

Hampden Advisory Committee
625 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036

MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2005 6:30PM

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

Also present: Cliff Bombard(Town Accountant), Board of Selectmen members John D.Flynn, Duane Mosier, and Jim Smith.

All minutes and various miscellaneous items will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Last Saturday the board ended the meeting with two scenarios as to what our recommendation to the Board of Selectmen would be as to how we proceed with the funding of the various articles for the meeting tonight. Option 1 was as we had stated at the public hearing, that we had two line items (7.2 & 7.3) that we felt comfortable in reducing these items to fund the articles on this warrant. Option 2 was Cliffs increased projection of local revenue by \$40,000.00 which is a combination of the things listed under local receipts. Michael Crowley, Kathy Pessolano and John D Flynn met with Cliff Bombard before tonights meeting regarding this. After listening to Cliff and Michael, we now have to decide how we want to proceed tonight and what our recommendation to the Board of Selectmen will be.

Kathy stated that in her opinion, after listening to all the information, was that we should go with the \$40,000.00 expenditure (option B). That would take \$22,500.00 and put it in the Reserve Fund, to have Article 4 be funded with the balance of \$17,500.00 and to take approximately \$21,000.00 out of unemployment compensation (line 7.3) to fund Article 2.

Michael stated that the number that Cliff gave us(\$40,000.00) is a nebulous number, it's a number that is based on last year calculations. Last years actual receipts exceeded our budgeted amount and Cliff was saying that if we had had that figure at the time that we were establishing our budget we would have projected at least \$40,000.00 in additional local revenue. And based on the way the actual collections have been tracking for this fiscal year Cliff believes that it's reasonable to assume that there's going to be at least \$40,000.00 in additional local revenue that could be allocated at this town meeting for use within the budget.

Doug Boyd said he was concerned about timing and the perception that there is money in the bottom drawer. The figures we are talking about now are different from the figures that we presented at the public hearing. It comes down to a transparency issue. Timm said that we have to explain to the people what a "run rate" is.

After much discussion, Kathy asked all there if they wanted to take a position of a more conservative number of \$25,000.00, put that into reserve and fund the remaining articles (2&4) out of unemployment compensation(line 7.3).

The Advisory Board members then voted: Doug made a motion to take \$25,000.00 in estimated local receipts and put it into the reserve fund. Michael seconded. All in favor. Michael made a motion to take \$38,500.00 from line 7.3 unemployment compensation to fund Article 2 & 4. Carol seconded. All in favor.

Meeting ended at 6:51pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday November 14, 2005 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Murphy