

**TOWN OF HAMILTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DECEMBER 20, 2010**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20, 2010 with William Bowler, Jennifer Scuteri, David Carey, Marc Johnson and Jeff Stinson present.

**Loretta Cusick – The Hamilton Foundation**

Loretta Cusick of The Hamilton Foundation updated the Board on the foundation's mission to help residents with unexpected needs. When a request comes in from a resident in need the Foundation will work with them on a bill payment (i.e., fuel assistance) and direct them to other resources in the community.

Discussion on Foundation brochure being located around Hamilton but that there are more people in Town who could use assistance than are coming forward.

William Bowler said Senior Care has a senior giver program for short-term relief.

**HW Green request for sign at Patton Park re: tree recycling**

Greg Horner of Hamilton-Wenham Green discussed request to put sandwich board sign at Patton Park regarding the Boy Scouts picking up trees for a \$1 donation that will be recycled at Brick Ends Farm. The Town will also have its bonfire of Christmas trees on January 6.

Jennifer Scuteri entertained a motion to approve Hamilton-Wenham Green's request for a sign to be located at Patton Park until January 11 in regard to recycled Christmas trees. Bowler so moved. Jeff Stinson seconded the motion.  
VOTE: Unanimous.

**Ratify Dispatch contract**

Discussion was on Dispatch union contract including a change in shift differential that will cost the Town an additional \$2,000 a year. Marc Johnson had reviewed the contract and suggested it should be visited going forward when the recently negotiated contract term expires.

Scuteri entertained a motion for the Board to ratify the Dispatch contract provided to the Selectmen and Town Manager Michael Lombardo. Bowler so moved. Johnson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**MAPC Regional discussion**

Discussion on Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) planning grant for six towns on the North Shore where Hamilton is included in the subgroup and research is being done on regional initiatives (i.e., transportation). Selectmen raised concerns that Hamilton is considered a community that people drive through to get to other destinations such as Ipswich so it is rare that money from people traveling through Town is spent in Town.

MAPC had contacted the Planning Board coordinator who supplied information to Hamilton's Open Space representatives. The Town's Economic Development Committee was not asked for input on economics. Johnson thought the local resources would provide better information than what MAPC could provide regarding Hamilton's economic possibilities. MAPC has been silent on regional transportation issues.

MAPC has been focusing on a broad area where Hamilton would be better served if the North Shore were broken apart from the larger area being considered. Planning Board Chair Peter Clark is trying to get the effort to have more local focus.

**School Facilities Sub-Committee**

A School Facilities Sub-Committee will be appointed with representatives from Hamilton (2), Wenham (2) and the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee (2). A Selectman and resident will serve, understanding this is a long term commitment, to reach the important decision about what to do with the school properties used by the regional school district to best provide school facilities for the two communities.

The Sub-Committee will analyze the political, financial and engineering/architectural facility requirements for the regional school district.

Scuteri entertained a motion to appoint Selectman Marc Johnson to the School Facilities Sub-Committee. Bowler so moved. Stinson seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous.

A posting describing the requirements for the resident member of the Sub-Committee will be placed on the Town's website. Interested residents would preferably be analytical and could multi-task, be willing to commit a lot of time, and if they had an engineering, financial or real estate background, that would be a plus.

The Board said a draft copy of the school facilities study report is available for review at Town Hall. Selectmen will appoint the resident member to the Sub-Committee at the Board's January 17 meeting.

According to Stinson, Wenham Selectman Harriet Davis appears to support the concept that the communities could save money by building a new school to best serve students in the district.

### **Regional School District Survey/ Reverse 911**

An automated call will go out to residents using a telephone broadcast system to remind citizens to complete Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District survey.

### **Update on Town owned land**

Discussion on \$180,000 bid accepted by Hamilton for Town-owned parcel on Hatfield Road. The Town is currently looking at \$500,000 in cuts for the next fiscal year budget so how the revenue received for the land sale will be used is undetermined.

Further research is being done on the proposed regional ECO to be constructed in Middleton and what steps Hamilton will take regarding whether or not to join regional center or continue running its own public safety dispatch center.

**Accept Minutes: Regular Session: December 6th**

Carey entertained a motion for the Board to accept the Board of Selectmen regular session minutes for December 6, 2010. Bowler so moved. Stinson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Other business – schedule next BOS meeting**

Selectmen signed cemetery deeds. Discussion was on need to research cost of fees in similar surrounding communities since Hamilton might not be aggressive enough in what it is charging for service fees (i.e., animal control costs, cemetery deeds).

Also discussed was that the software used for comparative accounting by the Town's local government needs to be updated.

Board said it should focus on a broader, high-level budget discussion to understand the revenue numbers for comparable communities since the Town Manager controls the union contract negotiations and budget line items.

Selectmen agreed to each research the revenue numbers for two of the following towns: Wenham and Topsfield (Stinson), Ipswich and Essex (Johnson), Boxford and Manchester (Carey), Newbury and North Andover (Bowler) and Lynnfield and West Newbury (Scuteri).

Johnson agreed to speak to Town Clerk Jane Wetson to get a list of the fees the Town charges for services provided.

Also under other business, Carey noted that there are plans in the works to create an ice skating rink on the Patton Park tennis courts.

Scuteri entertained a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Bowler so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk