

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 12, 2010**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 with William Bowler, Jennifer Scuteri, David Carey, Jeff Stinson and Marc Johnson present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo also present.

Scott Brooks – Hamilton Housing Authority

Discussion was with Scott Brooks about disruptive resident at Hamilton Housing Authority facility. Brooks asked the Board of Selectmen to investigate. Hamilton Housing Authority is under state jurisdiction so Town is limited in what action it can take. The Board agreed to follow up with State Representative Brad Hill.

Discuss Municipal Affordable Housing Trust appendix language

Selectmen discussed language researched from other communities in preparation for Special Town Meeting warrant article on Municipal Affordable Housing Trust. Jennifer Scuteri will work with Town Counsel Donna Brewer and Jeff Stinson to develop language in time for Special Town Meeting by incorporating trust wording from towns of Belmont, Hingham and Salem.

Details will focus on use of deed restrictions, Board of Trustees (Stinson and David Carey are against non-residents serving while Marc Johnson, Scuteri and William Bowler supported non-residents) and Selectmen approval requirement. Printed warrant will not include trust language to be presented October 30.

Regional ECC analysis

Discussion was on potential expense of operating ECO without Wenham's participation and possible savings to Hamilton if Town joined regional emergency center proposed by state to be built in Middleton.

Wenham has opted to join regional center with expectation that it will cost that community \$80,000 less a year for emergency dispatch services compared to partnering with Hamilton at local ECO.

Total annual operating cost to run local ECO is approximately \$500,000. If Hamilton provided dispatch service without funding from Wenham, net cost increase to Town's tax rate is thought to be as high as \$341,000 where a \$120 tax increase per household would be best case.

If Hamilton opted to join regional dispatch center, anticipated annual cost would be \$190,000 based on per capita cost of \$16.26. There are ongoing retirement costs of \$59,000 regardless of whether or not Town joins regional facility.

Outstanding variables in regional dispatch scenario include 130 communities need to join to make it fiscally viable, Methuen recently reneged on its agreement to join, and regional center is likely not to be built for a few years so interim planning is needed.

A possible reorganization in Hamilton's public safety departments could result in savings if Town decides to continue providing local dispatch service. It is difficult to quantify any changes in service that would result from Town joining regional dispatch center.

Johnson and Town Manager Michael Lombardo will summarize details of Board's discussion and provide crucial impact number on Hamilton's tax rate if Town decides to operate ECO independently. Then Selectmen can discuss at upcoming meetings and take deciding vote by January 15, 2011.

Update on use of ESCo/ Green Communities Grant Funds

Facility improvement measures, such as heating system at old library, are ongoing in several Town buildings and expected to be completed in November. Discussion on potential for solar farm at landfill and possibility of using Green Community grant funds will be investigated.

Update on COA Survey and Further Discussion of Shared Services

Forty responses were received to 600 surveys mailed with Council On Aging newsletter. Questions addressed information services, outreach, transportation, meals, health and financial assistance. There is a great deal of interest in

handyman services for elderly in Hamilton; this is already in place in Wenham. There wasn't any interest in assistance with wills or medical referrals.

Discussion on whether or not there should be a COA director in Hamilton or if one person could serve Hamilton and Wenham. Overseeing COA can no longer reside with Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department. Regional COA might be eligible for grant funding. Critical mass of COA participants across two towns enables more shared programs. Priority for two towns is scheduling of elder van.

Johnson and Lombardo will meet to articulate pros and cons of joint COA director and try to establish cost for position on an interim and permanent basis. No funding has been appropriated for a COA director.

Discussion Hamilton Trails Network

Discussion about trails network in Town and if trails would be maintained if properties change hands. Some trails in Hamilton are limited by property owners to allow for flexibility of land use (i.e., future development) and can be exclusively for equestrian use. When there are conservation restrictions and/or easements on properties, trails tend to be maintained. CPA Coordinator Chris Berry will see if CPA funds could be used to purchase trail easements.

Update on Hatfield Road

The Request for Proposal is nearly ready for Town-owned, ¼-acre parcel assessed at \$177,000 on Hatfield Road. Once RFP is put out to bid, there will be 3-week turnaround for bids to be submitted. Hope is to open bids on November 3.

Senior Property Tax Exemption Ballot Language

In preparation for election on Tuesday, November 9, Town officials carefully reviewed referendum ballot question language on senior property tax abatement to make sure wording was clear to voters. A flow chart describing abatement will be posted at Town Hall and printed in COA newsletter prior to election vote.

Consider appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals

Scuteri entertained a motion to appoint Dorothy Stookey to Zoning Board of Appeals for a term commencing on October 12, 2010 and ending on June 30, 2013. Stinson so moved. Bowler seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Vote to accept Fire Station as Emergency Evacuation for elections

Scuteri entertained a motion to accept fire station as emergency evacuation for elections. Johnson so moved. Bowler seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

BOS Task List

Selectmen reviewed Board's task list and will report at its October 18 meeting on: operational audit for schools, Canterbrook Farm development proposal relative to revenues, Hansbury property regarding information from estate attorney, update on Earthtone cellular telephone coverage proposal, and status of temporary lights at Patton Park ball field.

Other tasks discussed included: cost sharing analysis of DPW grounds maintenance with Wenham, COA economics, regional ECO, landfill engineering work, mixed use bylaws, long term facilities overview, P.I.L.O.T. – GCTS committed to \$100K gift, Town-owned land that could be sold, recreation services – Donovan field, pending litigation – attorneys will report to board soon, senior tax abatement, community relations, analysis of IT services/functionality especially regarding web site, empty nesters and marketing Hamilton.

Accept Minutes: Regular Session: October 4th

Carey entertained a motion for Board to accept Oct. 4, 2010 regular session minutes. Bowler so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Other business

In discussing Question 3 of the upcoming state election, discussion was on results of research correlating state revenues and the affects on local aid for Hamilton for past 10 years. Stinson and Johnson will follow-up. Warrant hearing scheduled during Board meeting on October 25.

Scuteri entertained a motion at 9:41 a.m. to adjourn. Stinson so moved. Bowler seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Clerk