

Approved 3/13/06

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

March 6, 2006
6:30 pm

625 Main Street
Town House

Present: James D. Smith, Duane E. Mosier, John D. Flynn
Advisory Committee: Kathy Pessolano, Carol Fitzgerald, Doug Boyd, Timm Marini

James Smith called the meeting to order in the Melville Room at 6:35 pm.

ADVISORY/SELECTMEN BUDGET DISCUSSION:

The Board of Selectmen met with the Advisory Committee to discuss the proposed budget and get a sense of what each group proposed for the coming year. Kathy opened the meeting by inviting the Board of Selectmen to state their position and give ideas as to how they believed funding should be allocated.

James Smith handed out a review of the town's budget needs for FY07, with projections for FY08 and FY09 based on historical revenues and proposed increases in various departments. He stated that he believes that there exists a structural deficit in our budget that must be addressed or the town will be forced to revisit the same scenarios year after year. He noted that the town has seen increases in costs with no ability to raise additional revenue. As a result, the stabilization account as well as the reserve account has been depleted so that no money remains. Services have been cut as a result of a failed override vote last year and James sees the need for another override vote to get the budget back in line, allowing some money to go into a reserve account.

Kathy Pessolano asked why James thinks an override vote would pass this year, when the town will also seek funding for the town's infrastructure needs.

Duane Mosier agreed with James' position and believes that money must go into our infrastructure as well as into reserve accounts. He also mentioned that our state money has been down approximately 25% since 2002.

John Flynn stated that while the town's infrastructure is of utmost importance, he also believes that partial restoration of services is necessary.

Kathy Pessolano asked if any available funds should be used for upcoming warrant articles rather than funding closed services. Some money does exist as a result of a lower number of people who had been laid off during the last budget process not needing money from our unemployment funds.

Kathy Pessolano adjourned the meeting and the Board reconvened in the Selectmen's office at 7:40.

Walk-Ins: Dick Jones came before the Board to express his appreciation for the time and commitment James Smith has given to the Town throughout his terms as selectmen. He also notified the Board that the Better Hampden Group meets next on April 12th at 7:00 pm at TWB and invited a member of the Board to participate as had been done at the last meeting.

He also discussed the issue of County Retirement and is still searching for an answer as to why Hampden contributes to the fund for people who do not reside in Hampden. He suggested to the Board that perhaps outsourcing some services in town (transfer station operations, snow plowing, other highway operations) might be a way to save on insurance, county retirement, etc.

Dick then noted the many zoning infractions that exist in town, most notably at Ace trucking which is behind the mini-mall. There are tractor trailers parked on the lot (which is zoned residential) next to the house on the property. He also mentioned the many zoning violations that exist relative to signs in town.

The Board discussed the issue of zoning enforcement and will continue with that discussion to seek a resolution to the violations in town.

Warrant Review: The Board reviewed the warrant articles, made a few changes and will circulate copies of the draft warrant so residents can review prior to the Advisory Hearing on March 20, 2006.

During the review of the warrant, and a letter of opinion from Dave Martel, Town Counsel, an article relative to the Conservation Commission's collection of fees was discussed. As a result of Town Counsel's review, the following motion was made by Duane Mosier, "I move that the Town establish a wetlands protection fund pursuant to Section 218 of Chapter 43 of the Acts of 1997, said fund to receive the deposits of fees paid to the Town of Hampden, through its Conservation Commission, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40 and further that fees deposited to the fund be expended by the Conservation Commission without further appropriation provided that such expenditures shall also be approved by the Board of Selectmen", seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Vote to be sent to the Conservation Commission, Town Clerk, Town Accountant and Town Treasurer.

Budget Discussion: The Board discussed various ways in which to fund services in town as well as those warrant articles relative to spending. They also discussed the need for a Special Town Meeting which requires a minimum two week posting prior to the hearing date.

Transfer Station Monitoring: A proposal was presented by Duane Mosier from Michael S. Framarin to perform water monitoring and testing at the Transfer Station as required by DEP on a semi-annual basis. After the Board's review a motion was made by James

Smith to approve the proposal which proposes a total cost for the April phase of \$9,043.00, of which the laboratory fees are \$5,743.00 and labor costs are \$3,300.00. Motion was seconded by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Transfer Request: The Board reviewed a transfer request from Dana Pixley, Tree Warden for \$400 for the removal of a hazardous. The Board agreed to the transfer which was then signed by James Smith.

Minutes of February 21, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by John Flynn to approve with corrections, and was seconded by Duane Mosier. James Smith abstained as he was not present for the meeting. VOTE: John Flynn yes, Duane Mosier yes, James Smith abstained.

Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Duane Mosier to approve as corrected, second by John Flynn. VOTE: Duane Mosier yes, John Flynn yes, James Smith abstained.

Minutes of February 27, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Duane Mosier to approve as corrected, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Executive Session Minutes of February 27, 2006: The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Duane Mosier to approve as presented, second by John Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Capital Planning Committee: A meeting is scheduled for 3/7 to introduce interested parties in participating in the capital planning process. John Flynn will bring names forward to the Board on 3/13/06.

Contract: The Board discussed contract issues for the Dispatchers, IBPO and the Chief of Police.

The IBPO will meet with Duane Mosier to restart contract negotiations on March 10, 2006 at 11:30 pm.

The Board is awaiting a date from the union representative from AFSCME for the dispatchers as to when all parties will be available to begin negotiations on their contract. The Board discussed the contract for the Chief of Police and will sign the revised contract on this date.

A motion was made by John Flynn to adjourn at 10:10 pm, seconded by Duane Mosier. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant