

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 10, 2010**

The Board of Selectmen met at the Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2010 with David Carey, William Bowler and Jennifer Scuteri present. Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Town Manager Michael Lombardo and Town Administrator Candace Wheeler also present.

Vote to refund the water debt \$1.75 million

David Carey entertained a motion that in order to reduce the interest cost the Treasurer has authorized to provide for the sale and issuance of bonds under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Subsection 21A to refund all or any portion of the remaining principal and redemption premium and interest on the Town's \$3.5 million general obligation municipal purpose loan of 2000 bonds dated May 15, 2000 and that for this purpose the Treasurer is authorized to provide for the preparation and distribution of a preliminary official statement provided however that no bonds shall be issued under this vote unless and until the final interest rates and other terms of the refunding bonds are approved by this Board. William Bowler so moved. Jennifer Scuteri seconded the motion. Bond counsel reviewed this. VOTE: Unanimous.

Green Communities – Next Steps

Carey entertained a motion to authorize the chairman to sign the Hamilton-Wenham Green Communities documents pending approval by Town counsel. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Sue Patroliia is going to send out grant applications to meet May 28 deadline. The first \$7 million will be distributed on June 30. She is working with the Capital Management Committee and they plan to buy down the ESCos in each town. The school district is participating in the process.

Discuss Downtown Beautification project with Marcie Ricker

Marcie Ricker proposed a downtown beautification program where the business owners would be encouraged to help improve the streetscapes downtown. Each would benefit their own area and this could coincide with the garden tour in Town. She will

provide a brochure and give business owners advice about what plants would grow in their specific locations. Hamilton Gardens plans to participate and offered a 10% discount on the sale of plants to the downtown business owners with businesses along Willow Street, Railroad Avenue and Bay Road. Ricker is going to offer a \$200 cash prize. She suggested there should be other cash prizes as well. The Board of Selectmen would assist in the judging on June 12.

Discuss HWRSD Operational Audit next steps

An appropriation for Hamilton's share of the bill for the Operational Audit will be done at the fall Special Town Meeting. A request for proposal has to be written, issued and a vendor selected to do the work.

Superintendent of Schools Marinel McGrath will speak to Town Clerk Jane Wetson to get certified amendments for the regional school district. This will also be done in Wenham.

Town Manager Michael Lombardo said when he has done operational audits in the past he used a performance-based contract where the vendor was tasked to come up with equal or greater savings than the contract (i.e., \$120,000 in costs and \$400,000 was saved). Hamilton will manage process and receive input from Wenham and petitioners.

Debriefing on Annual Town Meeting – lessons learned

The Town Meeting voters would have preferred briefer overviews. The consent agenda worked well but could have been included in warrant. Housekeeping items could be included as bullets in warrant book. Also include an organization chart of the Town boards and short paragraph on how Town Meeting works in the book. This information could be put on the Town's website.

PowerPoint slides should be more concise, standardized and lighting changed so slides can be read anywhere in the auditorium. A deputy moderator could be appointed to serve in the cafeteria. Warrant preparation schedule should be started sooner so it isn't completed at the last minute. Lombardo will develop a strategy to improve the process for Special Town Meeting.

Discuss formation of Committee for Senior Property Tax Abatement

The Assessors would be responsible for implementing what was approved in the Home Rule petition. Citizens can be involved in the educational committee to get the word

out. Lombardo said two approvals are still required and votes have to be taken at the fall STM and during the November election.

MassDEP WasteWise Program – Award/Recognition

Carey and Gretel Clark will go to Boxborough on June 2 to receive award from MassDEP WasteWise Program for the Town’s organic waste recycling program.

Request from Community House to hang sign for “Two Town July 4th”

Carey entertained a motion to authorize the Community House to hang a 3’ by 12’ banner sign from June 19 to July 5 for the Two Town July 4th and up to 10, 2’ by 4’ smaller banners that would be hung for the week before the event. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The smaller banners would be from sponsors helping support the Two Town event.

Discuss Chapter 70 state funding

Hamilton residents Lynette Fallon and Tracey Mayor are interested in the Town paying \$4,000 for legal counsel to assist with a potential summary judgment case to change the Chapter 70 formula. This could help Hamilton to get more than the 13% of actual Chapter 70 state funding it receives each year for education. The Board said it would work with Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena and Lombardo in the next few weeks to see if the money could be found to pay for legal counsel.

Discuss Eastern Essex Veterans District

The district is interested in meeting four times versus once a year. In part to consider an external audit and discuss need for upgrading technology and record retention. Town’s assessment could go up \$800 next year based on number of veterans assisted.

Senior Care awards

Lombardo will speak to Leigh Keyser about who should be nominated for the awards.

Finance Committee openings

There are two vacancies on the Finance Committee and the Town is looking for candidates to fill the slots.

Selectmen's Goals List

Lombardo will provide the Board with its goals list for review in two weeks.

Carey entertained a motion to go into executive session not to return to open session at 8:47 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Clerk