

Hampden Advisory Committee
625 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 29, 2005 8:00AM

Members Present: Doug Boyd, Carol Fitzgerald, Timm Marini, Kathy Pessolano

Members Absent: Michael Crowley

Also Present: Board of Selectmen members John D Flynn, Duane Mosier, James Smith

Minutes of October 24, 2005 meeting. Timm Marin motioned for approval, Carol Fitzgerald seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

BUDGET:

The purpose of this meeting is to review the figures that are available so that the advisory board can finalize their recommendations. Kathy Pessolano asked the Selectmen if \$63,000.00 figure that we are working with is correct, with \$43,000.00 coming from the 7.3 line item – Unemployment Compensation and \$20,000.00 coming from the 7.2 line item – Employee Benefits. And that someone will make a motion on Monday November 7, 2005 to transfer those funds, to reduce those particular line items.

John Flynn said that they had been going over the accounts and that they may not need as much in the fuel account and that may give them more revenue to put into the reserve account and give us more flexibility for the rest of the year.

Kathy suggested we go over the warrant articles.

Town House Utilities- Kathy asked if it's still at \$10,000.00. Jim Smith said that it's a moving target but that they want to cut that back to \$7,000.00 but to move it into reserve in case it is needed. Duane said that what has partly stimulated their actions has been the recent storm and an article regarding the Town of Monson postponing their Town Meeting.

Gasoline – The figure is still at \$5,000.00.

Street Lights – The Selectmen felt it should be around \$2,500.00

Fire Station Utilities - \$2,000.00

Training for Reserve Police Officers - \$4,500.00

Article 2 total comes to \$21,000.00

On another note Kathy advised the Selectmen that the Longevity line was purposely left at zero and that they would need a Special Town meeting within the Town meeting to rectify that. In the interim they could take cover the cost out of Employee Benefits, line 7.2.

Article 3 – Kathy said that advisory is going to defer this due to the recent storm. Jim Smith said they have 3 choices:

- 1.) Spend it as emergency money, 2.) Borrowing, or 3.) an Override.

He said he would like Advisory's thoughts on these as each one has pluses and minuses. Kathy asked if we could go back to this once we went through the rest of the articles. The Selectmen agreed.

Article 4 – Pipe Repairs at TWB- figure still at \$17,500.00

After these deductions we have a balance of \$25,500.00. Kathy asked the Selectmen if they wanted to put all of the \$25,500.00 into the reserve account. They felt \$20,000.00 would be a good amount to put into reserve and put the other \$5,500.00 into Unemployment Compensation, just in case the few employees that haven't drawn any unemployment as of yet, may have to do so in the near future. So instead of taking \$43,000.00 out of line 7.3 Unemployment they would only take \$37,500.00.

So to Recap the figures:

Article 1 - \$20,000.00 to reserve- all advisory members agreed favorable action.

Article 2 - \$7,000.00, \$5,000.00, \$2,500.00, \$2,000.00, \$4,500.00 for a total of \$21,000.00 to be transferred- Timm Marini asked what exactly the figure for street lights would do? Kathy said it would turn some more street lights on at key intersections and areas in town. Jim Smith noted that some areas have been turned on for safety and this was done by a private donation from an unnamed resident who would like to see the town pick up this cost and if the town does that resident would like the money to go to police special training. Doug felt that we should be ready to identify what lights would be turned on because we know the question will be asked. Carol agreed with him on this matter. Timm felt that the the question will be asked as to how much it will cost to turn all the street lights back on. The Selectmen said we have \$8,500.00 budgeted and it would normally have cost us \$17,000.00 for the year and we are about 1/3 of the way thru the year. All advisory members agreed favorable action.

Article 3 - \$77,000.00 Kathy felt that we should take no action, go into deficit spending on whatever line item you need. Duane said that this is going to be one of those issues that has to be done after the tax rate is set. Doug said he would be inclined to take no action and wait for the states position on reimbursement to be clarified and deal with it in the spring. Selectmen vote no action and Advisory supports that

Article 4 - \$17,500.00 - all advisory members agreed favorable action.

Article 5 – all advisory members agreed favorable action.

Article 6 – all advisory members agreed favorable action.

Next meeting scheduled for November 7, 2005 at 6:30pm at Thorton W Burgess School.

Timm Marini motioned to end meeting, Carol Fitzgerald seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:53am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Murphy