

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 16, 2010**

The Board of Selectmen met at the Hamilton Town Hall at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, August 16, 2010 with William Bowler, Jennifer Scuteri, Marc Johnson and Jeff Stinson present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo, Police Chief Russell Stevens and ECO Director Ann Marie Cullen also present.

One-day liquor license – C. W. Hood Yacht Yard on August 22

Representative from C.W. Hood Yacht Yard agreed to work with Hamilton's police department to ensure there was police coverage at the event that could have as many as 100 guests at the Myopia Hunt Club polo match on August 2.

Jennifer Scuteri entertained a motion to grant C.W. Hood Yacht Yard, Inc. a one-day, four-hour liquor license for August 22 at Myopia Hunt Club's polo field. William Bowler so moved. Jeffrey Stinson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Presentation: Essex County Sheriff's Office – Regional Emergency Comm. Center

Joe McGowan and Tom Dugas from the Essex County Sheriff's Office gave a presentation on the proposed Regional Emergency Communications Center to be built in Middleton near the jail.

Town Meeting voters in Hamilton and Wenham had voted in favor to give Selectmen in their respective towns the authority to decide whether or not to join the regional emergency communications center. The Wenham Selectmen will take a vote on this matter tomorrow night.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office representatives outlined the plan for the regional emergency communications center that will be built with 911-call surcharge money (\$7 million in funds has been slated for this project) if a threshold population of 128,500 or more from member communities joining is reached.

If Hamilton were to join the regional center, the expected cost per capita would be \$16 in a call taker/dispatch model that McGowan said would be more sophisticated, robust and cheaper than what Hamilton is paying now for similar ECO service.

There would be more dispatchers on duty per shift at the regional center versus at Hamilton's ECO where typically one dispatcher is working on a shift.

McGowen said the regional emergency communications center would try and absorb existing dispatchers from member communities into its staff.

He agreed that most of the equipment presently used at Hamilton's ECO is state-of-the-art and up-to-date. So it could potentially be incorporated into the regional center service, especially the towers and repeaters. If Hamilton's Board votes to have the Town join the regional operation.

Hamilton officials expressed concern about the cost of continuing to run the local ECO if Wenham opts to join the regional center, since Hamilton would bear 100% of the operation cost. Currently, the local ECO receives grant funding due to its status as a regional center serving two towns and it would no longer be eligible for that funding when a single community would be served. Officials had spoken to abutting towns (i.e., Ipswich and Manchester) and there is no interest in joining with Hamilton in a local dispatch center.

The Town's public safety officials are concerned about losing local knowledge of immediate area and personal attention to local incidences if Hamilton joined a regional emergency center. An outcome of joining could be that the Hamilton public safety building would have a vacant lobby after 4 p.m. where anyone entering the building would be required to use a telephone to contact public safety personnel.

More research will be done by Hamilton officials to ensure that emergency communication services would not be degraded significantly outweighing the cost savings that would result from becoming a member community at the regional emergency communications center in Middleton.

Town Manager Michael Lombardo is interested in meeting with McGowen and Dugas to get answers about what services are provided locally that Hamilton would no longer have if it joined the regional emergency communications center and to understand what the \$16 per capita pays for.

In addition, Town officials want a complete understanding of what equipment transfer costs as well as future capital costs could be for a member community. Especially since the Town could lose its designation as a public safety answering point that would go to Middleton. Lombardo said he would research the entire matter and report to the Selectmen with his answers by a week from Friday.

Other business

Cemetery deeds were signed by but are no longer voted on by the Board of Selectmen.

Scuteri entertained a motion at 8:52 p.m. to adjourn. Bowler so moved. Marc Johnson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Clerk