

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 19, 2009**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2009 with David Carey, William Bowler and Jennifer Scuteri present. State Representative Brad Hill, DPW Director John Tomasz, Police Chief Russell Stevens and Town Administrator Candace Wheeler also present.

Ballot Vote

David Carey entertained a motion to vote for a Tuesday, November 24 ballot for the Town election to be held at the Winthrop School from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the Cutler Elementary School HVAC replacement system. William Bowler so moved. Jennifer Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion with Representative Brad Hill

State Representative Brad Hill updated the Board about the state budget shortfall. Governor Deval Patrick is getting ready to enact 9C budget cuts. For FY'10 Hamilton could potentially receive a 10% to 12% reduction in local aid. Educational and regional transportation funding cuts could also occur.

Letter to Sen. Tarr, Rep. Hill re: Home Rule Petition – Increase Selectmen from 3 to 5

Carey entertained a motion to authorize him as chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign a letter to Representative Brad Hill and Senator Bruce Tarr requesting their assistance in a Home Rule petition to have Hamilton move from three Selectmen to five. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Vote to accept check from Gordon-Conwell

Carey entertained a motion to accept the \$100,000 gift from the Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion re: intersection of Chebacco Road and Essex St.

Discussion was on confusion that could result from traffic pattern near island at the intersection of Chebacco Road and Essex Street. No traffic accidents have occurred in this area in the last five years. Sergeant Scott Janes will be asked to check the area especially in regard to how well boat trailers can maneuver and report to the Board. The traffic pattern could be clarified with signage and street marking.

Update from Chebacco Lake and Watershed Association

The Board discussed the harbormaster's role with regard to the monitoring of Chebacco Lake boating activity. Police Chief Russell Stevens said boats traveling too fast past docks would be addressed in the summer in conjunction with Essex's enforcement personnel.

United Way – Request for fundraiser sign

The Board discussed a request from the Community House of Hamilton and Wenham to put up a United Way fundraiser sign. Selectmen will tell Community House representatives that the sign can be posted for four weeks during the fundraiser.

Selectmen Objective and Goals list

The Board discussed, noted accomplishments and updated its goals and objective list. DPW Director John Tomasz will be asked to an upcoming Selectmen's meeting to discuss drainage issues in Town. Police Chief Stevens will publish a list of inventory at the public safety building to be sold at a Town auction that has yet to be scheduled. He agreed in the next three to four weeks to weigh in on the decision about Hamilton participating in the regional ECO.

The Board will look at how other regional school districts assess participating communities. A developer has to be identified for the wind turbine project at Sagamore Hill. Scuteri agreed in the next 60 days to analyze and identify a possible P.I.L.O.T. program related to the Pingree School. Carey will send a note to Planning Board Chairman David Santomenna asking about the status of a mixed-use by-law.

Request from HWRHS for permission to hang banner at Old Library for school play

Carey entertained a motion to allow the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School to hang a banner at the old library from October 19 until November 7 to advertise the school play. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Green Communities

Town Administrator Candace Wheeler will develop the concept of a Green Communities plan coordinator. An application has to be submitted to the state in the next few weeks. There is \$5,000 available to the Town through a renewable energy initiative that would pay for the coordinator, eight hours a week for 31 weeks.

Letter requesting appointment as constable

Bob Nyland is interested in being appointed as constable. Bowler will follow up with Town Counsel Donna Brewer and report what steps are required. A letter of interest has to be sent to Town Clerk Jane Wetson. Police Chief Stevens has submitted such a letter to serve as well. Currently Bob Poole is the only constable in Hamilton.

Summary of STM – Pros and Cons, recommended changes

Selectmen were generally in favor of the Winthrop Elementary School as a venue for Special Town Meeting. Town Moderator Bruce Ramsey will be asked for suggestions on how to pare the meeting down since many thought it was one and a half hours too long.

Meals Tax – Update and moving forward

The town of Andover has recently enacted this tax. Local restaurant owners/managers will be asked to discuss the potential tax with Selectmen. If the meals tax were implemented it would bring additional revenue to Hamilton.

MMA essay contest

Wheeler will notify Miles River Middle School Principal Matthew Fox that sixth-grade students can participate in an essay contest that has a submission date of November 20. The contest winner will receive a \$300 savings bond and an opportunity to meet former Patriots football player Tedy Bruschi.

Wenham and next steps on police merger

Carey will speak to his counterpart in Wenham, Larry Swartz about next steps related to interest in a police department merger between the two towns.

Three-tier involvement on 911 calls

Police Chief Stevens said it has been worked out that the police and fire departments would be involved with all 911 calls especially when an ambulance is needed.

Vacancy on CATV Board of Directors

Anyone interested in serving in this position should send a letter of interest containing background information to Wheeler.

Carey entertained a motion to go into executive session at 9:01 p.m. not to return to open session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy and union negotiations. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. Members raised their hands for a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Clerk