

Approved 4/5/05

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH**

April 4, 2005  
6:35 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Present: Mark R. Barba, Duane Mosier, James Smith  
Attendees from Advisory Committee: Beth DeSousa, Mike Crowley, Doug Boyd, Peter Nossal  
Guests: Doug Farmer, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Bill Olmstead

The Advisory Committee had a scheduled meeting which the Selectmen attended. The discussion centered around the town meeting and how the budget will be presented to the voters.

The results of the meeting are as follows:

- The two boards discussed possible scenarios to be presented. It was determined that the budget would be presented by the Advisory Committee as a balanced budget based on revenue projections and no override. This will show the ramifications to town services outlined for the voters to see.
- Advisory will show the effects of the cuts, followed by changes if the override passes.
- The balanced budget does not restore hours previously cut in prior years.
- Salaries for non-bargained employees submitted as part of the budget process showed them as level funded plus a 2.5% increase.
- It is important for voters to know that no reserve money exists anywhere, ie. free cash, stabilization have been depleted.
- An analysis of our bond obligations will be prepared and presented to the voters as well.
- Green Meadows renovation project will affect taxes in FY07.

- Previous bonds debt should be diminishing as the bonds for the Green Meadows project come due.
- The preliminary number needed for the override was determined to be \$575,000. Advisory will confirm that number.
- Bill Olmstead suggested that the Board get the information out to the public so they know the seriousness of the financial picture. It was agreed that the suggestion was a good one, but the question remains as to how should the word be spread? Meetings are held, such as the Advisory Hearing on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Override ballot question (for Special Election on May 16<sup>th</sup>) needs to go to Town Clerk by Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## DRAFT BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR MAY 16, 2005 ELECTION

Shall the Town of Hampden be allowed to assess an additional approximately \$575,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of regional school, public safety, library, highway, parks and recreation, Council On Aging and general government expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Shall the Town of Hampden be allowed to assess an additional \$10,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of conducting a feasibility study for a new library for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Shall the Town of Hampden be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a new fire truck to replace a 1969 truck. (Note approximate cost of truck is \$171,000 and will be presented at Town Meeting.)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### WARRANT DISCUSSION

An ad hoc committee reviewed capital needs at Thornton W Burgess and determined that the priorities are a boiler, handicap bathrooms and electrical improvements.

The Board discussed the possibility of transferring money not expended from the Green Meadows project to fund capital improvements at Thornton Burgess. We will seek a

legal opinion from Dave Martel as to the possibility of putting this to a vote at Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Barba to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Acting Police Chief's contract without return to open session at 8:40 pm. Second by James Smith. VOTE: Mark Barba yes, Duane Mosier yes, James Smith yes.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc