

Approved 4/19/05

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

March 31, 2005  
7:00 pm

625 Main Street  
Town House

Present: Mark Barba, James Smith, Duane Mosier

Meeting with Advisory Committee members: Beth DeSousa, Peter Nossal

Guest: Doug Farmer, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Two members of the Advisory Committee came in to meet with the Selectmen to discuss proposed ballot questions and how the budget should be presented at the Advisory Hearing on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mark presented a calendar of events for town election, meetings and advisory hearing. Peter Nossal suggested that the Town schedule a reconvened town meeting at the last possible date.

Duane made note that the House of Representatives will go to print with the budget at the end of April.

The issue of the school assessment came in to the discussion.

James Smith is frustrated by the School not taking the salary containment issue seriously and holding it level like other departments have had to do. Wage increases have not been addressed by the school. Peter Nossal expressed his frustration with the school budget as well.

Peter Nossal noted that the town will have a continual long term problem even if 2.5 passes this year.

James is opposed to Town employees going without a 2.5% increase because they had a previous salary freeze in FY04.

The Town is still in negotiations with the Police Union (IBPO).

We must show the effects of what will happen if the override fails.

There was discussion of building numbers for the assessors into an operating line item, rather than using a warrant article.

There was discussion about seeking a larger amount in the override to seek reasonable reserves for the Town. Residents need to understand that what the Town can spend is determined at Town Meeting and there is no discretionary spending.

The money needed for infrastructure maintenance/repair alone is \$300,000 per year for the next ten years in addition to FY06 requested dollars.

Highway truck was never bonded in October of 2003 when the truck was purchased and there is financial impact on our budget this year.

Debt exclusion numbers needed for the fire truck and the highway truck.

CALENDAR NOTE: Veterans' Services – Annual District Meeting – April 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm

At 8: 35 pm a motion was made by Duane Mosier to go into Executive Session to discuss the Acting Chief's contract without return to Open Session. Second by James Smith.

VOTE: Mark Barba yes, Duane Mosier yes, James Smith yes.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney  
Administrative Assistant

/pbc