

**Hampden Advisory Committee**  
625 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036

**MEETING MINUTES**  
October 24, 2005, 6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Doug Boyd, Michael Crowley, Carol Fitzgerald, Timm Marini, and Kathy Pessolano.

Also present: John Flynn, Selectmen liaison to the Advisory Board.

Approved minutes of the April 11, 2005 meeting. Carol motioned and they were unanimously approved.

**MRHS PROJECT:**

Doug Boyd gave the rest of the Advisory Board members an update on the meeting of the Minnechaug Regional High School building committee that was held on 10/18/2005. There are 3 subcommittees on this project, the Architect & Engineering Committee, the Educational Programming Committee, and the Project Management Committee. The Architect & Engineering Committee are interviewing Dorn Whittier, who is the architect who did the feasibility study on 10/19/2005. This is because of a change in the state statues that allow school districts to continue on with the same architect. The funding is on a scale of \$600,000 to \$1.2 million in terms of price points and service that we will need in order to get the project developed sufficiently in order to bring it to a Town meeting, so that the Towns can look at the project with some detail. There has been some discussion as to where that money will come from. The figure that we were working with was \$1.2 million, there has been some subsequent discussion that they may be able to reduce that and essentially defer some of the service until after town vote. What the school district is proposing is borrowing the money, between \$600,000 and \$1.2 million, and for the first couple of years pay the interest on the bond. In the event that the project, or a project, is not approved, the district would then share in the payment of the principal & interest over a 10 year bond. Ultimately it gets funded by the town. If the project gets approved this money is reimbursable. There will be further definition on this in the next week or two.

**RECENT STORM:**

Kathy Pessolano said that the Town has incurred about \$80,000 in damage from a recent storm. The Selectmen were discussing whether or not, because they called a state of emergency, they can overrun the account without going to town meeting. It would be like snow & ice are, next year it would come right off our revenues. The other option would be to have an override just for the storm damage. John Flynn said that the Selectmen would like to have it put forward at town meeting and then take no action on it. He felt that people would support an override to pay for the storm damage. The town

may be able to get back 75% of the monies form the state, but if we ask for only 25% on an override and the state doesn't come through with 75% then we have to come up with more monies.

#### A BETTER HAMPDEN:

Kathy gave a quick summary of the recent meeting. Kathy and Carol both attended the meeting. There were about 100 people at the meeting. It was very informative and Kathy was pleasantly surprised by the thoughtful comments that were made. A gentlemen by the name of Don Collins was watching a cable access channel on 8/25/05 and there was a lot of transfers going on and he came to the conclusion that with the END account and all the transfers from the 05 budget to the 06 budget, that the school district has a surplus of \$976,000. We are waiting for an answer on that from the school district.

Next meeting scheduled on October 29, 2005 at 8:00am in the Melville Room.

Timm Marini motioned to end the meeting, Michael Crowley seconded and the meeting ended at 6:58pm.