

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Bylaws of the Town provide for an Advisory Committee, consisting of five members appointed by the Moderator, whose charge is to study the subject matter of all articles and to make recommendations on all articles pertaining to appropriations, expenditures, incurring of debt and any other article deemed appropriate.

Once again, the budget for the Town of Hampden proves to be a challenge. As in prior years, we are faced with uncertainty about state aid; therefore, it is likely that Town Meeting will be recessed on April 25, 2005 as in 2004. Town meeting will then reconvene at a later date when we have firmer numbers from the state. This will be discussed at our public hearing on the 2006 budget and warrant articles, which is to be held April 11, 2005. The opinions of residents provide valuable input to the Advisory Board and are always considered in our final recommendations on the budget.

The residents are the appropriating body for the town. That is the primary purpose of the annual town meeting. The appropriation for each department along with the impact on town services is decided at the annual town meeting. Please make every effort to attend. It is the residents that make the final decisions.

Respectfully submitted:

Douglas Boyd
Michael Crowley
Elizabeth deSousa, Chair
Timothy Marini
Peter Nossal