. 21 Zoning Bylaws – Add Wind Energy Conversion System(s)

John Matthews stated that these new by-laws will cover deficiencies found in the past year in current by-laws. Dick Patullo remarked that Article 18 is a “special Permit by another name” and procedurally could be a nightmare.

Art. 28 Police Station Delay – Mr. Mandolini remarked that he is not trying to stop anything and that since the school is \$1.5 million short he wants to delay the PD vote. Selectman Flynn remarked that if the bid is awarded prior to the ATM then this article is moot. Connie Witt added that she feels that the bids should remain sealed until after the ATM. Rick Green addressed the audience that this took an ad-hoc committee two years and many building reviews and stated that the bids would be opened prior to ATM and that according to the architect and project manager delaying is an “enormous mistake” with MGM, Howard Street Alcohol Treatment Center and the Viaduct construction as upcoming projects if the PD was postponed the cost could easily go up considerably. He went on to say they would be opening and evaluating the bids on April 16th and making a suggestion to the BOS on April 20th.

With no further questions, the Public Hearing concluded at 8:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindi Connors, Clerk