

Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts



2011 Annual Report

Town of Hamilton
Essex County
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

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Essex County
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Incorporated June 21, 1793
Area 14.99 Square Miles Town Population 7,764

Sixth Congressional District
Fifth Councilor District
First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District
Fourth Essex Representative District

State Officials
Congressman: John Tierney, *Salem*
Senator: Bruce E. Tarr, *Gloucester*
Representative: Brad Hill, *Ipswich*

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Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen faced the year with the economic reality of reduced local aid from the state and dwindling revenue from excise taxes. The Board promoted policies to vet budgets, apply for grants, and devise new programs in response to residents demands to find ways to lower taxes, cut costs and improve service.

The Operational Audit of the HWRSD, commissioned by Hamilton and Wenham identified \$500,000 surplus funds for each Town. The HWRSD returned the funds. Town Meeting voted to apply them to free cash to reduce the tax rate.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association recognized Hamilton for its pilot curbside organic composting program. By year's end, the Board revolutionized the Town's trash program and adopted a weekly, single stream recycling program, weekly curbside organic composting and biweekly single trash barrel pickup. An additional "Pay as You Throw" option allowed resident to purchase plastic trash bags that would be picked up weekly.

The Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town accepted a series of gifts from the H-W Little League and local contractors and summer night ball games became part of a permanent feature at Patton Park.

The Board weighed the option of joining a larger, regional ECO, based in Middleton against cost, level of service, state of technology, political trend toward regionalization and future use of the Hamilton Public Safety Building. The Board elected to stay the course. Wenham, who partnered with Hamilton since its inception voted to join the Middleton ECO.

The Board voted to adopt changes to the Open Meeting Law, allowing Town Board members to weigh in on a meeting via teleconferencing, when they are geographically unable to attend. Town Meeting supported a \$2 million debt exclusion to complete the Landfill capping on Chebacco Road, started almost 30 years ago. Use of grants from Green Communities sparked discussion and investigation of future uses of the site, including construction of an anaerobic digester and solar energy fields. A home rule petition passed also by Annual Town Meeting, asked the Legislature to create the Hamilton Development Corporation as finance and investment tool that could be used to promote economic development in Town.

Additional highlights:

- Town Hall hours changed officially to a Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in January.
- Unusual snow conditions in February forced the closing of schools, while teams of workers removed tons of snow from the classroom roofs. The extended holidays brought joy to some, while parents not so much.
- Firehouse Place at 69 Willow Street opened providing 4 affordable housing units and a new home for the food pantry, Acord.
- The Town closed on the purchase of 52 acres of playing fields and bridle trails on Sagamore Road. Known as the Donovan Fields, the land was acquired through CPA grants.
- Multiple improvements to Town Hall were completed, including new granite steps, repair and replacement of windows and freshly designed and planted flower beds.
- Town-owned land on Hatfield Road sold for \$181,500.
- A study to operate a joint finance department with the Town of Wenham proved not feasible in 2011.
- In the fall, Joanne Patton proposed to give her home and 27 acres of land on Asbury Street to the Town. The Board established a nine member Patton Family Advisory Gift Committee to study the proposal and present its finds at Annual Town Meeting in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

2011 Board of Selectmen

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk’s Office serves as a general information center to the public, including posting of all board meetings according to the Open Meeting Law. Numerous requests are filled for certified copies of vital records, general information about the Town and its activities, genealogical information, business and legal decisions by Town boards.

The Town Clerk is responsible for local and state elections, recording and certification of all official actions from town meetings, census maintenance, voter registration, maintenance and issuance of vital records and swearing into office all board and committee appointments as well as elected officials. We also process and issue various licenses including dogs, fishing, hunting, sporting and marriage licenses, raffle permits and business certificates throughout the year.

I would like to thank Administrative Assistant Andrea Carlson for her dedication and effort in performing the many and varied duties which make it possible for this office to run smoothly, A very special thank you to our dedicated senior volunteers who assist us with our special projects: Edward Haraden, Carol Kirby, Ruth Flumerflet, Betty Gray, Doris Cooper and Charlotte Teshko for their help stuffing census envelopes, indexing our maps and town meeting minutes. We sincerely appreciate all their efforts.

Elections and Registrations

Board of Registrars

Constance Cobb, Sidney Jenkins, Maureen Hickey and Jane M. Wetson, *Clerk Officio*.

This year we had three Town Meetings and only one Election. The minutes are on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

The Annual and Special Town Meeting were held at the H-W Regional High School Auditorium under the direction of Christopher Shailor, Bill Melville and their staff of dedicated and talented young adults that keep our meetings running smoothly. We sincerely appreciate your help.

Our Annual Town Election was held at the Winthrop School. We had the privilege of using the new AUTOMARK Handicap Accessible Voting Machine and John Sanders, who is a blind resident, was able to vote by himself by listening to the ballot being read through ear phones as he voted using a key pad which marked his ballot. He was very happy to be able to vote himself, using this new voting machine.

2011 Statistics

Marriage Licenses Issued.....	19
Births Recorded	78
Deaths Recorded	55
Dog Licenses Issued	
Dog Total	1,106
Kennels	8
Fish and Game Licenses Issued	
Fishing Licenses	16
Hunting Licenses	63
Sporting Licenses	27
Trapping.....	1
Waterfowl Stamps.....	18
Archery Stamps	11
Primitive Firearms	11

Please Note: This is the last year that we will be selling Fish and Game Licenses due to new regulations. Licenses may be purchased online or stores that are listed on the Fish and Game website.

I sincerely thank the dedication and hard work of Greg Stevens, Paul Rigol, and Ivan Muise in setting up the elections, the Board of Registrars, the Election Officials, and the Hamilton Police for their support and professionalism. I would also like to thank the custodians and kitchen staff at Winthrop School for helping our days to run smoothly and keeping us well fed, it was a great team effort.

Summary of Elections & Town Meeting for 2011

May 14, 2011

Annual Town Meeting

354 registered voters in attendance which was .06% of the 5,687 registered voters in Hamilton.

May 26, 2011

Annual Town Election

1,088 ballots cast, which was 19% of the 5,687 registered voters in Hamilton.

June 27, 2011

Special Town Meeting

Dissolved due to lack of quorum and no articles to be discussed.

October 22, 2011

Special Town Meeting

126 registered voters in attendance which was .02% of the 5,791 registered voters in Hamilton.

The annual census forms were mailed out, and again we are urging residents to complete and return as soon as possible. Massachusetts State and Federal representation and funding depend on the population. The listing of every resident and household is very important to our Police and Fire Departments for safety reasons.

I sincerely appreciate your support throughout the year and I thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. Wetson, *CMMC*

Town Clerk

Fire Department

The Fire Department serves the Town of Hamilton with 4 fulltime firefighters and 28 call firefighters. There were a lot of changes in personnel during 2011. From the full time staff, FF/EMT Edmund “Skip” Mullin retired on December 31 and FF/EMT Andre Painchaud left in October to take a job with the Lynn Fire Department. We had three members of the Call Force retire; Asst. Safety Officer Ronald Lees (22 yrs), Lt. Michael Twomey (28 yrs), and Capt. Daniel Ellison (38 yrs). They all contributed to the Department over the years and I want to thank them for their extended service to the Town of Hamilton.

The Department is dedicated to training our personnel. We train in-house and with the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. All members train in firefighting, medical, CPR, hazardous materials, and rescue techniques. We train with area Departments on ice rescue annually.

Call firefighters, Christopher Allender and Daniel Curran, completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Program Class 033. Call Firefighters Logan Goodwin and Frank Cirinna graduated from Class 039. All four were certified Firefighter I/II.

I was credentialed as a Fire Chief in April. There were less than 75 Credentialed Fire Chiefs in the state at that time. The credentialing program is administered by the Mass. Fire Service Commission and was created to establish credentials based on education, training, and experience in criteria relevant to serving as a Fire Chief.

Hamilton Fire Prevention did a week of training in the elementary schools with Wenham. The sessions were in the classroom and the new County Fire Safe Trailer where they recieved practical fire safety training.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Fire Department. I commend them for their continued support and dedication to the people of the Town of Hamilton. They are on call 24/7; they leave their jobs and homes in all kinds of weather, any time of night or day at a moments notice to assist the citizens with any kind of emergency.

Philip W. Stevens, Jr.
Fire Chief

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITY

Open Burning Permits.....	447
Agricultural Burning Permits.....	3
Other Permits	305
Inspections	387
Plan Review	16
Public Education	112 hours
Meetings.....	80 hours
Fire Drills.....	32 hours
Fire Prevention Continuing Education	22 hours
Miscellaneous	265 hours

CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS

The Fire Department did 109 installations in 2011. There is no charge for the installation.

Fire Department (cont.)

INCIDENTS - 2011	
Building Fires.....	4
Cooking Fires.....	26
Chimney Fires.....	4
Burner Malfunction	7
Rubbish Fire	1
Brush or Grass Fires	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	19
Lock in.....	1
Search.....	2
Rescue	5
Hazardous Condition (Other).....	2
Flammable Gas	1
Gasoline Spill.....	3
Gas Leak.....	16
Oil Spill	2
Chemical Spill.....	1
Carbon Monoxide Incident	4
Electrical Problem	3
Short Circuit.....	1
Overheated Motor	2
Light Ballast.....	1
Power Line Down.....	8
Arching Electrical Equipment	14
Accident, potential accident.....	5
Building Weakened or Collapse	6
Vehicle Accident Cleanup	1
Service Calls.....	1
Person in Distress	4
Lock-out	5
Water Problem.....	11
Smoke or Odor Removal.....	2
Animal Rescue.....	3
Public Assistance	25
Unauthorized Burning.....	6
Mutual Aid Given	24
Good Intent Calls.....	26
Cancelled en route	3
Wrong location.....	1
No incident found.....	1
Authorized Controlled Burning	6
Smoke scare, odor	4
False Calls	12
Malicious False Alarm.....	2
System Malfunction	2
Smoke/Heat Detector Malfunction.....	12
Alarm Malfunction.....	8
CO Detector Malfunction	12
CO Alarm, No CO	21
Unintentional Alarm	79
Severe Weather Calls.....	3
Total Fires Calls	426
Emergency Medical Calls.....	467
TOTAL CALLS:	893

Emergency Management

Emergency Management is based on preparedness. We are required to have Community Assessment Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, and Comprehensive Emergency Plans. Our Comprehensive Emergency Plan was accepted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) last fall.

Emergency Management, Fire, Police, and Health Department personnel meet on a monthly basis to discuss emergency preparedness. We have been working on preparedness and shelter plans.

Kim Paskalis, the Town's Health Nurse, has been very helpful in creating a sheltering plan. We currently are training and seeking more volunteers to help with our sheltering program which meets once a month. We are prepared to open a day shelter at the Meeting House when needed for heat, cooling, and power. Residents will be able to charge cell phones and get information. A generator hook up was installed at the Meeting House this year so we can plug in for emergency power.

Edward Seaver has volunteered many hours and has completed an inventory list of all emergency equipment. We have centralized most of this equipment for easier maintenance and access during an emergency.

Emergency Management has 4 generators, cots, blankets, first aid kits, and other equipment that may be needed in an emergency. We have updated some of our equipment with various grants.

We had a difficult winter with record-breaking storms. Many buildings were compromised due to the heavy snow loads. We worked with Fire, Police, DPW, the schools, and Inspectional Services to make sure buildings were safe. We worked with FEMA to get reimbursement funds for the record snow storm on January 11 and 12.

Hurricane Irene came up the coast in August and we were prepared for the worst. Fortunately it was downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it hit us. We opened a day shelter, but did not need to use it. Damage from the storm was limited to downed trees and power lines. We worked with FEMA again for reimbursement.

We were hit with a snowstorm at the end of October, but damage was limited to some downed trees and power lines. We were spared the rest of the winter.

Due to the many power outages, many people have installed generators or generator hook ups, which will be helpful as we go through this period of extreme weather.

We have been educating the public on what to do in an emergency: Be informed, make a plan, and have an emergency kit on hand. We are here to assist you to prepare for an emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip W. Stevens, Jr.
Emergency Management Director

Police Department

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Hamilton:

I am pleased to offer you this annual report highlighting the activities and accomplishments of your Police Department during the calendar year of 2011. The Hamilton Police Department is a full-service, full-time police agency that serves our residents twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The philosophy of the Hamilton Police Department is that of preventing crime and being proactive while maintain a high quality of life for the people for which we serve. We continue to utilize a Community Orientated Policing approach in dealing with the many problems we face each day. Working together with citizens, businesses, schools and civic organizations, the Hamilton Police Department is building partnerships for a safer community.

Throughout this past year, I have had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with many of you regarding concerns you would like to see addressed. As a result of these discussions, I have been able to examine and address many of the issues you presented.

Statistics indicate that property crimes in Hamilton are slightly higher and crimes against persons slightly lower in 2011 versus 2010, we are asking all citizens to remain vigilant and call us immediately if they detect anything suspicious in nature or out of the ordinary. By collaborating together we can better serve our community. Although I consider Hamilton a very safe town to live and raise a family, I encourage residents to lock their homes and vehicles.

Our continued commitment to training is unsurpassed. Above and beyond the mandated yearly in-service training, officers are continuously being sent for specialty training updating them in new laws and trends resulting in better service to the citizens of Hamilton. We continue to work diligently with other Federal, State and Local law enforcement agencies as well as the District Attorney's Office in an effort to thwart criminal activity and provide a safe community for our citizens.

In these trying fiscal times we continue to work efficiently and effectively with other departments within the town in an effort to maximize resources while minimizing costs. We are always exploring ways to provide the same if not better services to our residents while reducing overall spending.

I would like to thank the citizens of Hamilton for the opportunity to serve you. I also wish to commend the officers and staff of the Hamilton Police Department for their service, commitment and professionalism. Their dedication and tireless efforts help to make the Town of Hamilton a safe and desirable community in which to live.

Respectfully Submitted,

Russell M. Stevens, *Chief of Police*

Reports: Public Safety

Hamilton Police Department 2010 and 2011 Statistics

Classification	2010	2011
Motor Vehicle Warnings	1034	752
Motor Vehicle Citations Civil	444	446
Motor Vehicle Citations Criminal Complaints	108	155
Motor Vehicle Citation Arrests	49	72
Operating Under the Influence	9	16
Motor Vehicle Verbal	188	200
Parking Tickets	89	163
Motor Vehicle Accidents Reported	124	114
Motor Vehicle Accidents Investigated	66	67
Crimes Against Persons	33	18
Crimes Against Property	98	123
Crimes Against Society	7	4
Marijuana Citations	12	17
Animal Calls	542	489
Medical Calls	405	403
Pistol Permits/ Firearms I.D. Cards/ Chemical Propellant Cards	44	87
Activity Detail		
Total Calls for Service	23189	24115
Total Arrests	142	157
Traffic Stops	1832	1840

Hamilton-Wenham School District

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

TERM EXPIRES

Alexa McCloughan, <i>Chair</i>	2012
489 Bridge Street, Hamilton 01982 (468-1743)	
Roger A. Kuebel, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2014
30 Juniper Street, Wenham 01984 (468-0668)	
Ann M. Minois, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	2013
297 Moulton Street, Hamilton 01982 (468-2595)	
Kym M. Donnellan, <i>Secretary</i>	2013
12 Cedar Street, Wenham 01984 (626-0000)	
Sean W. Condon, <i>Asst. Secretary</i>	2014
20 Cherry Street, Wenham 01984 (468-2201)	
William R. Dery.....	2014
56 Chebacco Rd., Hamilton 01982 (468-2168)	
Donald E. Gallant.....	2013*
28 Mayflower Drive, Wenham 01984 (468-2357)	
Jack O'Keefe.....	2012
5 Anthony Road, Hamilton 01982 (468-1494)	
Dacia A. Rubel.....	2012
12 Puritan Road, Wenham 01984 (468-0058)	
Lawrence D. Swartz.....	2012**
11 Conrad Circle, Wenham 01984 (468-1860)	

*Resigned August 2011 prior to end of term 2013).

**Appointed to fulfill vacancy of Donald Gallant position until May 2012 at which time there will be an addition of a one-year vacancy during this election period.

To the Citizens of Hamilton and Wenham:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I am presenting my first report as Superintendent of Schools for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. As you will note the school district is and continues to provide an outstanding educational opportunity for the children of our district.

The 2010-2011 school year saw a flurry of changes at the district, both in personnel and practices. The district continues to make great strides with our commitment to working collaboratively with both communities and reestablishing the trust in our finances and administration. I want to thank the parents, students, faculty, staff and Leadership Team for their hard work and dedication in these difficult times of change. Without them we would not be able to continue to forge ahead while maintaining our status as one of the top school districts on the North Shore as well as in the State of Massachusetts.

I encourage you to take the time to read our annual report which is posted on our school website at www.hwschools.net or can be found in printed versions throughout both towns as well as at our Central Office at 5 School Street in Wenham. It contains a wealth of information about our district. Many thanks to our Communications Committee who has spent countless volunteer hours gathering the statistics and pictures extolling our many accomplishments throughout the year.

In closing I encourage each and every one of you to remember that it does take a community to raise and educate a child. Volunteer at one of our schools, attend school committee meetings, support our numerous teams or attend one of our outstanding plays or musical performances. You are making a difference and I hope you will continue.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter H. Gray, *Superintendent of Schools*

Board of Health

The Board of Health consists of three members serving three-year terms. Lindle Willnow serves as Chair, Susan Wilfahrt and Karen Zagorski serves as members. Leslie Whelan is the Health Agent and Nancy Stevens the Administrative Assistant. Kim Paskalis is our Public Health Nurse. Roberta Cody is our Food Inspector in addition to Camp and Pool Inspector. Dyan Katz was reappointed as Animal Inspector and Anne Jackman was reappointed as Assistant Animal Inspector.

The Board is responsible for implementing and overseeing the laws, policies and regulations of the Town, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Responsibilities of the Board of Health include emergency planning, inspections, issuing of permits and licenses for septic installers, septic haulers, retail food establishments, retail tobacco, public and semi-public swimming pools, recreational camps for children and keeping of animals/stables. In addition, the Board of Health conducts health clinics, addresses concerns of public nuisance, air quality, noise control, insect control, beaver and mosquito management, food protection, housing complaints, Title 5 compliance and communicable disease reporting.

When the flu season was upon us in late fall, the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Health collectively joined together and held two Seasonal Flu Clinics and vaccinated approximately 430 residents. The Board continues to vaccinate into the 2011/2012 season as needed.

The Board continues to work at the local and regional level on emergency response planning relative to infectious disease emergencies, bioterrorist events and natural disasters. Hamilton participates in a coalition of 14 surrounding cities and towns working closely together to develop emergency plans and mutual aid.

The Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District continued to monitor and treat targeted affected areas throughout the town. No species of concern were found in town.

The following is a yearly report of permits/licenses issued:

	2011
Septic Disposal System Construction (New)	3
Septic Disposal System Construction (Repair)	51
Septic Title 5 Inspection Review	81
Septic Disposal System Installer	33
Septic Disposal System Hauler	12
Food/Retail Service	32
Temporary Food/Retail Service	14
Seasonal Food Service	4
Keeping of Animals	64
Stables	64
Wells	0
Swimming Pools	4
Recreational Camps	6
Tobacco Sales	8

Total fees collected in calendar year 2011 were \$46,280.00.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

Lindle Willnow, *Chairman*

Susan Wilfahrt

Karen Zagorski

Veteran's Services

EASTERN ESSEX DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

This department is charged under Chapter 115 Massachusetts General Laws with providing services to veterans, their survivors and dependents. Principal workload under state law includes the administration of aid to veterans and dependents. Communities fund this program, which is subsequently 75% reimbursed the following fiscal year by the Commonwealth. This is a need based program and the department is required to conduct periodic comprehensive review of the cases to insure no substantive facts have changed, while working with the veteran to identify alternative or long-term solutions to individual circumstances. During the calendar year three Hamilton veterans were on this program. Under state law the department also assists qualified veterans to obtain bonuses, and qualified veterans, widows and parents to obtain state annuities, property tax abatements, and other benefits.

The Veterans' Services program also mandates extensive interaction within the federal community, principally with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) assists veterans and their dependents in filing for pensions, service connected injury/illness compensation, dependency indemnity compensation for survivors, VA healthcare enrollment, insurance claims, decedent claims, and many other issues. Federal benefits processed by this department are paid directly to those eligible to receive the assistance or entitlement. The VA sent approximately \$623,000 to eligible recipients in Hamilton of which the current staff is responsible for approximately \$190,000 dollars paid to or saved by those assisted. Additionally, the department interacts within the federal community to correct military records, obtain needed documentation and insure veterans/dependents receive awards and recognition to which entitled. The VSO provided information, advice or assistance to 21 of the town's 464 identified veterans and 7 of the 85 identified veterans' widows during 2011. We also provide support and information assistance for National Guard and Reserves called up for service in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families.

The Director and the Assistant to the Director, Georgia Gadbois, advocate for veterans on issues at the local, state and federal level, interact with elected and appointed officials on issues, and work with local organizations in serving the community. The department also provided information, assistance and guidance for citizens in determining their needs for Medical insurance. With the support and concurrence of the Board of Directors, the Department expanded its office space in late 2011

and will soon begin accepting volunteers to assist with various projects in support of the office, veterans, and deployed service personnel, while also providing space for counseling of veterans by trained VA personnel.

The Eastern Essex District is composed of the Towns of Essex, Georgetown, Hamilton, Ipswich, Rowley, West Newbury and Wenham. A Board of Directors consisting of one selectman (or designee) from each town maintains oversight. Ms. Jennifer Scuteri is the Hamilton member of the Board of Directors. Ms. Cheryl Booth, Treasurer for the Town of Hamilton, is also the District Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrance P. Hart, *District Director*

Council on Aging Van Service

The following Mission Statement is deeply rooted in a philosophy common among and shared by the staff at the COA:

“The purpose of the Hamilton-Wenham Van program is to provide transportation services that will not only enrich the lives of our senior population but allow them to maintain a sense of independence as well.”

The HW COA Transportation is supported by both the Town of Hamilton and the Town of Wenham municipal budgets. The van service is considered curb to curb service and is free to all Hamilton and Wenham residents age 60 or older, as well as any resident that is handicapped. Voluntary donations are accepted which are deposited into a “van gift account” set up through the Town of Wenham. Donated monies are used for van expenses not covered by the respective budgets. The van program continues to employ one supervisor, two part-time dispatchers, and two part-time drivers. The van currently operates T-F from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Our former and current van was purchased under a Mobility Grant. The COA Van operation has one, eight (8) passenger van which is equipped with a wheelchair lift. Two performance requirements of that grant, is to maintain our broad service area for medical rides (Ipswich to Danvers) and to explore transportation options with our riders annually. Given the broad service area, one round trip ride can take eighty (80) minutes. Unfortunately there are times that the volume of requests exceed the number of hours the van is in operation.

We also offer transportation counseling which educates our riders in alternative sources of transportation. Remaining independent is important and not reliant on one source of transportation is key. The partnership our Council on Aging has with the RVSP of the North Shore includes not only soliciting volunteer drivers for medical rides but to refer our riders for rides when our schedule cannot accommodate. In addition we offer information on THE RIDE which requires certification from a primary care physician.

Medical appointments and rides to the congregate meal site (Lamson Hall, Hamilton) take priority of the nearly 3,000 rides we provide annually, but we regularly include trips to the hairdresser, bank, food shopping, local errands, and to our Council on Aging activities. We suggest a minimum of a 48 hour request for a ride, however if the schedule permits, we can add riders on the same day. We are here to keep you on the go so give us a call!

Our office hears first hand accounts from riders who are very appreciative of the two Town’s support. of this great service. Although the COA Van service is not quite like driving one’s own car, it makes living independently and the opportunity to remain in our wonderful community a little easier.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Carp, *H-W COA Van Supervisor*

Hamilton-Wenham Library

2011 was a momentous year for the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library as we celebrated 10 years of service to the community as the first regional library in Massachusetts. The library hosted a well-attended celebration on November 6, 2011. Jean Buckley painted a lovely watercolor of the library to commemorate this special occasion.

During 2011, the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library was busy and vibrant; the staff was always working to meet the informational and educational needs of the citizens of our two towns and surrounding communities. The Library Trustees who served during 2011 were Annette Janes, Chair; Doris Gallant, Secretary; Jean Buckley; Madelyn Liberti; Janice Pappas; Wendy Waller, and Margaret Whittaker. We thank Wendy Waller, who gave many years serving the library and community and ended her tenure in May 2011. The trustees met monthly and worked hard to support and guide library services.

Hamilton-Wenham Library staff members continued to use their skills, creativity and enthusiasm to provide outstanding service and programming. We circulated 258,331 items. Our meeting rooms (including some programs that were offered offsite) were used by community groups and library programs a total of 1,057 times. The library offered 406 adult programs, 105 young adult programs, and 275 children's programs. Our reference department answered 16,177 reference questions and our study rooms were used a total of 1,595 times. On an average day, 400 patrons visit our library.

During the year we, installed six new computers (four public and two staff), a new file server, and a "new" donated print release station. We worked with Building Supervisor, Mark Gates and the DPW crew to beautify the library grounds, add much needed workspace shelving, paint the parking lot lines and paint the large meeting room. Energy saving work continued with the addition of LED lights in the children's room dome and new HVAC controls. We reorganized space in the library and opened up another meeting room upstairs for the public to use.

We hosted many wonderful authors including Kevin Gardner, author of *A Granite Kiss*. The Friday morning Koffee Klatch continued to draw seniors from all over the North Shore. During the summer, adults learned about Concord authors and the Friends sponsored a field trip to the Concord Museum. Our children's summer reading theme was "One World Many Stories." Our patrons eagerly spotted our mascot, "Leni" as she visited local businesses throughout Hamilton and Wenham.

Our summer reading program included special Wednesday night events including the Tanglewood Marionettes, Creature Teachers, and our always popular Vehicle Night. We were pleased to host a fairy ring from "Art Grows Here" in the library yard. The teens enjoyed many programs such as films shown in our meeting room, babysitting classes, a comic art/ Manga workshop, and an intergenerational pastel workshop with Greg Maichek. We also worked with the schools throughout the year to provide homework assistance. Librarians, Kim Claire and Lorraine Der visited the schools to give book talks and introduce students and faculty to the resources available at our library and on our web site.

We won a \$6,166 LSTA (Library Service and Technology Act) How Green is My Library? Grant and have already partnered with Hamilton-Wenham GREEN and Sagewell Inc. to better inform our citizens about the recent thermal imaging performed in Hamilton and Wenham and to offer the "Zip it Up: Weatherization" event. We are excited to welcome local hero, Dr. Gordon Sato as the subject of our 2012 Community Read title: *The Mangrove Tree* by Susan Roth and Cindy Trombore. He will speak at Gordon College on March 29, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

Many of our programs are funded by the generous support of the Friends of the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library who work tirelessly to support our library. They held two very profitable book sales, a children's book sale, and a successful membership drive. The Friends purchased a color photocopier for the library and funded many programs. They continue to provide the following museum passes for the public to enjoy: Boston by Foot, Children's Museum in Boston, Cape Ann Historical Museum in Gloucester, Concord Museum, DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Harvard Museum of Natural History, House of Seven Gables, Institute of Contemporary Art, Isabella Stewart Gardner, JFK Library and Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Orchard House, Peabody Essex Museum, Strawberry Banke, Wenham Museum, and Zoo New England. Patrons can call to reserve passes or access the remote sign-up on our website. In 2011, patrons reserved 1761 passes compared to 1518 passes last year.

We continue to owe a debt of gratitude to our dedicated volunteers who assist in all library departments. We work with volunteers who have school community service requirements, tax work-off hours, and those who want to give back to their library. We thank Jean Buckley for making it possible for us to

Library (con't.)

host six excellent art exhibits during the year including one by our library's architect, Scevy Strekalovsky. We received some very generous donations from patrons which helped us add timely and important items to our collection and purchase booth seating in the Young Adult area.

We continue to list our programs and events on our website at www.hwlibrary.org. Patrons can order library materials from home through the Evergreen software and access many electronic resources. The statewide databases now support geo-location, so Mass. patrons can access them even without a library card. We offer our Hamilton-Wenham citizens access to Ancestry.com Library Edition, American Ancestors, Safari Books Online, two geography databases, Magill's Medical Guide and Booklist Online. We also offer the full Britannica.com which can be used remotely day and night. When accessing the library catalog, our new subscription to Ebsco's Novelist Select offers a selection of read-alikes located at our library. We also have a collection of E-Books and access to the consortium-wide collection of downloadable E-books and audio books via Overdrive. We continue to use Constant Contact for creating a professional E-letter. Patrons can sign up for this service by going to our website or calling us at 978-468-5577.

The library staff and trustees work diligently to constantly improve collections and services. We greatly appreciate the citizens of Hamilton and Wenham; they are tremendously supportive and value education, learning and reading. We look forward to an exciting year in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Dempsey, *Library Director*

Recreation Department

The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Departments mission is to provide a wide variety of programs designed to improve the quality of life for residents by meeting physical and recreational needs. We promote life long lessons through play, education and community wide events. The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department is overseen by a Joint Hamilton and Wenham Recreation Board. The Board is comprised of three Hamilton residents and three Wenham residents.

2011 Highlights

Here are some highlights from the Recreation Department for the Calendar Year of 2011.

- The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Committee adopted a new playing field and facility permit policy. This policy identifies the steps necessary for user groups to rent fields and facilities that are under the control of the Recreation Department. The policy also outlines rules and regulations for these user groups.
- The Town of Hamilton acquired the Donovan property, which now houses a multi-purpose athletic field and baseball diamond, as well as a nature trail. Hamilton-Wenham Little League, Hamilton-Wenham Youth Soccer, Hamilton-Wenham Youth Lacrosse, and boys and girls Freshman soccer all use the playing fields on the Donovan property
- We offered 12 new recreation programs this year, and have also teamed up with the Fabulous School of Music in Beverly to offer instrument, voice, and songwriting lessons as we move into 2012
- With the help of local youth sports, the Recreation Department was able to provide playing fields and gym space to the High School for freshman sports. The High School now offers boys and girls Freshman Soccer and boys Freshman Basketball.

- We hosted the Golden Stick Wiffle Ball League National Championship, with teams travelling in as far away as the west coast. Hamilton-Wenham Little League also participated in this event as their players and parents served as bat boys and girls and operated the concession stand.
- We once again participated in Pumpkin Fest which brought together families from both communities to enjoy a day of pumpkin carving, an African drum demonstration, a karate demonstration, and the much anticipated costume parade, where children walk through downtown and trick or treat at local businesses.
- Parks, recreation and culture have always played an important role in the quality of life in our communities; this is why the Recreation Department is undertaking a Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan will identify community needs and establish strategies and recommendations for program and facility needs for the next ten years. This is a wonderful project that we hope to have completed by the middle of next year.

We continue to provide effective customer service to all of our participants and strive to reach outside the box looking for new programming ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Timmons
Recreation Director

Community Preservation

Hamilton has received approximately \$1.1 million in Community Preservation Act matched funds from the state since the Town enacted CPA in 2006 with an annual 2% surcharge on property taxes.

Community Preservation Act projects including Donovan playing fields acquisition, Town Hall renovations, Weaver Pond restoration, energy audit, and Firehouse Place affordable housing.

There is an annual CPC operating/prioritization process for CPA project determination. No projects are rejected from CPC review even if they are submitted as late as December or January.

Hamilton's CPA funds projects in the following categories: open space and recreation where there is \$48,000 in reserve, affordable housing with \$70,000 in reserve and historic preservation at \$41,000. Ten percent of CPA revenue taken in annually has to be set aside or spent in these categories. Town has \$1.3 million in CPA fund balance that can be used for any of the three purposes.

There is new legislation to stabilize the state match of CPA funds to participating communities. This would be useful for Hamilton because in 2006 it received 100% of CPA matching funds from the state and currently Town receives 33% of matching funds. Reduction in match is due to Commonwealth having a much larger number of CPA partaking municipalities. Legislation could also broaden recreation criteria, which would allow Town to use CPA funds for existing projects (i.e., Patton Park pool).

Currently, research and title work is being done on Discover Hamilton trails.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Berry, *Coordinator*

Conservation Commission

The Hamilton Conservation Commission's primary task is the administration and enforcement of the state Wetlands Protection Act (Ch. 131 §40) and the Town's Conservation Bylaw, Chapter 17. The Commission also seeks to fulfill its mandate by funding environmental education programs in the regional school system and by organizing and publicizing various conferences and events that seek to protect open space and inform residents of the value of preservation of woodlands and scenic areas as well as trail access and management.

Conservation Commission jurisdiction and procedure

The Commission's jurisdiction includes all proposed changes in land use which will occur within defined wetlands or within 100 feet of the defined edge of wetlands, or within 200 feet of the perennial streams and rivers within the borders of the Town. The Commission considers applications (known as "Requests for Determination" and also "Notices of Intent") for work in these areas and holds site walks to evaluate the conditions at the work area. The Commission then conducts public hearings or public meetings to decide if a permit (either a "Negative Determination" or an "Order of Conditions") shall issue. Once a project is completed, the Commission holds another site walk to establish that the project was finished in the same manner as it was originally proposed and that no damage to resource areas has occurred. A Certificate of Compliance is then issued and the process is complete. The Commission also investigates violations of the Wetlands Act and local Conservation By-Law and the Commission issues Enforcement Orders or Violation Notices if appropriate.

Asides from conducting public hearings and open public meetings to review and analyze all the various applications for permits, the Commission, through their Coordinator, may on any given day do any or all of the following:

- Respond to residents' questions and concerns about wetlands permitting,
- Conduct preliminary site evaluations to determine applicability of jurisdiction,
- Perform various compliance inspections,
- Reply to building contractor and wetlands consultant questions and concerns,
- Interact with various state agencies most notably the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection and;
- Work with the other Town departments to address issues of common concern.

2011 Special Events, Projects and Issues:

- Commissioners attended the annual MACC Conference in Worcester in March 2011
- Commission's regulations were amended to increase fees and add new fees
- The Board of Selectmen appointed Stacy Carpenter to the Commission
- The Commission approved the reclamation of Gregory Island Rd.
- The Commission approved a residential geo-thermal heating system
- The Commission appointed Keith Glidden to the Community Preservation Committee as its representative

2011 Filings and Other Regulatory Decisions

- 17 Requests for Determination
- 9 Orders of Conditions and Orders of Resource Area Delineation
- 3 Amendments of Orders of Conditions
- 3 Enforcement Orders and Violation Notices
- 3 Extensions
- 8 Certificates of Compliance
- 1 Emergency Certification
- 1 Conservation Restriction reviewed

Education Program

The Commission funded an Environmental Education program for the students in almost many grade levels in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. The program is designed and run by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and it is subject to in-depth review and amendment by the Commission annually. The Commission continues to enthusiastically support and promote this program

Members and Staff as Sept. 2011 (Term Expiration)

Richard Luongo, *Chair* (2012)
Virginia Cookson (2013)
Robert Cronin (2013)
Peter Dana (2012)
Keith Glidden (2014)
George Tarr (2014)
Stacy Carpenter (2102)
John Rhoads (*associate member*)
John Hendrickson (*associate member*)

James Hankin, *Coordinator*

Planning Board

Organizational Information

Chairman: Peter Clark
Members: Evelyn Shuman, Rick Mitchell, Rob McKean, Ed Howard, Marissa Frerk, Brian Stein, and Associate member Claudia Woods.

Planning Coordinator – Marcie Ricker

Planning Initiatives / Discussion

Throughout the year, the Planning Board held open discussions at their regularly scheduled meetings to review planning and zoning matters. The following topics received attention during the year of 2011.

- Estate Overlay District – Several members of the community participated in a discussion of the specifics of the Estate Overlay Zoning District. The debate centered on the two part process for redeveloping and permitting an Estate. There was also discussion about the involvement of town meeting in the permitting of an of an estate redevelopment. No changes to the bylaw resulted from the discussion.
- Cottage Zoning – Several members of the community participated in a discussion and presentation on cottage zoning. Some members of the Hamilton Planning Board toured the cottage zoning in Concord, MA. A power point presentation was put on the town website to share information on the topic. No changes to the bylaw resulted from this discussion.
- Landfill - At least one member of the Board participates in the Landfill committee and reports back on progress to cap the site.

Master Plan Goals / Objectives

The status of the Master Plan goals and objectives were discussed at a few meetings. The Board would like to revisit their progress with the Master Plan. The re-development of the downtown, design review standards, and water supply. The Board also wanted to better understand the town water capacity with regard to future development.

Open Meeting Law

The Board members were asked to complete the open meeting law review for the town clerk. They also learned more information about the use of email by a public board. Communication between members of a public board was discouraged.

Regulatory Responsibility

The Planning Board has a regulatory responsibility to review and grant permits for subdivisions of land. What follows are the permits reviewed for the year 2011:

- Special Permits
 - Canterbrook Equestrian Special Permit for Senior Housing & Stormwater Management Permit –
The Planning Board reviewed and deliberated different aspects of the proposal to build a senior housing project on the 13 acre site, currently known as the Canterbrook Equestrian Center. This project was discussed for roughly an hour at each meeting of the Planning Board for the entire year. The project did not receive a permit during this time.
- Approval Not Required Plans
 - 281 & 227 Willow Street
 - 313 Sagamore
- Release of Covenants
 - 53 & 55 Meyer Road
 - Smithwood Terrace
- Abbreviated Site Plan Review
 - 15 Walnut Street: Dunkin Donuts
 - At & T Antennae at Gordon Conwell
- Other Project Reviews
 - Bancroft Way Vegetation Complaint
 - Gulf Station Canopy Complaint

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a total of Twelve (12) petitions in 2011. A summary of the Board's actions are as noted below:

- (1) Petition for Extension/ Alteration of a Non-Conforming Structure: Granted
- (5) Petition for Extension/ Alteration of a Non-Conforming Structure : Granted with Conditions
- (1) Petition for Extension/ Alteration of a Non-Conforming Use: Granted with Conditions
- (1) Petition for Special Permit for Accessory Apartment: Granted
- (1) Petition for Special Permit for Accessory Apartment: Granted with Conditions
- (1) Petition for Special Permit for Accessory Apartment: Withdrawn Without Prejudice
- (1) Petition for Abbreviated Site Plan Review: Granted
- (2) Petition for Variance: Withdrawn without Prejudice

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM F. BOWLER, *Chairman*

Annual Town Meeting

TOWN OF HAMILTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, May 14, 2011
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

At the close of registration on April 22, 2011 there were 5,687 registered voters.

Precinct 1 – 117
Precinct 2 – 153
Precinct 3 – 84

Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the 218th Annual Town Meeting at 9:05 A.M. with 354 voters checked and present.

The Moderator appointed the Assistant Moderators who were duly sworn.

Assistant Moderators:

Ray Deroche	10 Prides Park
Richard Flynn	183 Linden Street

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

AUDITORIUM

Left	Tony Grimshaw	5 Whipple Road
	Jim Kent	34 Hamilton Avenue
	Jim Richards	14 Knowlton Street
Center	Arthur Towne	20 Savoy Road
	Carol Mazzetta	4 Gifford Road
	Nick Mazzetta	4 Gifford Road
Right	Anne Minois	297 Moulton Street
	Ruth Flumerfelt	59 Greenbrook Road

He asked non-resident members of the regional school system, town officials and those assisting the Selectmen or Finance Committee to be present here so they may be available to answer questions. Members of the press and the video crew have also been allowed to be present. He reminded those allowed here to do nothing, which may influence the counting of a vote.

The Moderator said we have set up the cafeteria across the hall as overflow space. There is a closed circuit television set in the cafeteria and two tellers. All other non-registered visitors must be seated in the visitors' area in the cafeteria.

Another procedural note, we record these proceedings so as to have an accurate record of the meeting. Therefore, unless I recognize you by name, please use the microphones provided and give your name and address when you arise to address the moderator. People in the cafeteria desiring to speak to any article should contact one of the tellers and arrange to be brought to the microphones in the auditorium.

All registered voters have been given a distinctive voter ID card when checking into the meeting. Do not lose or destroy this card. You will need to show the card on any counted vote. If you cannot show the card, your vote may not be counted.

The invocation this morning will be by John Grothjan of Young Life Boston North Shore, a resident of Hamilton. Refreshments by Christ Church and HW High School Volleyball supervised by Cheryl and John Walsh.

Announcements or other:

The Moderator recognized Jen Scuteri and Michael Lombardo.

The Moderator proceeded to announce members at the front of the auditorium.

Introduction of front table:

Bruce Ramsey – Moderator
Jane Wetson – Town Clerk
Christine Lindberg – Assistant to the Town manager

Board of Selectmen:

Jeffrey Stinson
Marc Johnson
David Carey
Jennifer Scuteri – Chair

Michael Lombardo – Town Manager
Donna Brewer – Town Counsel
Deborah Nippes-Mena – Finance Director

Finance and Advisory Committee:

John McWane – Co-Chair
Laurie Wilson – Co-Chair
Kalil Boghdan

The Moderator recognized John McWane, Michael Lombardo, and David Carey.

On a procedural note, the Moderator explained if there was a counted vote, the doors would be closed, count would be taken

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from the back of the room moving forward and voters would remain seated. He also noted that a time clock would be used giving five minutes to presenters and three minutes for debate as a guideline. Also, if voters left the auditorium that they should bring their voter cards to get back into the Town Meeting.

He also read the procedure about using cell phones. He mentioned that if the Town Meeting had to be continued that would occur at 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 16 at the High School and that the Town election would be held on May 26 at the Winthrop School. In addition, the Town Meeting would be televised on cable television channel 10 and can also be viewed on HWCAM.org.

The Moderator mentioned that Appendix J has been revised and a new version was distributed when voters checked in. Other corrections would be noted when articles are taken up.

SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 2011/5 1-1

Election of Officers and Ballot Questions

To elect the following Town Officers and to vote for the ballot questions at the Annual Town Election on Thursday, May 26, 2011 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Winthrop School.

- Town Moderator for one year
- Selectman for three years
- Town Clerk for three years
- Assessor for three years
- One member of the Planning Board for five years
- One member of the of the Planning Board for two years (to fill unexpired term)
- Hamilton Housing Authority for five years
- Hamilton-Wenham Public Library Trustees for three years
- Three members of the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee for three years

Moderator said the vote on Article 1-1 is by ballot on Thursday, May 26, 2011 at the Winthrop School. The polls will be opened at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.

CONSENT MOTIONS

Moderator said this is a procedural motion to take up certain articles out of order with a second part to have a vote on the motions that are contained in the condensed, consent motion.

A. Procedural Motion to Take Up Certain Articles Out of Order:
Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that we take up out of Order the following Articles in Sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Warrant for the 2011 Annual Town Meeting and, further to consider and vote on such Articles together, as a

group vote, the following Articles:

- 1-2 Town Reports
- 2-1 Compensation/ Classification Table
- 2-3 Water Enterprise Budget
- 2-4 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget
- 2-5 North Shore Regional Vocational School District Budget
- 2-7 Annual Financial Actions
- 2-8 Annual Authorization of Revolving Funds
- 2-9 OPEB Trust Fund
- 2-15 Transfer from Recycling Receipt Fund to Waste Enterprise Fund
- 4-1 Delete Chapter X, Section 9 of the General By-laws, winter storm parking ban

The Moderator said because this is a procedural motion to authorize the meeting to consider what is called a Consent Motion and vote on a group of motions for non-controversial actions in several Articles with a single vote, I will give the meeting an opportunity to remove from this list any article to which there is opposition or questions that voters want to raise during debate. The motions appear on the Motions List, which was handed out at check in. If you do not have a Motions List, copies are available in the Lobby and at the front of this Hall. The Motion numbers are the same as the corresponding Warrant Article numbers. I will now read the list of article motions. If you have questions about the motion, or want to debate or oppose the motion, you should loudly say HOLD when I state the motion number. If I hear you, I will remove such motion from the list and it will be taken up in the usual order. We will then vote on the motions that were not held out as a group. If the group motion passes, our workload will be lighter.

The Moderator said hearing no holds this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and he called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
Declared by the Moderator.

B. Motion for Approval of Non-Held Group of Motions:
Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the following numbered Motions as set forth in Proposed Consent Motions List for this 2011 Annual Town Meeting, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk to be filed with the minutes of this meeting with copies made available to voters in attendance, be approved by one vote, each motion to be deemed a separate action under the Warrant Article having the same corresponding number:

- 1-2
- 2-1
- 2-3
- 2-4
- 2-5
- 2-7

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2-8
2-9
2-15
4-1.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

2011 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING PROPOSED CONSENT MOTIONS LIST

Article 1-2 Reports

Moved: that the reports of town officers and committees be received and placed on file.

Article 2-1 Compensation/Classification Table

Moved: that the Town amend the Personnel By-law by adopting changes to the classification and compensation table, copies of which are on file with the Town Clerk and which are set forth in Appendix A to the 2011 Appendix Book.

Article 2-3 Water Enterprise Budget

Moved: that the Town approve \$975,383.00 for the FY 12 Water Enterprise Budget as set forth in Appendix D to the 2011 Appendix Book.

Article 2-4 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget

Moved: that the Town approve \$307,500.00 for the FY 12 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget as set forth in Appendix E to the 2011 Appendix Book.

Article 2-5 North Shore Regional Vocational School District Budget

Moved: that the Town raise and appropriate \$177,726.00 for the Town's assessed portion of the North Shore Regional Vocational School District's FY 12 budget.

Article 2-7 Annual Financial Actions

Moved: that the Town authorize the following financial actions:

- A. To transfer \$796.00 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. To transfer \$2,000.00 from the Clark Property Fund to the Conservation Fund;
- C. To transfer \$275,570.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;
- D. To transfer \$303,784.00 from the General Fund to the Waste Reduction Enterprise Fund to be used for solid waste expenses.

Article 2-8 Annual Authorization of Revolving Funds

Moved: that the Town, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E ½,

reauthorize the Recreation and Parks Revolving Fund, with a FY 12 spending limit of \$229,009.00 and authorize the Council on Aging Revolving fund, with an FY 12 spending limit of \$15,000.00 with specified programs for expenditures, receipts to be credited, boards authorized to expend and disposition of fund balance to be as set forth in Appendices G and H to the 2011 Appendix Book.

Article 2-9 OPEB Trust Fund

Moved: that the Town accept M.G.L. c. 32B, § 20 which authorizes the Town to establish an Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund to reduce the unfunded liability of health care and other post employment benefits to meet the normal cost of all such future benefits for which the Town of Hamilton is obligated, and raise and appropriate \$25,000.00 for deposit in said Trust Fund.

Article 2-15 Transfer from Recycling Receipt Fund to Waste Enterprise Fund

Moved: that the Town transfer \$18,000.00 from the Recycling Receipt Fund to the Waste Enterprise Fund, contingent upon approval of the proposed amendments to General Bylaw Ch. XIV, Disposal of Refuse and Garbage.

Article 4-1 Delete Chapter X, Section 9 of the General By-laws, Winter Storm Parking Ban

Moved: that the Town delete Chapter X, Sec. 9 of the General Bylaws pertaining to winter storm parking ban on all public ways, to be replaced, pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, § 22, with rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Selectmen, including a schedule of fines pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Town Bylaws for each violation thereof.

ARTICLE 2011/5 1-2 Reports

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the reports of town officers and committees be received and placed on file.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-1 Compensation/Classification Table

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Personnel By-law by adopting changes to the classification and compensation table, copies of which are on file with the Town Clerk and which are set forth in Appendix A to the 2011 Appendix Book.

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The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-2 General Town Appropriations

The Moderator instructed voters to turn to page 4 of the 2011 Appendix Book, and said I will read each appropriation and for any item a voter would like to discuss separately, please shout out HOLD:

\$ 1,557,624 for General Government,
HELD \$ 2,301,296 for Protection of Persons & Property,
HELD \$ 15,628,991 for HW Regional School District,
\$ 885,949 for Department of Public Works,
\$ 625,235 for Health and Human Services,
HELD \$ 555,449 for Library,
\$ 29,718 for Elder Van Program,
\$ 77,432 for Recreation,
\$ 1,739,440 for Unclassified,
\$ 1,610,258 for Debt-Principal & Interest,

Totaling \$25,027,251.

Voters shouted out holds on \$2,301,296 for Protection of Persons & Property, \$15,628,991 for HW Regional School District and \$555,449 for Library.

The Moderator recognized John McWane.

Moved by John McWane, Co-Chair of Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the sums read by the Moderator for highways and all other Town expenses which are set forth in the 2012 Fiscal year Budget in Appendix B of the 2011 Appendix Book [with the additions and corrections read by the Moderator] excepting those items held.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

1ST HELD ITEM: Moved by John McWane, Co-Chair of Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$2,301,296 for Protection of Persons & Property.

Gerry Fallon, 38 Goodhue Street, asked about police salaries. Michael Lombardo and Deborah Nippes-Mena explained that there are fewer officers in the police department today versus 2009 (15 to 12), that there was a 4% step increase, and only two new officers versus a lot of long tenured employees, also that the fire department salaries are up by 1.93%.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

2ND HELD ITEM: Moved by John McWane, Co-Chair of Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$555,449 for Library.

Lindle Willnow, 51 Mill Street, asked about cost of library versus proposed reduction in school budget. McWane said the two items were unrelated and that the school budget is up \$1.2 million.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

3RD HELD ITEM: Moved by Jack O'Keefe, Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee Vice Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$15,628,991.00 for schools.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Peter Gray presented information on the regional school budget.

The Moderator recognized John McWane.

Moved by John McWane, Co-Chair of Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, to amend the amount to raise and appropriate for schools to be \$15,307,333.00.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion. Residents Jay Burnham, North Street, Jean Towne, Savoy Road, Lynnette Fallon, Goodhue Street, Tracey Mayor, Fox Run Road, Rick Mitchell, Rock Maple Avenue, Jen Scuteri, Jim Kent, Ruth Ryan, Dick Low, Bay Road, Lorraine Richardson, Superintendent of Schools Raleigh Buchanan, Bill Dery, Chebacco, and Kimberly Jaeger spoke for or against the original school budget as presented or about the proposed amended school budget.

Town Counsel Donna Brewer explained the process and legal effect that would occur if there was a disapproving vote by Town Meeting of the school budget of \$15,628,991.00 presented by the HW Regional School department and certified by the HW Regional School Committee since Wenham Town Meeting voted in favor of this amount. Hamilton Town Meeting voters will take action on the proposed amended school budget amount of \$15,307,333.00.

Donna Brewer said that Town Meeting is not voting to decrease the HW Regional School budget by \$500,000. The legal effect of the vote is to disapprove the school district budget. The HW Regional School Committee will have to reform and recertify a new school district budget. This action may or may not require a new Town Meeting.

If the HW Regional School Committee votes a new school bud-

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get that is the same or less than the assessed apportioned share that Town Meeting votes today then Hamilton and Wenham do not need to have new Town Meetings.

If the HW Regional School Committee certifies a new school budget that requires more of the appropriation from Hamilton than Town Meeting votes today then Hamilton will need a new Town Meeting.

The Moderator called for the vote on the motion to amend and asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

SHOW OF CARDS: UNCLEAR

The Moderator moved this to a card count and asked the voters to stand for a counted vote.

COUNTED VOTE: YES 181 NO 128

Motion passes to amend

The Moderator called for the vote on the motion for the appropriation for the school district, Hamilton's share, the amended motion to raise and appropriate for schools \$15,307,333.

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

SHOW OF CARDS: MOTION PASSES

To accept the amended budget figure

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-3 Water Enterprise Budget

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town approve \$975,383.00 for the FY 12 Water Enterprise Budget as set forth in Appendix D to the 2011 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-4 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town approve \$307,500.00 for the FY 12 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget as set forth in Appendix E to the 2011 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-5 North Shore Regional Vocational School District Budget

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$177,726.00 for the Town's assessed portion of the North Shore Regional Vocational School District's FY 12 budget.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-6 Community Preservation Committee Budget

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from community preservation fund annual revenues, specific reserves or other available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year as read [and corrected] by the moderator [excepting those items held], with each item to be considered a separate appropriation and further that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute agreements, on terms acceptable to the Board, to the extent necessary to effectuate the public benefits of such projects. The Community Preservation Committee Budget appears in Appendix F of the 2011 Appendix Book. Appendix F has been revised.

Tom explained that \$2,300 had been donated for the restoration of the Patton Park Cannon Wheels by a resident who wishes to be anonymous.

The Moderator read the appropriations in Appendix F (expected request of \$508,918.00). Having no holds for the motion, he called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

Catalano then gave a report on how the Community Preservation Act has been used since adoption by the Town in 2006, updated information on possible costs for some of the requested CPA projects for FY'12 and referred to House Bill 765 that addresses CPA.

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-7 Annual Financial Actions

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the following financial actions:

- A. To transfer \$796.00 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. To transfer \$2,000.00 from the Clark Property Fund to the Conservation Fund;
- C. To transfer \$275,570.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the

Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;
D. To transfer \$303,784.00 from the General Fund to the Waste
Reduction Enterprise Fund to be used for solid waste expenses.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-8 Annual Authorization of Revolving Funds

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E ½, reauthorize the Recreation and Parks Revolving Fund, with a FY 12 spending limit of \$229,009.00 and authorize the Council on Aging Revolving fund, with an FY 12 spending limit of \$15,000.00 with specified programs for expenditures, receipts to be credited, boards authorized to expend and disposition of fund balance to be as set forth in Appendices G and H to the 2011 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-9 OPEB Trust Fund

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town accept M.G.L. c. 32B, § 20 which authorizes the Town to establish an Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund to reduce the unfunded liability of health care and other post employment benefits to meet the normal cost of all such future benefits for which the Town of Hamilton is obligated, and raise and appropriate \$25,000.00 for deposit in said Trust Fund.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-10 Meals Tax

Moved by David Carey, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town take no action on this article.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

To take No Action

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-11 Debt for capping landfill and Ballot Question

Moved by Betsy Spang, Landfill Committee Steering Committee, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$2,000,000.00 for the cost of closing and capping the Town landfill, including planning, design and engineering, and all other costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$2,000,000 and issue bonds or notes therefore under Chapter 44, Sections 7(22) and/or 8(24) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out the project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) the amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote; and further, to raise and appropriate \$34,760.00 for bond issuance costs.

There was discussion on this motion with Gerry Fallon, Goodhue Street, and Town Manager Michael Lombardo, Selectman Marc Johnson, Moderator Bruce Ramsey, and EDC member Bob Bullivant.

The Moderator said this requires a 2/3rds vote. He called for the vote and asked voters to hold up their voter cards.

SHOW OF CARDS: MOTION PASSES by 2/3rds vote
Declared by the Moderator

Ballot Question Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Ballot Question "Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to finance the cost of closing and capping the Town landfill, including planning, design and engineering, and all other costs incidental or related thereto?"

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-12 MUNIS Contract

Moved by John McWane, Co-Chair of Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute a five year contract for MUNIS accounting software and support in the total contract amount of \$165,000.00.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-13 Transfer from Capital Library to Capital Landfill

Moved by Betsy Spang, Landfill Committee Steering Committee, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$185,940.00 from the Capital Library Fund surplus bond proceeds to the Capital

Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

Landfill Fund, contingent upon the passage of the referendum question pursuant to M.G.L. c.59, §21(C)(k) set forth as Ballot Question #1 to this Warrant.

Michael Lombardo, Town Manager, spoke and answered a question from Lauren Prior, Gardner Street.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-14 Transfer to Stabilization Fund

Moved by John McWane, Co-Chair of Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 to replenish the general Stabilization Fund.

The Moderator said this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and he called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES by 2/3rds vote

Declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 2011/5 2-15 Transfer from Recycling Receipt Fund to Waste Enterprise Fund

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$18,000.00 from the Recycling Receipt Fund to the Waste Enterprise Fund, contingent upon approval of the proposed amendments to General By-law Ch. XIV, Disposal of Refuse and Garbage.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

SECTION 4: TOWN BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 2011/5 4-1 Delete Chapter X, Section 9 of the 'General Bylaws', Winter Storm Parking Ban

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town delete Chapter X, Sec. 9 of the General Bylaws pertaining to winter storm parking ban on all public ways, to be replaced, pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, § 22, with rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Selectmen, including a schedule of fines pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Town Bylaws for each violation thereof.

The Moderator called for the vote as part of the Consent Group Motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 4-2 Amendment to Disposal of Refuse and Garbage 'General By-law '(Chapter XIV)

Moved by Gretel Clark, Recycling Committee, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Disposal of Refuse and Garbage General Bylaw Chapter XIV by replacing the current language with the language set forth in Appendix I to the 2011 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

SECTION 5: OTHER ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2011/5 5-1 Hamilton Development Corporation Special Act to Legislate

The Moderator reiterated that the text of Appendix J has been revised and there are copies of the revised Appendix J available in the lobby.

Moved by Jen Scuteri, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact special legislation to establish a Hamilton Development Corporation, in the form set forth as revised Appendix J to the 2011 Appendix Book, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk for filing with the minutes of this meeting provided, however, that the Legislature may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the Legislature; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

Bob Bullivant, Planning Board member Robert McCain of Woodland Meade, Marc Johnson, and Barbara Lawrence of Willow Street discussed this motion.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

SHOW OF CARDS: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2011/5 5-2 Acceptance of M.G.L. Ch. 43D and Landfill as Priority Development Site

Moved by Marc Johnson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 43D, Expedited Permitting, and approve the filing of an application with the Interagency Permitting Board for the designation of the landfill off Chebacco Road, Assessors Map 75, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 and Map 72, Lot 3 as a Priority Development Site.

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The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 5-3 Electrical Easement at Patton Park

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town grant a non-exclusive electrical easement to the Massachusetts Electric Company of National Grid to maintain and repair electrical service at Patton Park, the location of which is shown on a plan on file with the Town Clerk's office and a copy of the plan will be appended to the minutes of this meeting.

The Moderator said this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and he called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2011/5 5-4 Petition to Legislature concerning Group Insurance Policies

Moved by Jen Scuteri, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court to enact special legislation, the text of which is set forth in Article 5-4 of the 2011 Annual Town Warrant, authorizing the Town to alter and amend employee group insurance policies without being subject to collective bargaining; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF HAMILTON TO NEGOTIATE AND PURCHASE GROUP INSURANCE POLICIES”

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 32B and chapter 150E of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the Town of Hamilton is authorized at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen, without bargaining under said chapters 32B or 150E concerning the decision or the impact thereof, to negotiate and purchase group insurance policies for employees, retirees and their dependents; alter current and future group insurance plan design features including but not limited to co payments, deductibles and tiered provider network co payments; and participate in or join a state program providing group insurance policies including those provided by the Group Insurance Commission or other similar program.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not affect the town's obligations under any collective bargaining agreements between the town and any unions in effect on the effective date

of this act; provided, however, that for the purposes of this act, the town's collective bargaining obligations with respect to group insurance policies under any such collective bargaining agreement(s) shall cease as of the date of expiration of the agreement(s), regardless of whether a successor collective bargaining agreement has been approved.

SECTION 3. This action shall take effect upon its passage.

Ruth Ryan, Town Counsel Donna Brewer, Lorraine Richardson, and Laurie Wilson, Co-Chair of Finance and Advisory Committee, discussed this motion.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

SECTION 6: CLOSING FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2011/5 6-1 Free Cash Application

Moved by John McWane, Co-Chair of Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town reserve, appropriate and authorize the Assessors to use \$275,000.00 of available certified free cash to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2011.

John McWane answered a question for Gerry Fallon, 38 Goodhue Street.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m. The Moderator recessed the Annual Town Meeting until May 26, 2011 at 7 o'clock a.m. at the Winthrop School.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:



Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk.

Annual Town Election

TOWN OF HAMILTON
 Annual Town Election
TOWN OF HAMILTON
 Annual Town Election
 Thursday, May 26, 2011
 Winthrop School, Hamilton, MA

The polls were opened at 7:00 AM by Moderator Bruce Ramsey.

At the close of Voter Registration on April 22, 2011 there were 5,687 registered voters.

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Democrat	409	362	241	1,012
Green-Rainbow	3	0	1	4
Inter 3rd Party	0	2	1	3
Libertarian	9	2	6	17
Republican	331	397	488	1,216
Unenrolled	1,366	1,181	888	3,435
Totals	2,118	1,944	1,625	5,687

There were 1,088 ballots cast (19% of total voters) as follows:

Precinct 1	--	394
Precinct 2	--	398
Precinct 3	--	296

Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	TOTALS
Selectman Vote One (3 years)				
Blanks	10	5	6	21
William F. Bowler <i>Re-Elect</i>	129	155	117	401
Jeffrey Miles Hubbard	252	238	172	662
Write-ins	3	0	1	4
Moderator (1 year)				
Blanks	89	86	71	246
Bruce C. Ramsey <i>Re-Elect</i>	299	299	221	819
Write-ins	6	13	4	23
Town Clerk (3 years)				
Blanks	53	65	61	179
Jane M. Wetson <i>Re-Elect</i>	340	332	234	906
Write-ins	1	1	1	3
Board of Assessors (3 years)				
Blanks	89	103	76	268
Peter J. Kane <i>Re-Elect</i>	305	295	218	818
Write-ins	0	0	2	2
Planning Board (5 years)				
Blanks	105	107	75	287
Evelyn H. Shuman <i>Re-Elect</i>	284	289	219	792
Write-ins	5	2	2	9
Planning Board (2 years)				
Blanks	112	110	89	311
Brian D. Stein	279	287	205	771
Write-ins	3	1	2	6

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Housing Authority (5 years)				
Blanks	85	97	78	260
Carol A. Mazzetta	307	300	216	823
Write-ins	2	1	2	5
H-W Library Trustee (3 years)				
Blanks	91	89	80	260
Janice Pappas <i>Re-Elect</i>	303	309	216	828
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
H-W School Committee Vote for 3 (3 years)				
Blanks	206	122	145	473
Richard L. Boroff <i>Re-Elect</i>	75	100	70	245
Theresa Foley Leary <i>Re-Elect</i>	103	150	130	383
Sean W. Condon	260	271	181	712
William R. Dery	253	224	157	634
Roger A. Kuebel	280	326	203	809
Write-ins	5	1	2	8
H-W School Committee				
	HAM	WEN	Total	
Blanks	473	463	936	
Richard L. Boroff <i>Re-Elect</i>	245	267	512	
Theresa Foley Leary <i>Re-Elect</i>	383	268	651	
Sean W. Condon	712	328	1040	
William R. Dery	634	259	893	
Roger A. Kuebel	809	498	1307	
Write-ins	8	0	8	

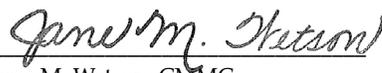
Question 1 Prop 2 ½ Debt Exclusion

“Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to finance the cost of closing and capping the Town landfill, including planning, design and engineering, and all other costs incidental or related thereto?”

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Totals
Blanks	82	65	34	181
Yes	188	221	162	571
No	124	122	100	336

Town Clerk, Jane Wetson closed the polls at 8:00 PM. The results were announced by the Town Manager, Michael Lombardo at 9:05 PM.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:


Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

Special Town Meeting

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**Monday, June 27, 2011
Winthrop School**

At the close of registration on June 17, 2011 there were 5,692 registered voters.

The Moderator declared the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served opened the Special Town Meeting at 7:00 PM and dissolved the meeting at 7:10 PM due to lack of quorum and no articles to be discussed.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:



Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

Special Town Meeting

TOWN OF HAMILTON SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, October 22, 2011
Hamilton Wenham Regional High School

At the close of registration on October 12, 2011 there were 5691 registered voters within the town of 8,789 residents.

Precinct 1 – 2,109

Precinct 2 – 1,950

Precinct 3 – 1,632

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

Center	Gelean Campbell Tony Grimshaw	11 Naples Road 5 Whipple Road
Right	Phil Stevens Theresa “Mimi” Fanning	118 Asbury Street 122 Railroad Ave
Left	Dorothea Ingalls Ruth Flumerfelt	23 Lincoln Ave 59 Greenbrook Road
Front	Dick Flynn	183 Linden Street

Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the Special Town Meeting at 9:00 A.M. The total number of registered voters checked and present for the Special Town Meeting was 126.

Precinct 1	50
Precinct 2	46
Precinct 3	30

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

I have asked non-resident Town officials and those assisting the Selectmen or Finance Committee to be present here so they may be available to answer questions. Members of the press [and the video crew] have also been allowed to be present. I remind those allowed here to do nothing which may influence the counting of a vote.

All other non-registered visitors must be seated in the visitors area located in the left section of the auditorium.

Another procedural note, we record these proceedings so as to have an accurate record of the meeting and to help everybody know who is speaking and hear what is said. Therefore please use the microphones provided and, unless I recognize you by name, please give your name and address when you address the moderator.

Announcements or other:

Students are selling shoelaces for funding of Gabe’s Run.

The Miles River Middle School bake sale will raise money for MDS.

Introductions:

Town Moderator, Bruce Ramsey

Town Clerk, Jane Wetson

Assistant to the Town Manager, Christine Lindberg

Finance and Advisory Board:

John McWane, *Chairman*

Laurie Wilson

William Boesch

Joseph Santarelli

Finance Director, Deborah Nippes-Mena

Board of Selectmen

Jennifer Scuteri, *Chairman*

Jeffrey Hubbard

Marc Johnson

David Carey

Jeffrey Stinson

Town Manager, Michael Lombardo

Town Counsel, Donna Brewer

SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

NONE.

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-1 Revolving Account

Moved by Lindle Willnow, Board of Health Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E ½, autho-

Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

alize a revolving fund for the Board of Health for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 with a FY 12 spending limit of \$3,000.00, for the establishment and support of Emergency Dispensing Services, all receipts collected during the year and fund balance to be credited to the fund, with types of expenditures and their estimated amounts as set forth in Appendix A to the Warrant.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-2 Water Enterprise Fund Budget Increase and Transfer

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Board Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town approve an increase of \$20,000.00 in the FY 12 Water Enterprise budget and appropriate \$20,000.00 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to be used for water supply for increased housing.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-3 Waste Enterprise Fund Budget Increase

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Board Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town approve an increase of \$88,700.00 in the FY 12 Waste Enterprise budget.

Jack Lawrence of 105 Rock Maple and Leah Glowacki, 1 Norris Road questioned why the recent Board of Selectmen decision to change the Town's rubbish collection program was not brought to a Town Meeting vote.

Jennifer Scuteri, Board of Selectmen Chair, explained that the Selectmen were given authority to make decisions on trash and recycling at the 2007 and 2011 Annual Town Meeting.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-4 Waste Enterprise Fund Transfer

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Board Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$10,000.00 from Waste Enterprise Retained Earnings to be used for organic waste costs.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

CARD VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to stand for a counted vote.

COUNTED VOTE:

YES	73	MOTION PASSES
NO	27	

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-5 Appropriation Transfer

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Board Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$16,928.00 from Department of Public Works to Health & Human Services.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-6 Annual Financial Actions

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Board Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the following financial actions:

- A. Transfer an additional \$1,204.00 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to be used in FY 12 for cemetery purposes for a total FY 12 appropriation of \$2,000.00;
- B. Rescind the vote at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting to transfer \$2,000.00 from the Clark Property Fund to the Conservation Fund;
- C. Transfer \$796.00 from the Clark Property Fund to the Conservation Fund for use in FY 12;
- D. Transfer an additional \$28,214.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund for indirect expenses for a total of \$303,784.00;
- E. Rescind the vote at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting to transfer \$303,784.00 from the General Fund to the Waste Enterprise Fund; and
- F. Transfer \$364,200.00 from the General Fund to the Waste Enterprise Fund to be used for solid waste and recycling purposes.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-7 Matching Grant

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Board Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$2,500.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the Water Grant Fund.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Declared by the Moderator

Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-8 Playground Equipment

Moved by Jennifer Scuteri, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$5,000.00 from certified Free Cash to the Donald M. Keyser Park and Playground Trust to fund the purchase of playground equipment for Patton Park.

Holly Regan, 42 Tally Ho Drive, and Emily Sumner, 14 Park Street, from a Mothers Club described how funding for new playground equipment at Patton Park would be a private/public fundraising partnership. Recreation Director Sean Timmons also spoke to the existing playground equipment being out-of-date and not up to current code. Lindle Willnow, 51 Mill Street, said Recreation Board was in favor of project.

Bill Bowler, 328 Essex Street, opposed funding this initiative in this manner from meals tax receipts. Bob Bullivant from the Economic Development Committee said that Committee was in favor of project but did not want the money sourced from meals tax receipts. Bill Boardman, 454 Bay Road and Jerry Barber, 5 Hamilton Ave, Peter Britton, 466 Highland Street, Tom Rogers, 173 Sagamore Street, Nancy Littlehale, 80 Bridge Street, all spoke to the article. The funding comes from free cash or general fund.

The Moderator called for the vote.
VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2011/10 2-9 Downtown Special Events

Moved by Jeffrey Hubbard, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$2,500.00 from certified Free Cash to fund the purchase of decorations for special events for the downtown business district.

The Moderator called for the vote.
VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

REPORT FROM BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Selectman Jeffrey Stinson announced new name for former Hamilton Public Library building as "The Meeting House". This name was submitted by resident Gretel Clark as part of a recent naming contest held in Town and selected by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Jennifer Scuteri and Marc Johnson gave a brief report summarizing how well Town officials had done in the last six months in Hamilton to generate new revenue, reduce costs, and make Hamilton a better place to live.

SECTION 3: PLANNING/ZONING ACTIONS

NONE.

SECTION 4: TOWN BYLAW AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 2011/10 4-1 Amend 'Rules and Procedure of Town Meetings' Chapter II, Section 1

Moved by David Carey, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Rules and Procedure of Town Meetings General Bylaw Chapter II, by adding the following language at the end of Section 1: ", except that unanimous consent shall be required for inclusion of an Article in a "Consent Motion" group of Articles that will be taken up by the meeting for voting on the group."

The Moderator called for the vote.
VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2011/10 4-2 Amend 'Town Meeting' Chapter I, Section 2

Moved by Marc Johnson, Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General Bylaws, Ch. I, Sec. 2, by deleting the current language of subsections b. "Meeting Dates" and c. "Election of Town Officers" and replacing them with the proposed language set forth in the handout distributed to voters at the entrance to the Town Meeting, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the record of this Meeting. This amendment is contingent upon Wenham amending its Bylaws, at a meeting held no later than May 2012, to schedule its Annual Town Meeting to a date within 21 days of the first Saturday of April and shall be effective for the Annual Town Meeting starting in calendar year 2013.

The Moderator called for the vote.
VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

SECTION 5: OTHER ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2011/10 5-1 Hours for Sunday & Holiday Alcohol Sales

Moved by Jeffrey Hubbard, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 138, § 33B to permit alcoholic beverages consumed on premises to be sold as early as 10 a.m. on Sundays, the last Monday in May, and on Christmas day or on the day following when Christmas day occurs on Sunday.

Resident Stephen Walsh and non-resident Paul Cusack spoke against the article. Debbie Everett, 200 Linden Street, asked how many license holders this change would affect. Chris Lindberg,

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Assistant to the Town manager, said there are five, Section 12 license holders that include: Weathervane Tavern, Black Cow restaurant, 15 Walnut Restaurant, Myopia Hunt Club and American Legion.

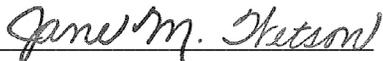
The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

DISSOLUTION OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Bruce Ramsey, Town Moderator closed the Special Town Meeting at 10:39 a.m.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:



Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

Financial Reports

All financial data cover the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

NOTE:

Auditors' Report

The Independent Auditors' Report on General Purpose Financial Statements for the Town of Hamilton was conducted by Sullivan, Rogers & Company, LLC on July 20, 2012.

A copy of this report, is on file with the Board of Selectmen and online at:

http://www.hamiltonma.gov/Pages/HamiltonMA_Finance/Audited%20Financials

Town Audit

An audit of the Town of Hamilton's 2011 basic financial statements was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards as issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Board of Assessors

For Fiscal Year 2012, the total assessed taxable valuation of Hamilton is \$1,291,799,178 with a property tax levy of \$22,373,961.77. The fiscal year 2012 tax rate as certified by the Department of Revenue is \$17.32 up \$.13 from the previous year. Building permits issued in 2011 resulted in an additional \$139,280 in tax levy growth.

In 2011, the Board of Assessors completed their mandatory Revaluation on all property in the town of Hamilton as required by the Department of Revenue. Under Massachusetts's law, this Board is required to value all of Hamilton's 2783 properties at 100 percent of their full and fair cash valuation, thereby insuring an equitable distribution of the property tax levy. The town's average single-family valuation is \$461,200. More importantly, we believe that we have met our statutory obligation to re-establish proper assessment level and uniformity throughout the town of Hamilton. Final Department of Revenue certification of assessed valuations was granted in November and property tax bills were subsequently mailed at the end of December. The current valuation and levy percentages based upon property class are as follows:

Residential	1,220,611,900	94%	\$21,140,998	94%
Commercial	54,970,400	4%	\$952,087	4%
Industrial	711,500	1%	\$12,323	1%
Personal	15,505,378	1%	\$268,553	1%
TOTALS	1,291,799,178	100%	\$22,373,962	100%

Also in 2011, the Assessors office processed applications for excise abatements, Elderly and Veteran Exemptions, and CPA Exemptions.

We would like to assure all property owners that the Board of Assessors will continue its effort to meet the challenge of maintaining equitable assessments in this current real estate market.

Respectfully submitted,

Gelean M. Campbell, *Chairman*
 Steven Ozahowski, *Member*
 Peter J. Kane, *Member*

Financial Committee

Following is a report of financial actions and the financial status of the Town of Hamilton during the 2011 calendar year. It includes the following information.

1. FY 2012 budget
2. Financial actions at town meetings
3. Debt Status
4. Tax Rate and Levy Limit Status
5. Fund Balances
6. Financial Organization Changes
7. Senior Tax Abatement Program
8. Financial Audit

FY 2012 Budget

The sources of funds and revenue have stabilized with continued downturn in the economy in 2011 the state reduced their initial funding of the Fiscal 2012 state local aid by 7% (\$41,008). Later in the year the state voted to provide a onetime supplemental amount for Hamilton that was \$46,724. For Hamilton's the local receipts had a slight recovery in the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax of 4% (\$43,200) which was offset by a bump in the outstanding tax revenue receivable for Fiscal 2011. The impact is the continued pressure on the budget for Fiscal Year 2012 (beginning July 1, 2012) to maintain town services and adequately fund the Hamilton-Wenham Regional Schools (HWRSD) with minimal growth in the tax levy. The town continues to receive operating grants to support the Emergency Dispatcher Center and the Council on Aging totaling \$162,000.

The Town's expenditures for salaries and operating expense increased for FY 2012 budget by 2.23% (\$168,000). Town employees received a 2% cost of living increase; health insurance costs increased by .57% by implementing a tiered health insurance, with an opt-out program; retirement funding increased by 6.52% (36,789). Town departments and employees are to be commended for the continued high performance of their responsibilities despite very tight salary and expense constraints.

The regional school systems expenses went down by 1.89% largely by the reduction of the Hamilton Wenham Regional School System use of Excess & Deficiency Reserve and other sources of Funds.

Financial Actions at town meetings

The following financial actions were taken at the May and October town meetings:

- Authorized the Selectmen to borrow up to \$ 2,000,000 for the cost of closing and capping of the Landfill. This borrowing

was approved by the voters as debt exclusion and will be financed outside of the levy limit.

- Authorized the Capital Library Fund surplus of \$185,000 to be transferred to the Capital Landfill Fund to be used to for the costs of closing and capping the town owned Landfill.
- The Town increased the Stabilization Fund by \$100,000.
- Established an Other Post Employment Benefits Liability (OPEBL) Trust Fund to "reduce the unfunded liability for health care and other post employee benefits" of town employees. \$25,000 was authorized for the second year of funding.
- Authorized the a change in the structure of Waste Enterprise Fund to increase the Pay-As-You-Throw fees, restructure collection cycles and reducing spending by \$80,000 annually.

Debt Status

In 2011 the Town refunded the debt for the Library and the Water plant generating a savings of \$357,728 in interest over the remaining life of debt. In addition the Town issued new debt for the upgrading of the Water Plant Filtration System, the purchase of the Donovan Fields and Energy Savings and Conservation program. The HWRSD will complete the debt schedule for the 2002 boiler in fiscal 2012. Note the debt service represents the Town's proportion of the payment.

The debt structure for the Fiscal 2012 budget is as follows:

Debt	Original Amount	Remaining Balance	Term	FY 2012 Debt Service
Levy Exclusion				
Public Safety Building	\$ 8,372,385	\$5,264,401	2026	\$468,157
Public Safety Building	\$ 321,500	\$ 143,500	2017	\$32,800
Joint Library	\$ 1,204,868	\$1,048,613	2020	\$ 156,255
Water Plant	\$ 1,831,838	\$1,586,243	2020	\$ 245,594
HWRSD-2002	\$ 1,525,875	\$ 0	2012	\$ 91,080
HWRSD-2009	\$ 8,411,489	\$12,896,542	2019	\$1,840,132
Within the Levy Limit				
ESCO	\$301,277	\$262,245	8	\$ 38,827
Other Sources of Funds				
Donovan Property	\$415,037	\$358,200	8	\$ 56,837
Water Plant Filtration	\$340,413	\$296,825	6	\$ 53,588

Financial Reports

The debt financed as part of the tax structure is \$1,375,475 which represents about \$1.07 on the tax rate or about \$414 on the median priced home of \$390,600.

Tax Rate and Levy Limit Status

The estimated tax rate for FY 2012 will have an increase of \$0.13 per \$1,000 of evaluation from \$17.19 to \$17.32. Note, however, that the tax rate depends on property valuations, which are updated every year. The FY 2012 budget and estimated tax rate are composed of the following:

Budget Item	Amount	Tax Rate
Town Net Budget	\$ 5,513,428	\$ 4.27
HW Regional Schools	\$15,307,333	11.85
No Shore Regional School	\$ 177,726	.13
Town Debt	\$ 1,375,475	1.07
Total	\$22,373,962	\$17.32

Based on the approved FY 2012 budget, the town is under the allowable real estate tax levy limit by \$1,160,058.

Fund Balances

At the end of FY 2011, key fund balances were as follows:

- Stabilization Fund.....\$ 630,407
- General Fund.....\$1,626,482
- Cash Reserves.....\$1,350,982
- OPEB Trust Fund\$ 25,022
- Water Enterprise Fund\$ 280,336
- Community Preservation Fund\$1,503,769

Our auditors recommend that the Stabilization and General Fund Cash Reserves represent 5% of the town budgets. The amounts above represent only 2.8% and 6% respectively. It is therefore the opinion of the Finance Committee, Town Manager, and Finance Director that the Stabilization balances be increased and the surplus of Cash Reserves should be used for Capital expenses

Senior Tax Exemption Program

In April 2010, Governor Patrick approved the town's petition to the State Legislature for a Senior Tax Exemption Program. This Program was developed by Fin Com members Art Oberheim and Bob Bullivant to provide real estate tax reductions for Hamilton's long time resident seniors with low incomes. For the Program to become effective a ballot vote was required. Provisions of the Program were widely advertised and voters

approved it on November 9. Applications for qualification must be submitted by January 31, 2011 for tax abatements in FY 2012. The success of this program will be reported in next years Annual Town Report.

Financial Audit

The audit of the Town's financial statements for FY 2011 was completed by the auditing firm Sullivan, Rogers & Company, LLC. The audit results gave the town a clean certificate with "no instances of non-compliance" with "provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements."

The FinCom wants to recognize and thank Deborah Nippes-Mena, Finance Director, and her staff for their continued improvement of our financial accounting processes and reporting.

Submitted by the following Finance Committee Members:

- John W. McWane, *Chairman*
- Kalil Boghdan, *Secretary*
- Laurie Wilson
- Joseph Santarelli

Treasurer/Collector

I hereby submit my Annual Report as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Hamilton for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011.

July 1, 2010	\$5,730,775
Receipts	\$32,526,396
Disbursements	<u>(\$31,743,417)</u>
June 30, 2011	<u><u>\$6,513,754</u></u>
Segregated Cash Accounts - June 30, 2011	
Stabilization Fund	\$630,407
Clark Property Fund	\$218,949
Conservation Commission	\$99,548
Cultural Council	\$7,389
CPA	\$2,019,763
Junction	\$187
OPEB Fund	\$25,023
Planning	\$3,102
Public Safety Building	\$4,039
Trust Funds	<u>\$504,625</u>
	\$3,513,032

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl J. Booth, *CMMT, CMMC*
Treasurer/Collector

Treasurer/Collector (cont.)

COLLECTIONS	YEAR	July - December	January - June	Total
REAL ESTATE	2011	\$10,727,826	\$11,372,796	\$22,100,622
	2010	\$195,649		\$195,649
Prior to	2009	\$-		\$-
		\$10,923,475	\$11,372,796	\$22,296,271
PERSONAL PROPERTY	2011	\$129,622	\$136,996	\$266,618
	2010	\$698		\$698
Prior to	2009	\$106		\$106
		\$130,426	\$136,996	\$267,422
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	2011	\$-	\$781,106	\$781,106
	2010	\$115,413	\$19,470	\$134,883
	2009	\$3,407	\$696	\$4,103
	2008	\$1,099	\$71	\$1,170
Prior to	2007		\$336	\$336
		\$119,919	\$801,679	\$921,598
BOAT EXCISE	2010	\$2,193	\$304	\$2,497
	2009	\$20	\$-	\$20
Prior to	2008	\$35		\$35
		\$2,248	\$304	\$2,552
WATER				
Rates		\$590,322	\$384,916	\$975,238
General Billing		\$3,797	\$3,340	\$7,137
Liens		\$2,723	\$41,041	\$43,764
Penalties & Interest		\$2,997	\$147	\$3,144
		\$599,839	\$429,444	\$1,029,283
CPA	2011	\$171,809	\$177,991	\$349,800
Prior to	2010	\$2,931	\$99	\$3,030
Interest		\$398	\$375	\$773
		\$175,138	\$178,465	\$353,603
TAX TITLES		\$65,578	\$46,842	\$112,420
MISC		\$67	\$-	\$67
PENALTIES & INTEREST		\$39,131	\$58,554	\$97,685
MUNICIPAL LIEN CERTIFICATES		\$9,350	\$5,150	\$14,500
TOTAL		\$12,065,171	\$13,030,230	\$25,095,401



Town of Hamilton, MA
2011