

**AMHERST TAXPAYERS FOR RESPONSIBLE CHANGE SELECT BOARD QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. List specific budget solutions , including the amounts for each , for closing the projected FY 09 budget gap of \$600,000
- a. *\$340,000 saved by not increasing capital expenditures from 7% to 8 %*
  - b. *\$230,000 from reserves as this will still maintain our triple bond rating and it is our saved tax money.*
  - c. *\$30,000 from increasing fees --if this is absolutely necessary. For instance, with a fee increase one could get \$8,000 more from the War Memorial Pool instead of losing more than \$31,000 by closing it.*

2. Some neighboring communities contract out services to reduce their personnel costs. The Amherst Town Manager recently contracted out some of the wiring inspections the Town must conduct.

- Given our continuing structural deficit, are you in favor of the Town exploring privatization of some additional Town functions ? Please circle one: Yes (No)

*I am not in favor of privatization of services as this provides profits for private entities and rarely saves taxpayers money.*

3. Past and future budget projections have shown that health insurance and employee compensation ( steps, cost of living increases, longevity benefits ) contribute significantly to the on-going structural deficit.

- Do you favor reducing future employee compensation rates of growth ?

Please circle one: Yes (No) . *I don't believe in cutting salary increases to balance the budget. Municipal employees tend to be hard working public servants who deserve every penny they are paid.*

Amherst pays 75% of health insurance premiums while the employees pay 25%.

- Do you favor increasing the employee's share of premiums to 30% for those employees earning above \$50,000 and 35% for those earning above \$80,000?

Please circle one: Yes (No) *I don't believe in reducing the health insurance coverage of municipal employees. This would be tantamount to a pay cut .*

- Amherst provides ambulance services to five neighboring towns and to higher education institutions . Over the past 4 years, Amherst Taxpayers have subsidized this service in the amount of \$694,658 on average per year.

**Do you believe Amherst Taxpayers should subsidize ambulance services to other Towns and institutions? Please circle one: Yes No**

***This too complex an issue to answer "yes" or "no". I believe that is good that the neighboring towns support our ambulance service. But if we squeeze them for every last penny they may leave our service and then we will have to pay the same amount of money for our service but get less support in reimbursement.***

**Candidates name ( Print ): Diana Stein**