BUDGET FOR 1970

RECOMMENDED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Item No.		1969 Appropriations	1969 Expended	1970 Requested	1970 Recommended	
	GENE	RAL GOVERNMEN	T-3.1% of total			
1	Moderator a. Salary. b. Expenses	\$ 30 15	\$ <u> </u>	\$ 30 15	\$ 30 15	
2	Selectmen a. Salarics (Divided among 3 members) b. Expenses	1,020 3,430	1,020 3,354	1,020 4,136	1,100 4,136	
3	Assessors a. Salaries (Divided among 3 members) b. Expenses c. Out-of-State Travel.	1,290 2,535	1,290 2,505	1,500 3,210 300	1,400 2,910 300	
4	Tax Collector a. Salary b. Expenses	2,200 1,300	$2,200 \\ 1,298$	$2,600 \\ 1,300$	2,350 1,350	
5	Town Clerk a. Salary. b. Expenses. c. Out-of-State Travel.	1,610 300	1,610 301	1,900 350 100	1,725 350 100	
6	Treasurer a. Salary b. Expenses	1,880 575	1,880 574	2,350 625	2,025 625	
7	Town Accountant a. Salary b. Expenses	1,610 650	1,610 647	2,000 650	2,000 700	
8	Planning Board Expenses	1,015	743	1,215	1,015	
9	Advisory Committee Expenses	350	323	450	450	

Item No.		1969 Appropriations	1969 Expended	1970 Requested	1970 Recommended
10	Board of Appeals	130	287 (*1)	250	250
11	Law and Claims	1,950	1,866	1,950	1,950
12	Elections and Registrations	1,240	1,337 (*2)	2,035	2,035
13	Office Equipment a. Acquisition b. Maintenance	1,770 266	1,755 266	650 500	650 500
14	Town House Maintenance	8,810	8,810	10,800	10,800
15	Academy Hall Maintenance	100	92	200	200
16	Certifying Notes	50	21	50	50
17	Total General Government	\$ 34,126	\$ 33,789	\$ 40,186	\$ 39,016

(*1) \$175.00-Transfer from Reserve Fund. (*2) \$100.00-Transfer from Reserve Fund.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY-4.0% of total

	L L PU	DOIRD MIAD	TROFER	11-4.0 /0 01 10	rui i			
a. Salaries b. Maintenance of Cruiser c. Other Expense d. Out-of-State Travel	\$	29,560 1,000 5,685 —	\$	29,560 835 5,762 (*3)	\$	33,561 1,125 3,463 140	\$	33,561 1,125 3,463 140
Police Special Coverage a. School Crossing Guard b. Recreation c. Elections		930 		898 		930 200 75		930 200 75
Total Police Dog Officer a. Wages b. Expenses	\$	37,175 500 <u>-</u> }	#	37,055 1,409 _} (*4)	\$	39,494 600 1,000	\$	39,494 600 1,000
	Police a. Salaries. b. Maintenance of Cruiser. c. Other Expense. d. Out-of-State Travel Police Special Coverage a. School Crossing Guard. b. Recreation. c. Elections. Total Police. Dog Officer a. Wages.	Police a. Salaries. \$ b. Maintenance of Cruiser. c. Other Expense. \$ c. Other Expense.	Police a. Salaries. \$ 29,560 b. Maintenance of Cruiser. 1,000 c. Other Expense. 5,685 d. Out-of-State Travel - Police Special Coverage - a. School Crossing Guard 930 b. Recreation. - c. Elections. - Total Police. \$ 37,175 Dog Officer a. Wages. a. Wages. 500	Police a. Salaries. \$ 29,560 \$ b. Maintenance of Cruiser. 1,000 \$ 1,000 c. Other Expense. 5,685 \$ \$ d. Out-of-State Travel - - \$ Police Special Coverage - - \$ a. School Crossing Guard 930 \$ - b. Recreation - - - c. Elections - - - Total Police \$ 37,175 \$ \$ Dog Officer a. Wages 500 \$	Police \$ 29,560 \$ 29,560 b. Maintenance of Cruiser. 1,000 835 c. Other Expense. 5,685 5,762 (*3) d. Out-of-State Travel - - Police Special Coverage - - a. School Crossing Guard 930 898 b. Recreation - - c. Elections - - Total Police \$ 37,175 \$ 37,055 Dog Officer 500 1,409 (*4)	Police \$ 29,560 \$ 29,560 \$ 29,560 \$ b. Maintenance of Cruiser. 1,000 835 \$ \$ c. Other Expense. 5,685 5,762 (*3) \$ \$ d. Out-of-State Travel - - - - Police Special Coverage - - - - a. School Crossing Guard 930 898 - - b. Recreation - - - - c. Elections - - - - Total Police \$ 37,175 \$ 37,055 \$ 500 Mages 500 1,409 (*4)	Police \$ 29,560 \$ 29,560 \$ 33,561 b. Maintenance of Cruiser. 1,000 835 1,125 c. Other Expense. 5,685 5,762 (*3) 3,463 d. Out-of-State Travel - - 140 Police Special Coverage - - 140 s. School Crossing Guard 930 898 930 b. Recreation - - 75 Total Police \$ 37,175 \$ 37,055 \$ 39,494 Dog Officer 500 1,409 (*4) 600	a. Salaries. \$ 29,560 \$ 29,560 \$ 33,561 \$ b. Maintenance of Cruiser. 1,000 835 1,125 c. Other Expense. 5,685 5,762 (*3) 3,463 d. Out-of-State Travel - - 140 Police Special Coverage - - 140 a. School Crossing Guard. 930 898 930 b. Recreation. - - 75 Total Police. \$ 37,175 \$ 37,055 \$ 39,494 a. Wages 500 1,409 (*4)

\$381.00—Transfer from Reserve Fund. \$820.00—Transfer from Reserve Fund. (*3)

(*4)

Item No.		400	1969 ropriations	F	1969 xpended	I	1970 Requested	P	1970 commended
22	Fire Department	App	3,832	L	3,849 (*5)	1	4,638*	nee	
23	Forest Fires		0,002		2,043 (.2)		4,030		4,638*
	a. Wages		800		1,498 (*6)		1.000		1,000
	b. Equipment		200		198				
24	Forest Fire Warden.		100		100		100		100
25	Civil Defense Supplies and Travel		150		-		100		100
26	Building Department Expenses		2.000		996		1,200		1,200
27	Insect Pest Control		400		394		400		400
28	Dutch Elm Disease		900		900		900		900
29	Tree Warden Expenses		2,000		1.948		2,000		2,000
30	Planting Trees		125		125		125		125
31	Total Protection	\$	48,182	\$	48,472	\$	51,557	\$	51,557
20	Wealth		D SANITATIO	N-0.9			100	1.2	
1	*6) \$700.00—Transfer from Reserve Fund.								
32	Health	8	100	\$	60	8	100	\$	100
33	Board of Health Agent.		500		500		500	*	500
34	Animal Inspection		75		75		75		75
35	Meat Inspection		60		60		60		60
36	Town Dump Maintenance.		5,200		7,457 (*7)		8,500		8,500
37	Mosquito Control		1,500		1,499		2,500		2,500
38	Total Health and Sanitation	\$	7,435	\$	9,651	\$	11,735	*	11,735
C	*7) \$4,000.00-Transfer from surplus at Special Tow	n Me			51001		14,100	•	11,1 00
	a sum of the second								
39	Summintendent of Street, Colom	HIGH	WAYS-4.5%	of tota			2.000		
40	Superintendent of Streets Salary Clerical Assistance	Φ	6,805 450	Ð	6,805	2	7,800	\$	7,800
41	Highways Buildres and Bailings				0 440		0.500		
42	Highways, Bridges and Railings.		8,500		8,443		8,500		8,500
43	Suow and Ice Removal		19,000 4,000		18,901 3,247		19,000 4,000		19,000 4,000

Item No. 44 45 46 47	Road Machinery Maintenance. Town Garage Maintenance. Street Lighting. Public Grounds.	App	1969 propriation 6,000 1,250 5,220 4,500		E	1969 Expended 7,377 (*8) 1,113 3,877 4,570 (*9)	1	1970 Requested 6,500 1,250 6,000 5,000	Re	1970 commended 6,500 1,250 6,000 5,000
48	Total Highways.	8	55,725		8	54,333	8	58,050	\$	58,050
	8) \$1,400.00—Transfer from Reserve Fund. 9) \$ 70.35—Rebate.									
		SCH	IOOLS_69	.3% of to	ta	Marris and a state of the				
49	Administration	\$	22,545	1.00	8	20,439 (*10)	\$	28,060***		
50	Instruction		418,363			412,153 (*11)		431,584**		
51	Other School Services		47,231			46,869		55,430		
52	Operation and Maintenance of Plant		58,100			56.257		67,180		
53	Community Services		1,300			1.213		1.800		
54	Acquisition of Fixed Assets							1,000		
55	Programs with Other Districts.		7,300			6,245		9,400		
56	Total Local Schools	\$	554,839		\$	543,176	\$	594,454**	\$	594,454***
57	Regional School District		268,537			268,537		296,308		288,735
58	Total All Schools	\$	823,376		8	811,713	\$	890,762	\$	883,189
	 This will be adjusted to the 1970 negotiated fig To be adjusted. \$2,000.00 - Transfer from Reserve Fund. \$2.00 - Rebate. 	ure.								
		RECE	REATION-	1.0% of 1	of	al				
59	a. Salaries.	3	6,500		8	6,433	s	7,650	\$	7,500
	b. Operating Expenses	*	2,000			2,399 (*12)		2,865		2,250
	c. Improvements		3,000			2,815		3,665		3,000
60	Total Recreation	\$	11,500		8	11,647	\$	14,180	\$	12,750

(*12) \$525.40-Transfer from Reserve Fund.

UNCLASSIFIED -3.5% of total

		Unice	A0011160-010	10 01 10					
Item No.		400	1969 ropriations	E	1969 xpended	R	1970 Requested	Rec	1970 ommended
61	Town Banorts	app e	3,200	8	3,138	\$	3,200	*	3,200
62	Town Reports	¢.	300	4	200	¢	300	+	300
63	Memorial Day		18,005		17,988		21,420		21,420
64	Insurance				6.732		and the second sec		 C 12, 2014 (2014)
	County Retirement System		6,732		150		7,542		7,542
65	Conservation Commission		150		and the second se				300
56	Veterans' Benefits		2,500		3,915 (*13)		3,500		3,500
57	a. Library Expenses		8,000		9,374 (*14)		8,984		8,984
	b. Library Capital Improvements		-		3,522 (*15)		100		
68	Cemeteries	_	250	-	270 (*16)		100		100
69	Total Unclassified	\$	39,137	*	45,289	\$	45,476	\$	45,346
(ª	16) \$20.35—Trust Fund Income.								
	MATURING	G DEE	T AND INTER	EST-13	.7% of total				
70	a. Elementary School Maturing Debt #1	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000
	b. Interest on Debt #1		3,840		3,840		3,360		3,360
71	a. Intermediate School Maturing Debt #2		90,000		90,000		90,000		90,000
	b. Interest on Debt #2		65,940		65,940		62,160		62,160
72	a. Elementary School Addition Loan.		5,000		5,000		-		-
	b. Interest on School Addition Loan		140		70				
73	Interest on Loans.	_	4,000	1	8,013 (*17)	_	5,000	_	5,000
74	Total Maturing Debt and Interest.	\$	183,920	\$	187,863	\$	175,520	\$	175,520
75	GRAND TOTAL	\$1	,203,401	\$1,	202,757	1.00	,287,466	\$1	,277,163

(#17) 01 ATE 49 Transfer from Receive Fund.

Item No.		1969 Appropriations	1970 Recommended
76	Total Budget Recommendations	\$1,203,401	\$1,277,163
77	Total Recommended, Special Articles	43,221	59,700
78	Total, All Recommendations	\$1,246,622	\$1,336,863
79	Estimated Additional Expenditures for State Charges, County Taxes, Overlay and all Other Amounts Required by Law to be Raised		60,000
80	Grand Total, Recommendations and Estimates		1,396,863
81	Deductions to Compute Estimated Tax Rate: Estimated Receipts, Income, Corporation, Gasoline Taxes, from State Motor Vehicle Excise, and Other Receipts from Sources Other than Taxation		405,000
82	Estimated Balance to be Raised by a Levy on Local Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property		\$ 991,863
83	Estimated Tax Rate Based upon Recommendations Using an Estimated Valuation of \$19,250,000 (before revaluation).	\$4	51.50 per thousand

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL ARTICLES

ial Article	R	equested	Reco	mmended
Hampden Centennial Celebration	\$	500	\$	500
Highway DeptNew Machinery (also see below)		15,000		8,500
Highway DeptSign-making Machine.		500		On floor
Chapter 90 Maintenance		3,000		3,000
Chapter 90 Construction-Main Street storm drains.		3,800		3,800
Chapter 81		2,200		2,200
Highways-Allen Place		4,000		4,000
Highways-Potash Hill Lane		3,000		3,000
	ial Article Hampden Centennial Celebration. Highway Dept.—New Machinery (also see below) Highway Dept.—Sign-making Machine. Chapter 90 Maintenance. Chapter 90 Construction—Main Street storm drains Chapter 81. Highways—Allen Place.	ial Article Ra Hampden Centennial Celebration. \$ Highway Dept.—New Machinery (also see below) Highway Dept.—Sign-making Machine. Chapter 90 Maintenance. Chapter 90 Construction—Main Street storm drains. Chapter 81. Highways—Allen Place.	ial Article Requested Hampden Centennial Celebration. \$ 500 Highway Dept.—New Machinery (also see below) 15,000 Highway Dept.—Sign-making Machine. 500 Chapter 90 Maintenance. 3,000 Chapter 90 Construction—Main Street storm drains. 3,800 Chapter 81. 2,200 Highways—Allen Place. 4,000	ial Article Requested Reco Hampden Centennial Celebration \$ 500 \$ Highway Dept.—New Machinery (also see below) 15,000 \$ Highway Dept.—Sign-making Machine. 500 \$ Chapter 90 Maintenance 3,000 \$ Chapter 90 Construction—Main Street storm drains 3,800 \$ Chapter 81. 2,200 \$ Highways—Allen Place 4,000 \$

21	Town Dump-Revision to Sanitary Land Fill (also see below)	32,500	20,000
	Library-Air Conditioning.	5,700	-
24	Conservation Fund	5,800	-
25	Hampden Superior Court Judgment-Intermediate School Land	14,700	14,700
To b	e Raised and Appropriated by Special Articles	\$ 90,700	\$ 59,700

FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN TAXATION

5	Highway Machinery (\$7,000 requested; \$8,500 recommended).	tra	ansferred	tr	ansferred
10	Highways-Chapter 81, 90 Construction, 90 Maintenance (\$29,500)	tra	ansferred		borrow
11	Highways-Traffic Control Flow Patterns.		borrow	(Ju floor
12	Highways-Traffic Control Flow Patterns (\$6,853)	Sta	ate Grant	St	ate Grant
15	Highways-Allen Place (\$2,284).	Sta	ate Grant	St	ate Grant
21	Town Dump-Revision to Sanitary Land Fill (\$12,500)			tr	ansferred
23	Library (\$580)	S	tate Aid	S	tate Aid
26	Library (\$500)	V	VFW Gift VFW Gif		FW Gift
27	Reserve Fund (\$12,000) transferred		transferred		
28	Stabilization	transferred denia		denial	
29	Library (\$762)			ansferred	
31	Reduction of Tax Rate	tra	ansferred		denial
				\$	73,479
			1969		1970
Cash	a from Unappropriated Available Funds and Stabilization	\$	74,600*	\$	21,000
Othe	er including State and County Highway money		48,443		52,479
	er Money to be Spent, Available from Sources Other than Taxation	\$	123,043	\$	73,479

SUMMARY OF BUDGET FOR 1970

Recommended by Advisory Committee

Classification	1969 Appropriation	1970 Appropriation	% of Total	Differential
General Government	\$ 34,126	\$ 39,016	3.1%	\$+ 4,890
Protection of Persons and Property	48,182	51,557	4.0%	+ 3,375
Health and Sanitation	7,435	11,735	0.9%	+ 4,300
Highways	55,725	58,050	4.5%	+ 2,325
Schools	823,376	883,189	69.3%	+ 59,813
Recreation	11,500	12,750	1.0%	+ 1,250
Unclassified	39,137	45,346	3.5%	+ 6,209
Maturing Debt and Interest	183,920	175,520	13.7%	- 8,400
Total Budget	\$1,203,401	\$1,277,163	100.0%	\$+ 73,762
Special Articles	43,221	59,700		+ 16,479
Additional Expenses (Estimated)	58,145	60,000		+ 1,855
Total Expenses.	\$1,304,767	\$1,396,863		\$+ 92,096
Estimated Receipts.	389,699	405,000		+ 15,301
Reduction of Tax Rate	30,000	-		- 30,000
Balance to be Raised by Tax (on property)	\$ 885,068	\$ 991,863		\$+1.06,795
Total Valuation, Estimate.	\$18,831,215	\$19,250,000*		\$+418,785
Estimated Tax Rate	47 per \$1,000	\$51.50 per \$1,000		+\$4.50 per \$1,000

* Before revaluation.

REPORT OF ADVISORY BOARD

Our report a year ago reflected concern for the financing of Town Government due to the dubious condition of the State Treasury. The Commonwealth took an optimistic attitude in the Cherry Sheét. Hampden, we were advised, would receive within \$6,000 of the amount allocated in 1968, and on this basis, the Assessors were able to fix a tax rate of \$47. This was an increase of \$6 over the previous year and represented moneys to pay for additional services as approved at the 1969 Annual Town Meeting.

Despite these optimistic predictions, the early returns from the Commonwealth were "paper" rather than hard cash, and we ended the year with a severely reduced cash position. We horrowed, for example, \$400,000 during 1969 in anticipation of receipts from State and local revenue—\$250,000 more than the previous year. In addition, departments were realistic in their budget appropriations leaving little surplus to return to the Treasury. This reduced our cash position and limits our ability to transfer funds for 1970 budgetary purposes.

Specifically, although at this writing we have not received the official certification from the State, our Free Cash (which approximates Surplus) is apt to be down \$60,000 to \$70,000 from last year's figure of \$133,000. Traditionally, we draw on Free Cash to finance many of our capital expenditures that are voted in Special Articles, *i.e.* road improvements, machinery purchase, non-recurring projects, and thus avoid raising these funds by taxation in the given year.

Coupled with the above, the increase in Budget and Appropriation recommendations of \$107,000, plus expected additions of \$40,000, suggest an increase of \$7 or more on the tax rate. No real hope for improvement in the Cherry Sheet receipts seems indicated. The revaluation of the Town, now in process, will broaden the tax base and should spread the burden more equitably, but the dollars to be raised will not change.

GENERAL BUDGET

As we prepare this, the General Budget is not well defined. The final figures on the Local School budget are still unavailable, but it is expected that the increase in both school budgets may total in the neighborhood of \$100,000 over last year. The outcome of the local teachers' contract negotiations will determine this figure. As last year, we have urged the School Committees to re-examine their budgets in an effort to effect some reductions. Unlike the local schools (although it must be recognized that Minnechaug has completed contract negotiations for this year), the "indirect" costs of school operation show a significantly bigber percentage of increase than the direct teaching expense. We pointed this out to the Townspeople at the Annual Town Meeting last year, but it is worthy of note that the trend seems to prevail.

The Hampden Advisory Committee suggests five areas in the Regional Budget which we hope might be reviewed with good results. The total reduction is \$32,983 of which Hampden's share would be 22.96%. These reflect our concern for the growth factor in the non-teaching services of the school.

(a) In the area of teachers' salaries, the past few years show that a surplus is generally realized. In 1969, \$19,000 was turned back; \$7,000 in 1968; \$4,000 in 1967; and \$8,700 in 1966. We suggest that a reduction of \$11,100 in the Principal's Office and Teaching budget items could be effected without jeopardizing the program (this would amount to less than 2% of the request).

- (b) We recommend that the cost of guidance, up from \$42,000 in 1968 to a requested \$71,442 this year, be increased to \$65,442. This would permit the guidance department personnel the salary increases averaged by the teachers.
- (c) We suggest that the \$2,000 for the planning consultant's fee (included in School Committee expense) and the \$7,320 expense of blacktopping a parking area preparatory to the new construction properly should be allocated to the cost of the High School addition and not included in the current year's operational budget.
- (d) We recognize the value of a well-rounded athletic program but question the need for an increase to \$26,795 this year in this area (a 60% increase in two years).
- (e) In the maintenance of equipment account, \$6.000 was budgeted in 1968 and \$18,000 spent, which indicates an unforeseen major outlay was necessary. The 1969 budget of \$10,402 reflected a 40% increase over 1968 and was sufficient to meet the need. We suggest that the 1969 figure will again be adequate.
- (f) Although not included in the above suggested reductions, we question whether a sum of \$2,000 Out-of-State Travel is essential for the administration of a high school.

Deducting from the total appropriation figure in the General Budget the cost of schools and debt service, the increase over 1969 amounts to about \$25,000. A substantial part of this is reflected in salary and wage increases. We commend the Board of Selectmen for attacking the problem of wages, particularly as respects the Highway Department and other full-time employees. A Salary Survey Committee appointed by the Selectmen submitted a realistic and equitable study which has been implemented in hudget recommendations. One immediate benefit to the Town should be the increase in Highway Department personnel. The Department has been hampered by the fact that the salary level has not attracted sufficient competent personnel for the Highway work.

In the area of health and sanitation, a study has been completed and a proposal will be made in a special article to improve the standard of the town dump through converting it to a sanitary land-fill operation. The General Budget reflects the anticipated cost of operating the dump under the proposed system, as discussed in Article 21.

The Advisory Committee is recommending the requested expenditure of \$2,500 for mosquito control in the Spring. We do so on the assumption that a satisfactory result will follow, through the use of a new program of spraying. Should this not produce the desired end, we are of the opinion that future mosquito control expenditures should be eliminated.

A by-product of the tight financial situation in 1969 was increased demands on the Reserve Fund, \$4,000 of which was transferred to cover the cost of shortterm loans. The detail of Reserve Fund transfers is found at the conclusion of this report.

Advisory Committee comments on recommendations bearing on Special Articles in the 1970 Town Warrant are these:

ABTICLE 4-(Payment of bills)—The Town Departments are to be complimented for closing their hooks with no unpaid bills carried forward. This is the first year in many that this has been done, and it reflects closer attention to appropriation balances by Officials and Department Heads. ARTICLE 21-(Town Dump)—We encouraged the engineering study leading to the upgrading of the present dump and support the \$32,500 proposal for its improvement. The patience shown by the neighbors is appreciated and we believe this move is long overdue. Our support is predicated upon receipt of a satisfactory set of operating specifications, realizing that poor operations can negate the money spent in upgrading the present dump.

This dump proposal actually presents an opportunity for upgrading a Town service at minimum operating cost. In a land-fill operation, the number of hours that the dump is open will be a major part of the operating expense. A comparison should be made between the cost of individual dumping by citizens and a Town plck-up service. This might result in (a) improved service to the citizens of the Town, and, (b) some offsetting savings.

ARTICLE 24-(Conservation)—We are sympathetic to the goals of the Conservation Commission. However, we believe that these goals should be clearly spelled out to the voters and adopted in principle by the Town in the form of a comprehensive definitive plan. With this understanding, the Townspeople can support well defined projects that fit into this plan. We strongly feel that this initial step is necessary before allocating money to such a project.

ARTICLE 28—(Stabilization)—The Stabilization Fund had a balance of \$116,918 as of January 1, 1970, and any additional moneys to the Fund would have to come from Free Cash or by way of taxes. Neither source is recommended by the Advisory Committee, and we suggest that no additional money he added to the Stabilization account in 1970.

ARTICLE 31-(Reduce the Tax Rate)—Because of the low level of Free Cash, it is not recommended that any transfer be made for the purpose of reducing the tax rate.

SCHOOLS

The steady and continuing increase in the operating expenses proposed by the two school committees and its reflection in the tax rate has been a major concern of the Advisory Committee. Of equal immediate concern are the long range consequences of the capital expenditures related to the proposed Minnechaug addition.

At the October Special Town Meeting, we opposed the article for land acquisition money and planning money for the Minnechaug addition on the basis of its grandiose scope. As a committee, we support quality education and we recognize the need for some further space. We view the addition of 87 acres to the present 48 acres of the Minnechaug tract for an addition to accommodate 800 or even 1,200 more students as a typical extravagance. (Previous state guide lines called for a minimum of 20 + 25 or 45 acres for a 2,500 pupil school.) At the same time we question the timing of the enrollment projections on which this addition is based.

In a similar fashion, we fail to see the need for a \$5,000,000 school addition when, in our eyes, a \$2,500,000 addition could provide quality education. To us, the difference must be charged to extravagance.

Such costs are often lightly dismissed on the basis that State aid will pay 65%. First, the citizens are the State aid and, secondly, the part often overlooked is that the State does not pay interest costs. The towns bear the total interest expense. In the present and foresceable money market, it is expected that the towns would pay about 6.8% on 20-year bonds. (The original Minnechaug bonds were 3.15%.) At the 6.8% rate, interest costs to the region exceed the State aid. For example, a \$5,000,000 school on a 20-year bonding at 6.8% would result in a net cost to the

region of \$5,520,000 over the 20 years. The first year's interest and principal would be \$427,500. Since such an addition would have a major impact on the taxes for a period of 20 years, we urge Hampden voters to insist upon having and studying the available options carefully. We want quality education, but do we need a glorified edifice? Learn the details of the proposed addition and vote at the special town meetings which consider the Minnechaug addition.

HIGHWAYS

While spending freely on school operation and construction, some of the other necessary Town services have suffered. As an example, the Highway Department is one such area. This year we have requests and recommendations totaling \$115,000. We are sure that this amount and perhaps more is needed to maintain and upgrade our highway system. However, we believe we might begin to strengthen our engineering effort which goes into our highway projects. While the Town has not yet reached the point of requiring a full-time Town Engineer, we feel there is merit in supplementing our current engineering. We suggest that the Selectmen consider retaining a consulting engineering firm to aid in planning, estimating, securing approvals, and preparing bid specifications. This might result in a better over-all program with minimal additional cost.

TOWN EXPENSES

In our normal review of town expenses, we are frequently concerned with tight budgetary control, particularly within the smaller departments and committees. Lack of control makes it difficult to conduct the current business of these offices within a fixed budget. It also hampers the preparation of budgetary projections for future years. We suggest that the Selectmen establish a policy for the montbly totaling of bills and, with the Town Accountant, assist these groups in setting up a running ledger of their expenses and in keeping their accounts current. This should permit better planning and a tighter control of town finances and will alert a department to any budgetary problems. A side benefit will accrue in the budgeting process in 1971 when departments will be called upon to prepare 18-month budgets.

We are also concerned with the amount of hand bookkeeping involved in payroll preparation in the School Department and in the office of the Treasurer. As these payrolls become more complex, it appears increasingly desirable to employ electronic data processing equipment. The local banks offer such services. We recommend that the Selectmen study these services with an eye to adopting such a plan for the Town payrolls by Fall. The Fall introduction of such a system will coincide with the start of the school year and the major payroll load and will provide a fair trial of such a system before the next budget is prepared. It will permit the evaluation of the economies that can be realized in the various departments before budget time. This information should make possible future budget reductions.

We cannot he optimistic about the 1970 tax rate, and we urge each of you to study the issues carefully in preparation for the Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee is indebted to all Town Departments for their continuing cooperation and wishes to thank Committee Secretary, Mrs. Charles N. Snow, for her help during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM T. OLMSTEAD, Chairman Raymond A. Barkhuff Daniel M. Flynn John L. Matthews, Jr. Robert J. Sicbaldi

1969 TRANSFERS FROM THE RESERVE FUND

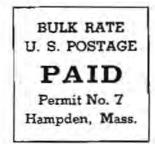
			\$15,000.00
Board of Appeals	\$	175.00	deres eres
Dog Officer		820.00	
Elections and Registrations.		100.00	
Fire Department		16.78	
Forest Fire Wages		700.00	
Interest on Loans		4,015.42	
Parks and Recreation		525.40	
Police Expense-Communications		381.00	
Road Machinery Maintenance		1,400.00	
Schools-Legal Counsel		2,000.00	
Town House Remodeling		83.00	
Veterans' Benefits		1,500.00	
		1,716.60	
Balance on hand December 31, 1969	• • •		\$ 3,283,40

ADVISORY BOARD—Left to right: Daniel M. Flynn, John L. Matthews, Jr., Robert Sicbaldi, Raymond Barkhuff, Jean Snow, Secretary, William T. Olmstead, Chairman.



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE DEPARTMENT	566-3
FIRE DEPARTMENT.	566-3
HARRIS AMBULANCE SERVICE	739-7
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	566-8
MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY	596-9
NEW ENGLAND TEL, & TEL, CO1	-283-9
MERCY HOSPITAL	788-7
SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL	787-3
WESSON MATERNITY HOSPITAL	739-7
WESSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	785-1
LUDLOW HOSPITAL	-583-{



P. O. BOXHOLDER RFD

