

TOWN OF HAMILTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JANUARY 3, 2012

Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 with Jennifer Scuteri, David Carey, Marc Johnson, Jeff Stinson, and Jeff Hubbard present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo also present.

Accept minutes (December 12, and December 19, 2011)

Board clerk Jeff Hubbard entertained a motion for Board to approve December 12, 2011 working session minutes. Marc Johnson so moved. Jennifer Scuteri seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Hubbard entertained a motion for Board to approve December 19, 2011 regular session minutes. Johnson so moved. Jeff Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Hubbard entertained a motion for Board to approve December 19, 2011 executive session minutes. Stinson so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Public Comment

Town Manager Michael Lombardo responded to an inquiry from Bob Gray, Bay Road, about the status of the ECO. Lombardo has been speaking with two neighboring communities to gauge their interest in participating in Hamilton's ECO through intermunicipal agreement. Details such as installing a repeater to ensure the communities receive radio signals have to be defined. He expects a decision on whether or not the municipalities will join Hamilton's ECO should be reached in the next two to three weeks.

As of December 31, 2011, Wenham is officially no longer a member of the ECO since it opted to join the Regional Emergency Communications Center to be built by the state in Middleton. Lombardo is working on a survivorship agreement with Wenham now. Agreement would be put in place until the new facility is up and running, possibly by the end of 2012, but that seems unlikely since construction is not underway.

Discussion about the cost to Hamilton if it were to operate the ECO alone and it was previously stated as \$250,000 more annually than when Wenham was contributing. However this estimate may change since Lombardo will be speaking with staff about streamlining operation to realize efficiencies.

Lombardo also responded to a question from Duke Seaver, Essex Street, about the proposed settlement of the Michael Marchand lawsuit saying it was premature to divulge information since he is waiting for written information on the matter.

#### Town Manager's report

Lombardo explained that the DPW yard would be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays for commercial entities in Town to discard/recycle cardboard. He noted that once weekly recycling is implemented that would eliminate the problem of excess cardboard.

Also mentioned relative to upcoming implementation of the SMART program was the Board of Selectmen have enabled blue bag trash pickup every other week so a dumpster will not be located behind Town Hall for residents to dispose of solid waste if they miss a free barrel trash pickup week.

#### Chairman/Selectmen reports

Lombardo said in one town where discussions are occurring with Hamilton there was a difference of opinion about going with Hamilton's ECO or the Essex County Regional ECC. Information is being shared and it has been noted that there is nervousness about lack of state funding. One jurisdiction looks promising while the other has just come on board to investigate the idea of partnering with Hamilton in the ECO.

Both municipalities are supportive of doing a feasibility study that would define infrastructure and technology needed (i.e., use of fiber optics for repeater).

At the invitation of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, the Board of Selectmen will attend a breakfast at the college on January 10.

#### Finance – Deborah Nippes-Mena

The Finance Director will present at an upcoming Selectmen's meeting.

Sled Dog Race – Request for sign and to close portion of Cutler Road

Cami Beckman, Vanessa, and Suzanna Collaredo-Mansfeld explained to Board that date for Sled Dog Race has been changed to February 4 and 5 due to lack of snow. They have been in contact with Police Chief Russell Stevens regarding police details for event. The race will cross Cutler Road twice and the road will not be closed. Police personnel and Essex County Trails Association volunteers will collaborate.

Vendors at the event serving food will have food licenses as required by the Board of Health. No alcohol will be served. The vendors will be located at the Appleton Farm site on Highland Street.

At last year's race there were 8,000 spectators watching 82 dog sled teams and 100 teams are planned this year with an expected 1,000 viewers. A map will be published that includes viewing spots for 4, 6, 8 and 11-mile races. Ten-dog teams will be used for the 8 and 11-mile races.

Copy of map will be placed on Town website with link to New England Dog Sled Races. Also included on the map and website will be spectator etiquette especially to address the need for crowd silence when dogs are approaching the finish line, that no dogs should be brought to the event and that small children need to be kept clear of trails and dog teams.

Parking will be provided at Appleton Farm off of Highland Street with overflow parking space at Groton House Farm. Some parking could occur at Pingree School.

Event will be announced on radio stations, posters, website and Facebook. Sled dog racing has a large following and event in Hamilton is only place where the races can be seen live in Massachusetts. Veterinarian and musher Jerry Vanek will be speaking at HWRHS on Wednesday, January 11.

Scuteri entertained a motion to approve a request to hang a banner (publicizing the NE Dog Sled Race) outside of The Meeting House from January 4 until February 5. Stinson so moved. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Public Hearing – New Liquor License – Gourmet Delights Catering

Hubbard read legal notice regarding the new liquor license public hearing that appeared in the Hamilton Wenham Chronicle on December 22.

The new all alcohol, annual license for Gourmet Delights Catering is a full license that would allow alcohol to be stored on premises at the Community House in a portable bar used at functions. The bartenders are TIPS-certified and \$2 million in insurance is carried.

Discussion about how caterer had pulled 23 one day liquor licenses this year at \$100 a piece and that the cost of the full license is \$1,500. Community House can seat 160 people. Selectmen suggested good judgment be used by license holder when events have more than 100 guests relative to potential use of a police detail.

The liquor license only applies to events held in the Community House or in tents on the Community House grounds. Selectmen noted that license approval would be contingent upon no impact to Winthrop Elementary School across street. Events where alcohol is served are held when school is not in session.

Scuteri entertained a motion to approve the request for an annual all alcohol license to Gourmet Delights Catering, Inc. located at 284 Bay Road, where alcohol would be served from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. on Sundays. Hubbard so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Lombardo explained that fire inspections will take place and state will send out someone to check the premises and issue the license. Annual license will be reviewed each year on same schedule as other all alcohol licenses held in Town.

Accept Resignation of Leigh Keyser as Housing Authority Rep to CPC

Lombardo will draft letter for Board to sign thanking Keyser for his service since he has resigned as CPC rep from the Housing Authority. An application will be received from Clarence Trepanier as well as others to fill the vacancy.

Accept Gift from Essex County Greenbelt and Essex County Trail Association for Donovan Fields

Discussion was about Essex County Greenbelt and Essex County Trail Association being involved in process of Town buying Donovan land for recreational use where each organization had offered to provide \$10,000 towards purchase. This information was presented to Town Meeting voters when favorable vote was taken to buy land.

Scuteri, Johnson and Stinson all reiterated this agreed upon public/private partnership and noted that CPC money is used for trails maintenance. Bea Britton, Highland Street resident and ECTA member, corroborated this viewpoint. Hubbard said he had received very different feedback and expressed possibility of hardship for these groups to raise the \$10,000 each in funds.

Scuteri entertained a motion to accept the \$10,000 gift from Essex County Greenbelt that was presented to the Town of Hamilton in regard to the purchase of Donovan playing fields. Johnson so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: 4-1-0 with Hubbard opposed.

Scuteri entertained a motion to accept the \$10,000 gift from Essex County Trails Association that was presented to the Town of Hamilton in regard to the purchase of Donovan playing fields. Stinson so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: 4-1-0 with Hubbard opposed.

Potential amendment to Regional School Agreement

Discussion was about HW Regional School Agreement being 20 years old with relatively little change since it was agreed upon in the 1990s.

Research has been done on agreements for other regional school districts and Board discussed whether it would make sense to have a nonpolitical committee review the Agreement and identify potential revisions. This would be similar to the Government Study Committee in Hamilton that analyzed and recommended change in local government to a 5-member Board of Selectmen and Town manager versus Town administrator to oversee municipal operations.

The proposed study committee would be a non-partisan group that could bring regional school agreement amendment recommendations to Special Town

Meeting in the fall. Board agreed that Wenham and HW School Committee should be involved in the process.

Intent is to implement a revised regional school agreement that works better than the existing document (i.e., budget timing). This living document should reduce divisiveness and increase functionality across the three entities so they can govern more effectively.

Especially in light of the facts raised by HW Regional School Committee member Bill Dery that the Committee does not know how much money the school district has, there is lack of transparency and process is flawed due to polarized groups.

Hubbard noted that the existing regional school agreement references reports that the municipalities are supposed to receive and do not. He mentioned the need for stability in the school system.

Scuteri said some towns revisit their regional school agreements every five years. Next steps are for the Board of Selectmen to talk to Wenham and the School Committee on the suggested neutral analysis of regional agreement.

#### BOS goals survey

Selectmen will email David Carey their lists of four to six goals that the Board should get done in the short term and five to ten goals that Selectmen can address in long term before the Board's next meeting. This effort is designed to enable better planning to accomplish Selectmen's goals.

Discussion was on how Board chair would take lead to assign Selectmen to respond to citizen letters and present solutions to complaints.

#### Other business

Selectmen will hold a working session on Monday, January 9 to address reorganization at Town Hall.

Scuteri entertained a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Stinson so moved. Carey seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

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

Clerk