

# Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts



## 2012 Annual Report

Town of Hamilton  
Essex County  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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## 2012 Annual Report

July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Town of Hamilton  
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

## FY 2012 Summary

The Patton name figured prominently in the majority of items considered by the Hamilton Board of Selectmen in 2012. The Patton Family Gift Advisory Committee, the Patton Estate, the Patton Park Playground Committee, the Patton Park Pool and the Patton Well focused the attention of many hours of public meetings and grassroots organizing, which generated future planning and extraordinary generosity.

In January, the Board of Selectmen charged the Patton Family Advisory Gift Committee with providing an outline of what the Town would be accepting in the Patton Estate and reporting its findings to Annual Town Meeting. The Committee's report to Annual Town Meeting for potential uses for recreation, conservation and development of the property met with overwhelming acceptance by the voters. The Town of Hamilton received title to the 27 acre Patton estate through the generous gift of Joanne Holbrook Patton and family on September 17, 2012. The transfer, which included the original keys to the homestead, marked the beginning of the Town's two year study to explore future use of the property.

The Friends of Patton Park Playground launched a major fundraising program to renovate the playground equipment and incorporate benches and landscaping that meets code with the intent of creating an area at the park for young and old. With seed money of \$5,000 from Annual Town Meeting and a Community Preservation Committee grant of \$25,000 voted at Special Town Meeting, the Friends raised privately almost \$200,000 by year's end. In a word, extraordinary!

The Recreation Master Plan, released in September, identified concern with the condition of the Patton Park Pool. Its 51 year history as swim lesson center to the community was being overshadowed by its structural failures, undersize for school meets, and lacking in safety and serviceability. The Selectmen and Town Manager agreed that the pool and its replacement become a focus of study over the winter.

After several public hearings and meetings the Board, acting as water commissioners asked the DEP to formally abandon the Patton Well. The Town discontinued using the Patton Well as a source of drinking water in 2004, due to its high iron, sodium and magnesium content. Connecting the well to the treatment plant was considered cost prohibitive and unnecessary as the Town had excess water capacity. If the well remained active, a 400 foot buffer would be maintained prohibiting field develop-

ment or any activity other than walking on a large portion of the abutting Patton property gifted to Town.

The Hamilton Council on Aging found a permanent home at 299 Bay Road, formerly the Hamilton Public Library and Meeting House, a new budget and a grant from the CPC to renovate the kitchen to make it a vibrant center for seniors.

With new barrels delivered to residents in March, the new trash program took off in April. Free weekly pick up of recycling and composting remained. Solid waste collection, defined as refuse not recyclable or compostable became a Town issued barrel free, biweekly event. The Town developed a pay-as-you-throw plastic bag option for residents not able to abide by the new guidelines. Hamilton trended from 29 % participation in recycling before the program to a 54% by October. The projected annualized savings of \$110,467 was on target.

## Other Highlights

- Asbury Street was designated and known honorifically as part of the Purple Heart Trail in recognition and honor of the men and women wounded or killed in line of their military duty.
- After three years of protracted discussions, the insurance carriers notified the Town of Hamilton that they had reached settlement with the former Hamilton Police Officer Michael Marchand for an amount of \$1,285,000. The settlement was in no way an expression of liability or fault and all costs associated with the settlement were attributed to the insurance companies and not the Town or other defendants. The agreement was final and closed a chapter on a very difficult time for all parties involved.
- A Meals tax was adopted by Annual Town Meeting and seen as a funding source of downtown improvements.
- Hamilton and Ipswich entered into an Intermunicipal Agreement for a Dispatch Center Technical Feasibility Center to understand the costs, as Wenham plans to leave the ECO and join a regional dispatch center in Middleton next year.
- ATM recognized Selectmen Dave Carey, retiring after 5 years of outstanding service to Hamilton.
- David Neill returned to the Board of Selectman in May, after a hiatus of 9 years and promptly became the Board's new Chairman.

# Reports: General Government

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- The Board set as goal to develop a long term strategy for planning. Current zoning regulations prohibit young people coming to town and older, empty-nester types from staying in Town. The zoning by-law was developed in 1954 and is obsolete for the community's needs.
- A virtual DPW collaboration among the Hamilton, Wenham and the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District sharing landscaping functions, funded with state grants took shape.
- Pakistani government officials visited Hamilton for 2 weeks in October to shadow local municipal officials to get a first hand view of public administration and gain a better understanding of democracy at the local level. The program was sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association and the US Department of State.
- The Hamilton Development Corporation, with a 2 sentence amendment to the Special Act of the Legislature which created it, received funding at STM and began meeting regularly in December.
- The presence of EEE in Essex caused the Board of Health to ban all outdoor activities from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. in late September. The ban continued through the first frost.

Respectfully submitted,

2012 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 marriage and dog 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, 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, Walter Leszczynski, Maureen Hickey and Jane M. Wetson, Clerk Officio.

This year we had two Town Meetings and four Elections. The minutes are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Annual Town Meeting was 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.

The Special Town Meeting was held at the Winthrop School along with all of our four elections. Our thanks to Christopher Heath, Winthrop Principal and his staff for all their help in allowing us to have our meetings and elections at Winthrop. We sincerely appreciate the wonderful teamwork.

#### 2012 Statistics

	2010	2011	2012
Marriage Licenses Issued	21	19	23
Births Recorded	88	78	95
Deaths Recorded	44	55	37
Dog Licenses Issued			
Dog Total			1,115
Kennels			6

**Please Note:** We are no longer 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 2012

#### *March 6, 2012*

Presidential Primary Election had 1,029 ballots cast, which was 18% of the 5,753 registered voters in Hamilton

#### *May 12, 2012*

Annual Town Meeting had 299 registered voters in attendance which was 5% of the 5,695 registered voters in Hamilton.

#### *May 24, 2012*

Annual Town Election had 655 ballots cast, which was 12% of the 5,695 registered voters in Hamilton

#### *September 6, 2012*

Primary Election had 336 ballots cast, which was 6% of the 5,733 registered voters in Hamilton

# Reports: General Government

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## *October 13, 2012*

Special Town Meeting had 121 registered voters in attendance which was 2% of the 5,775 registered voters in Hamilton.

## *November 6, 2012*

Special Town Meeting Presidential Primary Election had 4,529 ballots cast, which was 78% of the 5,837 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. Also, 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 four fulltime firefighters and 24 call firefighters. We are mainly a call fire department, but the station is manned during the day.

There were several changes in personnel. Firefighters Edmund Mullin and Andre Painchaud left at the end of 2011. They were replaced in January by Firefighters Ryan Goodwin and Robert Wallace.

The Department is dedicated to training and we train in-house and with the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. All members train in firefighting, medical, CPR, hazardous materials, rescue techniques, and emergency vehicle training. We train with area Departments on ice rescue annually. We have been doing more regionalized training.

Call firefighters, Sarah Spurr and Alexander Dale, completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Program and were certified Firefighter I/II.

We held a Public Safety Day in September and people learned fire safety and got a chance to see the equipment. Hamilton Fire Prevention did a week of training in the elementary schools with Wenham. It consisted of classroom and education on fire safety using the new County Fire Safe Trailer.

We were hit by Hurricane Sandy in October which brought down trees and power lines. Power was out in some areas for days. Public Safety and all town departments worked together to provide help where needed. There were some roads that were blocked. Fire crews checked on elderly and special needs people during that period. We also had many storm related calls.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip W. Stevens, Jr.  
*Fire Chief*

## INCIDENTS - 2012

Building Fires .....	2
Cooking Fires.....	19
Chimney Fires .....	7
Burner Malfunction .....	2
Off Road Equipment .....	1
Brush or Grass Fires.....	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	16
Rescue.....	2
Hazardous Condition (Other) .....	2
Flammable Gas .....	1
Gasoline Spill .....	1
Gas Leak .....	8
Oil Spill .....	1
Electrical Problem .....	18
Light Ballast .....	1
Power Line Down.....	17
Arching Electrical Equipment .....	4
Accident, potential accident .....	1
Building Weakened or Collapse .....	3
Vehicle Accident Cleanup.....	2
Service Calls.....	3
Lock-out .....	6
Water Problem.....	10
Smoke or Odor Removal .....	3
Animal Rescue.....	2
Public Assistance .....	5
Assist Police .....	3
Police Matter.....	6
Assist Invalid .....	1
Unauthorized Burning .....	9
Mutual Aid Given .....	25

# Fire Department (cont.)

Mutual Aid Received .....	22
Good Intent Calls .....	9
No incident on arrival.....	1
Authorized controlled burning.....	5
Smoke scare, odor .....	12
Haz Mat Investigation (No haz mat) .....	2
False Calls.....	14
System Malfunction .....	44
Smoke/Heat Detector Malfunction .....	11
CO Detector Malfunction .....	9
CO Alarm, No CO.....	18
Unintentional Alarm .....	65
Severe Weather Calls.....	1
Lightning Strike.....	1
Special calls .....	1
Complaint .....	1
Total Fires Calls.....	468
Emergency Medical Calls .....	406
<b>TOTAL CALLS:</b> .....	<b>874</b>

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITY	
Open Burning Permits .....	358
Agricultural Burning Permits .....	6
Other Permits.....	250
Inspections .....	387
Plan Review.....	34
Public Education.....	112 hours
Meetings .....	54 hours
Fire Drills.....	32 hours
Fire Prevention Continuing Education.....	22 hours
Miscellaneous .....	243 hours

# 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 updated and accepted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) last fall.

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

A Volunteer Shelter Team has been put together and meets on a regular basis with Health Nurse Kim Paskalis and the Emergency Management Director. Nancy Stevens from the Health Department has collected member information and has done much of the administrative work. They are utilized if a shelter has to be activated because of a storm, natural disaster, or some other emergency. They have trained with ICS, CPR, and how to set up the shelter. Standard Operating Guidelines have been written for the Shelter Team.

All shelter equipment from Police, Fire, Health and Emergency Management has been combined and is stored in one location. Edward Seaver has volunteered many hours and has completed an inventory list of all emergency equipment and where it is stored. He has set up shelves and set up a numbering system to keep track of equipment.

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 were spared this last winter, but Hurricane Sandy came up the coast in October and we were prepared for the worst, fortunately it was downgraded to a Tropical Storm by the time it hit us. Damage from the storm was limited to downed trees and power lines. Power was out for an extended period of time. All Town Departments worked together to keep people safe. We worked with FEMA again for reimbursement.

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 get an emergency kit. We are here to assist you to prepare for an emergency.

In an emergency, the three steps to safety are

- be informed;
- make a plan, and;
- get a kit.

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 2012. 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.

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.

We are asking all citizens to remain vigilant and call us immediately if they detect anything suspicious in nature or out of the ordinary. Although I consider Hamilton a very safe town to live and raise a family, I encourage residents to lock their homes and vehicles. By collaborating together we can better serve our community.

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

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## Hamilton Police Department 2011 and 2012 Statistics

Classification	2011	2012
Motor Vehicle Citations – Warnings	752	457
Motor Vehicle Citations – Civil	446	305
Motor Vehicle Citations – Criminal Complaints	155	88
Motor Vehicle Citation – Arrests	72	68
Operating Under the Influence	16	15
Parking Tickets	163	67
Motor Vehicle Accidents Total	114	91
Motor Vehicle Accidents Investigated	67	67
Crimes Against Persons	18	52
Crimes Against Property	123	105
Crimes Against Society	4	194
Marijuana Citations	17	26
Animal Calls	489	406
Medical Calls	403	362
Pistol Permits/ Firearms I.D. Cards/ Chemical Propellant Cards	87	135
Activity Detail		
Total Calls for Service	24115	23919
Total Arrests	157	275
Traffic Stops	1840	1429

# Hamilton-Wenham School District

I am proud to be able to present my first Annual Report as the Superintendent of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the members of our communities for the warm welcome I have received as I assumed the role of Superintendent of Schools.

In the 2011-2012 school year, the District continued to provide students from Hamilton and Wenham with some of the best educational opportunities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School graduated 176 members of the Class of 2012 in June. 96% of these students went on to pursue study at institutes of higher learning, such as Harvard, Cornell, Dartmouth and the University of London. The Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School was also named by the College Board to the 2012 Advanced Placement District Honor Roll for increasing student access to and performance on Advanced Placement Tests. Students from the HWRHS were also honored as the 2011-2012 Champions of WGBH's High School Quiz Show and as the MIAA 2011 State Champions in Football.

The District also saw several changes in leadership over the 2011-2012 year. The School Committee welcomed three new members, Dr. Barbara Lawrence, Ms. Shelia MacDonald and Mr. William Wilson who replaced Alexa McCloughan, Jack O'Keefe and Dacia Rubel. Additionally, Mr. Roger Kuebel was elected as Chairman of the Committee and Mr. Lawrence Swartz was elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

The District also celebrated the contributions of several staff members during the 2011-2012 school year. Director of Food Services, Ms. Catherine Donovan, was recognized as the Massachusetts Food Service Director of the Year by the School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts. Four faculty members, Mr. Bill Corley, Ms. Gail Lake, Ms. Linda Penniman, and Ms. Ann Tassinari also celebrated their retirement from the District in June of 2012.

In closing, I would like to thank the Communities of Hamilton and Wenham for their continued support of the educational mission of the HWRSD. The successes of the students of the District are a direct result of the high value the communities place on education. On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff of the HWRSD, I promise we will do our best to live up to this commitment and provide our students with an education that will ensure they are prepared to meet the challenges ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Harvey, Ed.D  
*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 serve 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, 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.

This year the Board continued vaccinating residents during flu season. The Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Health collectively joined together and held Flu Vaccine Clinics and vaccinated approximately 450 residents. With the help of nursing students and MRC volunteers, the Health Department's flu clinics were able to provide immunizations in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The Board continued to vaccinate into the 2012/2013 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. Our Public Health Nurse, in collaboration with our Emergency Manager Director, organized and trained a group of volunteers to open an emergency shelter in Hamilton, should the need arise.

A major health concern in 2012 was the threat of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis from infected mosquitoes. The Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District continued to monitor areas throughout the town. Such monitoring resulted in the Board having to resort to ground targeted spraying.

The following is a yearly report of permits/licenses issued, plan reviews and inspections:

	2012
Septic Disposal System Construction (New) Plan Review	4
Septic Disposal System Construction (Repair) Plan Review	51
Septic Title 5 Inspection Report Review	86
Septic Construction Inspections	102
Soil Evaluation Inspections	42
Septic Disposal System Installer Licenses	29
Septic Disposal System Hauler Licenses	10
Food/Retail Service Permits	31
Temporary Food/Retail Service Permits	13
Seasonal Food Service Permits	4
Keeping of Animal Permits	63
Stable Permits	63
Wells Permits	1
Swimming Pools Permits	4
Recreational Camps Permits	10
Tobacco Sales Permits	7
Complaints – Housing/Nuisance	10

Total fees collected in calendar year 2012 were \$44,070.00.

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 one Hamilton veteran was 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 \$206,000 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 20 of the town's 406 identified veterans and 4 of the 104 identified veterans' widows during 2012. 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 accepts 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. Mr. Jeffrey Stinson 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 Council on Aging is a community based social service organization with its mission focusing on those individuals that are age 60 and older. We provide information and referral for services and programs that help you stay in your home and community as long as possible. We also offer health and wellness programs, as well as social programs. A portion of funding is provided yearly by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs through the Formula Grant. The balance of the annual budget is provided through municipal appropriations voted at Annual Town Meeting.

The beginning of the 2012 calendar year saw Hamilton and Wenham still participating in an Intermunicipal Agreement sharing a Director who oversaw the activities and programs at both Senior Centers as well as oversight of the Joint Van Transportation Program. Some of the highlights and changes which occurred during this time include:

- The purchase of a software program, My Senior Center, to capture statistics in a more comprehensive manner.
- The award of a grant in the amount of \$1,400 through our Area Agency on Aging, Senior Care, Ins., providing funds for the hire of a part-time Social Worker to provide SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders) services to our seniors.
- Implementation of podiatry program at the Hamilton Council on Aging
- A joint monthly newsletter to seniors in the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham. Funding for mailing in the Town of Wenham provided by the Friends of the Wenham Seniors.
- The formation of a TRIAD program to Hamilton with the Police Department, Fire Department, Essex County District Attorney and the Essex County Sheriff providing safety programs for elders in Hamilton and Wenham.

- The Hamilton Board of Selectmen provided the seniors of Hamilton a permanent home by giving the old Library, also known as the Meeting House, located at 299 Bay Road, as the full-time, year-round Senior Center for programs and activities
- Funds provided by Hamilton Community Preservation Committee in the amount of \$53,000.00 to rebuild the kitchen at the Senior Center.
- Started cable program at the H-W studio "Senior Moments" with Bill Heitz as moderator featuring Chairman of the Council on Aging and the Director providing residents with updates to what is happening at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Lawton

*Joint Director Hamilton-Wenham Councils on Aging*

# Hamilton-Wenham Library

At the start of 2013, we are excited about expanding our services to include Universal Class which enables Hamilton and Wenham patrons to take online classes at no charge. We also plan to host a Civil War exhibit in the autumn along with concurrent programs made possible with a grant from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

During 2012, the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library staff was busy serving the informational needs of the citizens of our two towns and surrounding communities. We happily added one additional full-time staff position in July. The Library Trustees who served during 2012 were Annette Janes, *Chair*; Doris Galant, *Secretary*; Jean Buckley; Madelyn Liberti; Janice Pappas; and Margaret Whittaker. The trustees met monthly and worked hard to support and guide library services. We mourned the loss of Elizabeth Stanton, who served many years as a trustee and was a lifelong library supporter.

In 2012, the library circulated 253,705 items. Our meeting rooms (including some programs that were offered offsite) were used by community groups and library programs a total of 1,173 times. The library offered 368 adult programs, 122 young adult programs, and 304 children's programs. Our reference department answered 15,673 reference questions and our study rooms were used a total of 1,441 times. Our Overdrive downloadable E-book and audio book circulation increased from 1,433 in 2011 to 3,216 in 2012.

During the year, we installed eleven new computers to replace seven-year-old machines. We worked with Building Supervisor, Mark Gates and the DPW crew to paint the Phoenix Room and the Children's Program Room. They also helped us repair tables, retrofit shelving and take care of other problems. Paradox Solid Surfaces, Inc. buffed up the library public service counters.

We showed many films and hosted wonderful authors including Thomas Foley, author of *Most Wanted: Pursuing Whitey Bulger the Murderous Mob Chief the FBI Secretly Protected* and Eric Pinder who presented *Mount Washington: Home of the World's Worst Weather*. It was an honor to also display Winson Morrell's creative miniatures and ships in bottles. During the summer, the Friends sponsored a field trip to the Harvard Museum of Science. Our children's summer reading theme was "Dream Big, Read!" Our patrons eagerly spotted our mascot, "Silverwing" as he visited local businesses throughout Hamilton and Wenham. Our summer reading program included

special Wednesday night events including Awesome Rob the Comedian, and Bubbleology a science presentation. We were pleased to host a cleverly designed clay picnic from "Art Grows Here" in the library yard. Many homeschool groups use the library and we hosted the B.U. Mobile Science Lab in October.

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 website. We hosted a field trip for all fifth grade classes to learn how to use library resources, order materials, and participate in a library scavenger hunt.

200 200 We completed our \$6,166 LSTA (Library Service and Technology Act) Grant: *How Green is My Library?* which enabled us to purchase new materials and offer programs including *Going Green with Your Diet*, *Vermicomposting*, and *Trash Q and A* to help citizens navigate the new composting program. We celebrated our sixth community read by reading *The Mangrove Tree* by Susan Roth and Cindy Trombore. Dr. Gordon Sato is our local hero who has changed lives by growing mangroves in Eritrea, Africa. Susan and Cindy joined Dr. Sato on March 29 at Gordon College as he gave a moving and memorable speech about his work.

Many of our programs are funded by the generous support of the Friends of the HamiltonWenham 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 including a town-wide mailing. The Friends purchased a lapel microphone for the library and funded many wonderful 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 2012, patrons reserved 1,684 museum passes.

We thank our dedicated volunteers who assist in all library departments. We thank Jean Buckley for organizing local artists

## Reports: Culture & Recreation

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to display their work at the library. We received some very generous donations from patrons which helped us add timely and important items to our collection.

We look forward to offering Cypress Resume and Universal Class in 2013. Hamilton-Wenham citizens will be able to choose from over 500 free courses. We now also have an adult graphic novel collection located downstairs. We continue to list our programs and events on our website at [www.hwlibrary.org](http://www.hwlibrary.org). Patrons can order library materials from home through the Evergreen software and access many electronic resources. The statewide databases now support geolocation, so Massachusetts 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 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 and we appreciate your ideas and suggestions. We thank all our citizens who are tremendously supportive and who value education, learning and reading.

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.

Here are some highlights from the Recreation Department for the Calendar Year of 2012.

- Completed a 10-year Recreation Master Plan, which provides our department with recommendations for capital improvement to our playing fields and athletic facilities as well as a community needs survey and analysis.
- Participations in programs saw an increase, with over 950 people of all ages enjoying our many programs.
- We will be teaming up with the Essex County Trails Association to provide trail orientation programs for members of the community.
- Secured CPA funding for the design of playing fields at the Patton Estate and the Renovation of the Patton Park Swimming Pool.
- We worked in conjunction with the Friends of Patton Park for the purchase of brand new playground equipment. We hope to have the playground equipment installed at the park by the spring of 2013.
- We offered new recreation programs this year including, First Steps in Music, Karate, Fencing, Archery, Mommy and Me Gymnastics, Cooking, Floor Hockey and many others.
- We once again 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 participated in Pumpkin Fest which brought together families from both communities to enjoy a day of pumpkin carving, 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

## Approved Projects Approved at May 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting and October 13, 2012 Special Town Meeting

Project:.....Patton Homestead Legal and Closing Costs  
Applicant: ..... Town of Hamilton  
Cost:.....\$24,000  
CPA Purpose: .....Historic Preservation, Open Space and Recreation  
Description: ..... To cover the closing and related legal costs for the Patton Homestead acquisition.

Project: .....Design and Engineering for Patton Homestead  
Applicant: ..... Town of Hamilton  
Cost:..... \$75,000  
CPA Purpose: ....Open Space and Recreation  
Description: ..... To cover the design, engineering and permitting costs for the development of open space and recreation fields at the Patton Homestead property.

Project:.....Donovan Playing Fields Bond Payment  
Cost:.....\$47,800  
CPA Purpose: .....Open Space  
Description: ..... To fund the FY13 bond payment (\$46,000 in principle and \$10,837.50 in interest) for the Donovan open space acquisition.

Project:.....Patton Park Playground  
Applicant:.....Friends of Patton Park  
Cost:.....\$25,000  
CPA Purpose: .....Recreation  
Description: ..... To fund the new playground at Patton Park.

Project:.....Patton Park Pool Studies  
Applicant:.....Friends of Patton Park  
Cost:.....\$150,000  
CPA Purpose: .....Recreation  
Description: ..... To fund planning and site engineering for the Patton Park Pool.

Project:.....Senior Center Ceiling and Railing  
Applicant:.....Town of Hamilton  
Cost:.....\$7,500  
CPA Purpose: .....Historic Preservation  
Description: ..... To fund ceiling repairs and new railing at the Hamilton Senior Center.

Project: .....CPA Administration  
Cost: .....\$20,850  
CPA Purpose: ....Administration  
Description: .....5% of the CPA revenues for administration costs including, but not limited to, annual Community Preservation Coalition membership fee and salary for part-time CPC Coordinator position.

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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. A Certificate of Compliance is issued and the process is complete.

The Commission also investigates violations of the Wetlands Act and local Conservation Bylaw and the Commission issues Enforcement Orders or Violation Notices if appropriate.

Aside 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 Com-

- monwealth's Department of Environmental Protection and;
- Work with the other Town departments to address issues of common concern.

## 2012 Special Events, Projects and Issues:

- Commissioners attended the annual MACC Conference in Worcester in March 2012.
- The Commission reviewed and submitted to the Town for acceptance at Town Meeting, the 2012 FEMA FIRM maps (Flood Insurance Rate Maps).
- Mass Audubon filed with HCC, and received approval for debris and general clean of wetlands and Woodland lots that Audubon owns in the Lake Drive area.
- Virginia Cookson served as the Commission representative on the Chebacco Woods Land Management Committee and Keith Glidden served as the Commission representative on the Community Preservation Committee.

## 2012 Filings and Other Regulatory Decisions

- 14 Requests for Determination
- 7 Orders of Conditions and Orders of Resource Area Delineation
- 1 Amendment and Modifications of Orders of Conditions
- 3 Enforcement Orders and Violation Notices
- 1 Extension under the Bylaw
- 10 Certificates of Compliance

## 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Members and Staff as Sept. 2012 (*Term Expiration*)  
Richard Luongo, *Chairman*(2015)  
Virginia Cookson (2013)  
Robert Cronin (2013)  
Peter Dana (2015)  
Keith Glidden (2014)  
George Tarr (2014)  
Stacy Carpenter (2015)  
John Rhoads (*associate member*)  
John Hendrickson (*associate member*)  
James Hankin, *Coordinator*

# Planning Board

### Planning Initiatives

The Planning Board held general discussions on the topics listed below at one or more of their open public meetings.

- *Ground Water Protection Overlay District* – The members of the Board discussed difficulties associated with the language and application of this overlay district.
- *Anaerobic Digester Report* – The Board was in receipt of a report on the feasibility of an anaerobic digester to be located at the site of the landfill. They had a discussion of the report.
- *Master Plan Goals & Implementation Review* – The new planning coordinator reviewed all of the implementation strategies in the Master Plan with the Planning Board. An assessment of completed items and topics that remained was produced.
- *Flood Plain Bylaw Update - 2012 F.E.M.A. Maps & Language updates* – All communities within the Commonwealth and nationwide were asked to review and update the FEMA flood maps due to advancements in technology. A bylaw revision was required to adopt the new maps and flood language.
- *Senior Housing Bylaw Sunset Extension* – The Planning Board discussed the sunset clause in the Senior Housing Bylaw. They agreed to provide a three year extension of the sunset.

### Regulatory Responsibilities

#### *Special Permits*

No special permit applications were reviewed in 2012.

#### *Site Plan Review*

The Planning Board reviewed applications for site plan review and provided advisory letters to the ZBA for the following addresses:

- Mikes Auto – 17 Bay Rd.
- Pingree School Gymnasium and Art Building Expansion – Highland St.
- Patton Park Playground – Bay Road
- 227 Willow Street

#### *Approval Not Required*

The Planning Board conducted reviews of Form A applications for subdivisions and/or lot line adjustments for the following addresses:

- 202-222 Willow St.
- 609 – 617 Highland St.
- 19 Arthur & 42 Grant Ave.
- 877 Highland St.
- 49 & 75 Miles River Road
- 641 Bay Road
- 482 Bay Road
- 514 & 518 & 522 Bay Road

### *Scenic Byways – Stone Walls and Trees*

The Planning Board held public hearings for alterations to stone walls and trees along scenic byways.

- Cutler Road – Spring tree removal / maintenance at the request of the DPW. Three trees were removed.
- Bridge Street Maintenance of Gas Lines – No scenic trees were removed.
- 45 Miles River Road Stone Wall – A portion of the stone wall was removed to install a new driveway.
- 64 Goodhue Street Stone Wall – A portion of the stone wall was removed for a driveway.
- Waldingfield Street Stone Wall – A portion of the stone wall was removed for a driveway.

### Other Related Planning Matters

#### *Hamilton Development Corporation*

In 2012, the Planning Coordinator met with the Economic Development Committee to re-assess their goals. The town act creating the Hamilton Development Corporation was also reviewed. The Board of Selectmen provided a few appointees to the HDC and the Corporation began meetings under the Articles specified in the Act.

#### *Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust*

In 2012, the Planning Coordinator with the support of the Affordable Housing Trust initiated a planning session to update the expiring Housing Production Plan. Technical assistance from MAPC was provided and a revised Plan was completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Clark, *Chairman*

Ed Howard, *Clerk*

Evelyn Shuman

Rick Mitchell

Rob McKean

Ed Howard

Brian Stein

Claudia Woods (*associate member*)

Marcie Ricker & Kristine Cheetham, *Planning Coordinator*

# Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a total of Thirteen (13) petitions in 2012. A summary of the Board's actions are as noted below:

(2)	Petition for Extension/Alteration of a Non-Conforming Structure	Granted
(1)	Petition for Extension/Alteration of a Non-Conforming Structure	Granted with Conditions
(1)	Petition for Special Permit and Extension/Alteration of a Non-Conforming Use	Granted with Conditions
(1)	Petition for Special Permit for Temporary Additional Living Area	Granted with Conditions
(2)	Petition for Special Permit for Accessory Apartment	Granted with Conditions
(1)	Petition for Site Plan Review	Granted
(1)	Petition for Site Plan Review	Granted with Conditions
(1)	Petition for Abbreviated Site Plan Review	Granted
(2)	Petition for Abbreviated Site Plan Review	Granted with Conditions
(1)	Petition for Variance	Withdrawn without Prejudice

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Bowler, *Chairman*

# Annual Town Meeting

**TOWN OF HAMILTON  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Saturday, May 12, 2012  
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**

At the close of registration on April 20, 2012 there were 5,695 registered voters.

Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the 219th Annual Town Meeting at 9:00 A.M. with 299 voters checked and present.

- Precinct 1 – 119
- Precinct 2 – 95
- Precinct 3 – 85

The Moderator appointed the Assistant Moderator who was duly sworn.

Assistant Moderator  
Richard Flynn ..... 183 Linden Street

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

**AUDITORIUM**

Left Sue Ackerman..... 16 Greenbrook Rd  
Robert Preston..... 297 Sagamore St

Center Walter Leszczynski ..... 10 Honeysuckle Rd  
Gelean Campbell..... 11 Naples Rd

Right Carol Mazzetta ..... 4 Gifford Road  
Emily Cook ..... 110 Linden St

Cafeteria Mary Lou Groesbeck ..... 163 Railroad Avenue

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 one teller. 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.

**Announcements or other:**

Refreshments by Generals Volleyball Boosters supervised by Cheryl and John Walsh. The Moderator recognized Jen Scuteri, Selectmen Chair, John McWane, Finance Committee Chair, and Michael Lombardo, Town Manager who gave reports. Ms. Scuteri thanked Selectman David Carey for five years of service on the Board of Selectmen and John McWane thanked Laurie Wilson for her contribution to Finance Committee.

The audience was led by the Cub Scouts in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Introduction of front table:**

- Bruce Ramsey – *Moderator*
- Jane Wetson – *Town Clerk*

**Board of Selectmen:**

- Jeffrey Hubbard
- Jeffrey Stinson
- Marc Johnson
- Jennifer Scuteri – *Chairman*
- David Carey

**Finance and Advisory Committee:**

- John McWane – *Co-Chairman*
- Laurie Wilson – *Co-Chairman*
- William Boesch
- Joseph Santarelli

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Michael Lombardo – *Town Manager*  
Deborah Nippes-Mena – *Finance Director*  
Donna Brewer – *Town Counsel*  
Christine Lindberg – *Assistant to the Town Manager*

On a procedural note, the Moderator noted that a time clock would be used giving ten 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. In addition, that ringer on cell phones should be turned off and calls taken outside and texting done with discretion. He mentioned that Town Meeting would be recessed until May 24, 2012 at 7 o'clock at the Winthrop School for the Town election. The Moderator noted that the meeting would be televised and outlined appropriate ATM meeting etiquette by participants. He also explained corrections in the warrant.

## SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

### ARTICLE 2012/5 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 24, 2011 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Winthrop School.

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

Moderator said the vote on Article 1-1 is by ballot on Thursday, May 24, 2011 at the Winthrop School. The polls will be opened at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.

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### ARTICLE 2012/5 1-2 Reports

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

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

### VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

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### Article 2012/5 1-3 Article for Consent Motion

#### 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.

The Moderator recognized Jennifer Scuteri.

#### Procedural Motion to Take Up Certain Articles Out of Order:

Moved by Jennifer Scuteri, Chair Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the following numbered Motions as set forth in Proposed Consent Motions List for this 2012 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:

#### Motion numbers:

- 2-1 Transfer from Overlay Surplus to Allowance for Abate-ments & Exemptions – That the Town transfer \$9,090.00 from Overlay Surplus to FY 12 Allowance for Abate-ments and Exemptions
- 2-2 Increase FY 12 Waste Enterprise Budget to Accommodate Purchases of Bins – That the Town transfer \$35,527.00 from available funds to increase the FY 12 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget
- 2-3 Waste Enterprise Retained Earnings – That the Town appropriate \$12,000.00 from Waste Reduction Enterprise Earnings to be used in FY 12 for the purchase of solid and organic waste bins.
- 2-4 Compensation/Classification Table – That the Town amend the Personnel By-law by adopting changes to the classifica-tion and compensation table, copies of which are on file with the Town Clerk and which are set forth in Appendix A to the 2012 Appendix Book.
- 2-12 OPEB Trust Fund – That the Town – That the Town raise and appropriate \$25,000.00 for deposit in the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

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## ARTICLES THAT WERE HELD

2-6 Water Enterprise Budget – That the Town approve \$1,009,895.00 for the FY 13 Water Enterprise Budget as set forth in Appendix D to the 2012 Appendix Book.

2-10 Annual Financial Actions – That the Town authorize the following financial actions:

- A. To transfer \$2,000.00 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to the General Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. To transfer \$413.00 from the Clark Property Fund to the Conservation Fund;
- C. To transfer \$334,307.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;
- D. To transfer \$334,270.00 from the General Fund to the Waste Reduction Enterprise Fund to be used for solid waste expenses.

2-13 Retained Earnings For Capital Purchases for Water Enterprise – That the Town appropriate \$140,000.00 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to fund capital purchases of a dump truck and a utility truck to be used for Water Enterprise purposes.

5-5 Drainage Easements on Gregory Island Road – That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept three gifts of easements on Gregory Island Road, on terms and conditions acceptable to the Selectmen, for the purpose of maintaining or protecting the Town’s drainage system.

The Moderator explained the 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, where he gives 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 both in the Lobby and front of the Hall. The Motion numbers are the same as the corresponding Warrant Article numbers. He read the list of article motions and anyone with a question about a motion, or wanted to debate or oppose the motion, should loudly say “HOLD” when he states the motion number. If he hears the voter saying “HOLD”, he will remove such motion from the list and it will be taken up in the usual order. Town Meeting will then vote on the motions that were not held out as a group.

The Moderator said the remaining articles in the Consent Motion are: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, and 2-12 then he called for the vote on Article 1-3.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

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## MOTION TO TAKE ARTICLE OUT OF ORDER (Article 2-9) Requires a 2/3rds Vote

Moderator said there is another motion to take another article out of order.

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

Moved by Marc Johnson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town move the consideration of Article 2-9, the Community Preservation Committee Budget, until directly after consideration of Article 5-1 and before Article 5-2.

The Moderator explained that this motion requires a 2/3rds vote, pursuant to Ch. II, Section 1 of our Town Bylaws.

Johnson explained that Community Preservation Committee budget and Community Preservation Act funds could be used to pay for closing costs associated with Patton Family Gift so the motion on Article 2-9 was taken out of order before vote on whether or not Town should accept Patton property as gift.

The Moderator called for the voice vote.

## VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

To move article to after Article 5-1

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## ARTICLE 2012/5 2-5 General Town Appropriations

The Moderator read page 5 of the 2012 Appendix Book, and read each appropriation and said for any item a voter would like to discuss separately, please shout out “HOLD”:

	\$ 1,680,111	for General Government,
	\$ 2,274,967	for Protection of Persons & Property,
HELD	\$ 15,437,356	for HW Regional School District,
	\$ 909,639	for Department of Public Works,
	\$ 613,902	for Health and Human Services,
	\$ 600,400	for Library,
	\$ 34,433	for Elder Van Program,
	\$ 113,709	for Recreation,
	\$ 1,775,004	for Unclassified,
	\$ 1,380,313	for Debt-Principal & Interest,

Totaling \$ 24,819,834.

Moved by William Boesch, 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 2013 Fiscal Year Budget in Appendix B of the 2012 Appendix Book [with the additions and

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corrections read by the Moderator] excepting those items held.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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The Moderator called for the motion on the HELD item:  
HW Regional School District and recognized William Boesch.

Moved by William Boesch, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$15,437,356.00 for schools.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Peter Gray summarized the FY 13 HWRSD level services budget where he described capital projects and technology request, also mentioning \$793,787 was the projected amount to be returned to the towns if Excess & Deficiency fund were kept at 3%.

The Moderator recognized John McWane.

Moved by John McWane, Chair Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, to amend the amount to raise and appropriate for schools to be \$15,151,673.00.

Comments are heard from John McWane, School Committee Vice Chair Roger Keubel, Bill Bowler, Essex Street, Tracey Mayor, Fox Run Road, Jay Burnham, North Street, Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Jennifer Scuteri, and William Boesch.

The Moderator called for the vote to amend the main motion to change the amount to raise and appropriate to \$15,151,673.00.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES  
To Amend**

The Moderator then called for the vote on the amended motion to raise and appropriate for the schools to be \$15,151,673.00.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-6 Water Enterprise Budget**

The Moderator recognized John McWane.

Moved by John McWane, Chair Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town approve \$1,009,895.00 for the FY 13 Water Enterprise Budget as set forth in Appendix D to the 2012 Appendix Book.

The Moderator calls for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-7 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget**

Moved by John McWane, Chair Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town approve \$445,029.00 for the FY 13 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget as set forth in Appendix E to the 2012 Appendix Book.

The Moderator calls for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-8 North Shore Regional Vocational School District Budget**

The Moderator recognized David Ketchum.

Moved by David Ketchum, member of North Shore Regional Vocational School District, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$144,600.00 for the Town's assessed portion of the North Shore Regional Vocational School District's FY 13 budget.

The Moderator calls for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-10 Annual Financial Actions**

The Moderator recognized John McWane.

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

- A. To transfer \$2,000.00 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to the General Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. To transfer \$413.00 from the Clark Property Fund to the Conservation Fund;
- C. To transfer \$334,307.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;
- D. To transfer \$334,270.00 from the General Fund to the Waste Reduction Enterprise Fund to be used for solid waste expenses.

The Moderator calls for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-11 Annual Authorization of Revolving Funds**

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

Moved by Marc Johnson, 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 13 spending limit of \$223,739.00, reauthorize the Council on Aging Revolving Fund, with an FY 13 spending limit of \$16,700.00 and authorize the Emergency Dispensing Services and Clinic Revolving Fund, with an FY 13 spending limit of \$3,000.00, with specified programs for expenditures, receipts to be credited, boards authorized to expend and disposition of fund balance to be as set forth in Appendix G to the 2012 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-13 Retained Earnings for Capital Purchases for Water Enterprise**

The Moderator recognized David Carey.

Moved by David Carey, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$140,000.00 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to fund capital purchases of a dump truck and a utility truck to be used for Water Enterprise purposes.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-14 Debt Borrowing for Vehicle and Howard Street Culvert**

**Requires 2/3rd vote**

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

Moved by Marc Johnson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that \$175,000 is appropriated for the purchase of a Department of Public Works truck plow / sanding vehicle and for reconstructing the Howard St Culvert, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$175,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Board of

Selectmen is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the projects; and further, to raise and appropriate \$63,000 for the FY 2013 debt service on such debt; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects.

The Moderator noted that an authorization of debt requires a 2/3rd vote.

Marc Johnson and Dick Flynn, Linden Street, spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES by 2/3rds vote declared by the Moderator**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-15 Debt Borrowing for Water Enterprise Distribution System Replacement Program**

**Requires 2/3rd vote**

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

Moved by Marc Johnson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that \$5,000,000 is appropriated for the purpose of financing the construction of designing and reconstructing the town's water system and facilities including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$5,000,000 and issue bonds or notes therefore under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the project.

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The Moderator recognized Town Manager Michael Lombardo who spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the 2/3rd vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES by 2/3rds vote declared by the Moderator**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-16 Capital Appropriation for Sidewalks**

The Moderator recognized Jeffrey Stinson.

Moved by Jeffrey Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for construction, reconstruction or repair of Town sidewalks.

Michael Lombardo spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-17 Fund for Downtown Improvements**

The Moderator recognized Jeffrey Hubbard.

Moved by Jeffrey Hubbard, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate from Certified Free Cash \$23,000 for Downtown Improvements as presented in the Appendix H made available to voters in attendance, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk to be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

Jeff Hubbard, Bob Bullivant, Essex Street, Marc Johnson, John McWane, Robert Forsetti, Cutler Road, and Jennifer Scuteri spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

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## **SECTION 3: PLANNING/ZONING ACTIONS**

### **ARTICLE 2012/5 3-1 V.F Flood Plain District (FEMA Flood Maps)**

**Requires 2/3rd vote**

The Moderator recognized Peter Clark for zoning bylaw amendment.

Moved by Peter Clark, Chair Planning Board, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting Chapter V.F and replacing it with a new Section V.F entitled "Flood Plain District," the language being that set forth in Appendix I to the 2012 Appendix Book.

Clark, Bill Bowler, Essex Street, and Lombardo spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the 2/3rd vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **SECTION 4: TOWN BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

NONE

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## **SECTION 5: OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ACTIONS**

The Moderator noted that Articles 5-1, 5-3, and 5-5 do not require two-thirds votes.

### **ARTICLE 2012/5 5-1 Accept Gift of Patton Homestead**

The Moderator recognized Stacy Carpenter.

Moved by Stacy Carpenter, Patton Family Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the deed to the town of a gift of land, fee simple interest, to one parcel of land at 650 Asbury Street, Hamilton, Essex County, Massachusetts, being a property known as the Patton Homestead, the parcel consisting of 27.20 ± acres of land, buildings and structures, identified as Map 19, Lot 1 in the records of the Hamilton Assessors, on file with the Town Clerk all on such terms and conditions as are acceptable to the Board of Selectmen.

Stacy Carpenter presented information about proposed gift and spoke to motion.

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Moved by Bill Dery, Chebacco Road, duly seconded, moved an amendment that this matter be referred to the Advisory Committee for further study and development of which will include a definitive business plan which has inclusive a zero cost projection and escape clause in the event of failure and it becomes a tax burden.

Bill Dery, Marc Johnson, Peter Clark, Bill Bowler, Essex Street, Forrester Clark, Bridge Street, Mrs. Joanne Patton, Asbury Street, and Zachary Peters, Lake Drive, and Jennifer Scuteri spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the vote on Dery's amendment to amend motion to refer to the Advisory Committee for further study.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION TO AMEND ---DOES NOT PASS**

The Moderator called for the vote on the main motion moved by Stacy Carpenter to accept the gift of the Patton homestead. He noted that this required a majority vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 2-9 Community Preservation Committee Budget**

The Moderator read the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee and explained to voters to shout out a "HOLD" for any item they were interested in separating for discussion. The budget appears as Appendix F of the 2012 Appendix Book. The proposed financial actions are as follows:

1. Historic Preservation, Open Space and Recreation – Project  
To appropriate \$24,000 of the Community Preservation FY12 Fund Balance unreserved for the closing and related legal costs for the Patton Estate Acquisition.
2. Open Space and Recreation – Project  
To appropriate \$75,000 of the Community Preservation FY12 Fund Balance unreserved for the design, engineering and permitting costs for the development of the open space and recreation fields at the Patton property.
3. Open Space – Project  
To appropriate \$47,800.00 of FY13 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund the debt service for the Donovan Acquisition (\$43,900.00 in principal and \$3,900.00 in interest).
4. Historic Preservation – Reserve

To reserve \$41,700.00 of FY13 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to the Community Preservation Fund Historic Preservation Reserve.

5. Community Housing – Reserve  
To reserve \$41,700.00 of FY13 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve.
6. Administration – Expense  
To appropriate \$20,850.00 of FY13 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for administration costs including, but not limited to, Annual Community Preservation Coalition membership fees and salary for part-time Community Preservation Committee Coordinator position.

The Moderator recognized Tom Catalano for the Community Preservation Committee Report, Property and Uses.

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chair 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- NO ITEMS WERE 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.

Tom Catalano, Jerry Beauregard, Hamilton Avenue, and Michael Lombardo spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the majority vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 5-2 Citizen's Petition – Right of Way Study and Topographic Survey for Essex Street Sidewalk and Trail**

The Moderator recognized Rudolph Pizzano and Steven O'Brien.

Bill Bowler, Essex Street, Chris Davis, Partridge Berry Lane, Catalano, Karen Dieruf-McElvain, Rust Street, and Becky

# Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

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O'Brien, Essex Street, spoke to the article.

Moved by Rudolph Pizzano, Essex Street, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$19,500.00 from Certified Free Cash for a Right of Way and Topographic Survey for a planned Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail along the 2.5 mile long corridor of Essex Street, Hamilton, Massachusetts, from the Wenham, Massachusetts town line to the Sagamore Street, Hamilton intersection near the Essex, Massachusetts town line, and to authorize and require the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen, as appropriate, to execute documents, sign warrants of authorization to make payments and take such other action as may be necessary to complete this survey within three months.

The Moderator called for the majority vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 5-3 Discover Hamilton Trail Easement**

The Moderator recognized Tom Catalano.

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chair Community Preservation Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement being shown on a plan on file with the Town Clerk for recreational purposes as part of the Discover Hamilton Trail program.

Catalano spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the majority vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 5-4 Rescind Vote of May 2006 ATM Article 5-1 to Sell Town-owned Land**

The Moderator recognized Elizabeth Silva.

Moved by Elizabeth Silva, Lake Drive, duly seconded, that the Town rescind the authorization extended to the Board of Selectmen by vote on the motion of Article 5-1 at the May 2006 Annual Town Meeting to sell a parcel of town-owned land, Map 54, Lot 6 in the records of the Hamilton Assessors.

Silva spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/5 5-5 Drainage Easement on Gregory Island Road**

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

Moved by Marc Johnson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept three gifts of easements on Gregory Island Road, on terms and conditions acceptable to the selectmen, for the purpose of maintaining or protecting the Town's drainage system.

Lombardo spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **SECTION 6: CLOSING FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

### **ARTICLE 2012/5 6-1 Free Cash Application**

The Moderator recognized William Boesch.

Moved by William Boesch, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town reserve, appropriate and authorize the Assessors to use \$300,000.00 of available certified free cash to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012.

Boesch spoke to the article.

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

Moved by Marc Johnson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, to amend the amount to reserve, appropriate and authorize of available certified free cash to increase the amount to \$350,000.00 to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012.

Jennifer Scuteri, Stinson, Laurie Wilson and John McWane spoke to the motion.

The Moderator called the vote on the motion to amend the amount by increasing it from \$300,000.00 to \$350,000.00.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES to amend declared by the Moderator**

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The Moderator called the vote on the main motion that the Town reserve, appropriate and authorize the Assessors to use \$350,000.00 of available certified free cash to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

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The Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m. The Moderator recessed the Annual Town Meeting until May 24, 2012 at 7 o'clock a.m. at the Winthrop School for the Annual Town Election.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:



Jane M. Wetson, CMMC  
Town Clerk

# Annual Town Election

Town of Hamilton Annual town election  
 May 24, 2012 Official

Registered Voters 5,695 - 12 % Voted

Precinct 1..... 260  
 Precinct 2..... 202  
 Precinct 3.....193  
 Total ..... 655

\*\* Candidtae for Reelection

Candidate Name	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	TO-TALS
<b>Selectman</b> (Vote for Two - 3 yrs)				
Blanks	164	103	106	373
<b>Jennifer Taub Scuteri**</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>David G. Neill</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>519</b>
Write-ins	10	3	4	17
<b>Moderator (1 year)</b>				
Blanks	50	35	33	118
<b>Bruce C. Ramsey**</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>529</b>
Write-ins	2	5	1	8
<b>Board of Assessors (3 years)</b>				
Blanks	62	43	47	152
<b>Steven G. Ozahowski**</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>502</b>
Write-ins	0	0	1	1
<b>Planning Board (5 years)</b>				
Blanks	66	42	45	153
<b>Peter B. Clark **</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>496</b>
Write-ins	2	2	2	6
<b>Planning Board (2 years to fill unexpired term)</b>				
Blanks	75	52	51	178
<b>Claudia Allison Woods</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>476</b>
Write-ins	0	0	1	1

<b>Housing Authority (5 years)</b>				
Blanks	58	44	40	142
<b>Warren R. Gray, Jr.</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>511</b>
Write-ins	0	1	1	2
<b>H-W Library Trustee at Large (3 years)</b>				
Blanks	101	67	62	230
<b>Jean M. Buckley**</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>513</b>
<b>Annette V. Janes **</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>566</b>
Write-ins	0	0	1	1
<b>H-W Regional School Committee (Vote for 3 - 3 years)</b>				
Blanks	113	88	97	298
<b>Barbara Kent Lawrence</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>418</b>
<b>Sheila B. MacDonald</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>289</b>
Brett G. McKechnie	87	54	63	204
Melissa Even Moore	88	99	67	254
<b>William W. Wilson</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>500</b>
Write-ins	1	1	0	2
<b>H-W Regional School Committee (Vote for 1 -1 year to fill unexpired term)</b>				
Blanks	74	40	43	157
<b>Lawrence D. Swartz</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>494</b>
Write-ins	1	1	2	4
				0

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<b>H-W School Committee</b> (Vote for 3 – 3 years)	Ham- ilton	Wen- ham		Total
Blanks	298	176		474
<b>Barbara Kent Lawrence</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>224</b>		<b>642</b>
<b>Sheila B. MacDonald</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>173</b>		<b>462</b>
Brett G. McKechnie	204	119		323
Melissa Even Moore	254	128		382
<b>William W. Wilson</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>234</b>		<b>734</b>
Write-ins	2	2		4
<b>H-W Regional School Committee</b> (Vote for 1 – 1 year to fill unex- pired term).	Ham- ilton	Wen- ham		Total
Blanks	157	75		232
<b>Lawrence D. Swartz</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>276</b>		<b>770</b>
Write-ins	4	1		5
<b>H-W Library Trustee At Large</b> (Vote for Two – 3 years)	Ham- ilton	Wen- ham		Total
Blanks	230	0		230
<b>Jean M. Buckley**</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>517</b>
<b>Annette V. Janes **</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>571</b>
Write-ins	1	12		13

## Special Town Meeting

**TOWN OF HAMILTON  
SPECIALTOWN MEETING  
October 13, 2012  
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**

At the close of registration on October 3, 2012 there were 5,775 registered voters.

Precinct 1 – 2006  
Precinct 2 – 1965  
Precinct 3 – 1804

Assistant Moderator  
Richard Flynn                      183 Linden Street

### AUDITORIUM

Left     Phil Stevens        118 Asbury Street  
          Mimi Fanning        122 Railroad Avenue

Center   Jack Lawrence    105 Rock Maple  
          Sue Ackerman    16 Greenbrook Rd.

Right    Dorothea Ingalls   23 Lincoln Avenue  
          Adelaide Liporto   84 Lincoln Avenue

Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the Special Town Meeting at 9:08 A.M. with 121 voters checked and present.

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.

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

Introduction of front table:

Bruce Ramsey – *Moderator*  
Jane Wetson – *Town Clerk*

Board of Selectmen:

Jeffrey Stinson  
Jeffrey Hubbard  
David Neill – **Chairman**  
Jennifer Scuteri  
Marc Johnson

Michael Lombardo – *Town Manager*

Donna Brewer – *Town Counsel*

Maureen Hickey – *Assistant to the Town Manager*

Deborah Nippes-Mena – *Finance Director*

Finance and Advisory Committee:

John McWane – *Chairman*  
Scott Maddern  
Rick Sprenkle  
Charlie Chivakos

Announcements or other: No refreshments are allowed in re-furnished auditorium. In lobby, a fundraiser is being conducted by HW Friends of the Arts where plaques with family names are being sold to be placed on the back of auditorium seats.

On a procedural note, the Moderator noted that three minutes would be allowed for debate. In addition, that ringer on cell phones should be turned off and calls taken outside and texting done with discretion. He mentioned that if action at Town Meeting was not completed today the meeting would be recessed until October 15, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the HW Regional High School. The Moderator noted that there are corrections in the warrant and that the first two articles on bonding need Town Meeting approval and will be placed on the national election ballot on November 6.

### **SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES**

None.

# Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

## SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

### ARTICLE 2012/10 2-1 Approval of Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Borrowing – Cutler Elementary School Roof Project

#### Requires 2/3rd Vote

Moderator noted that there is a correction to this article. The correct maximum percentage rate from the MSBA is 43.3%, not 43%.

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

Moved by Marc Johnson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town approve the \$575,000 borrowing authorized by the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (the “District”) for the purpose of paying costs of replacing the roof at the Cutler Elementary School, located at 237 Asbury Street in Hamilton, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the “Project”), which proposed project would materially extend the useful life of the Cutler Elementary School and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee; that the Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) forty-three point three percent (43.3%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided, however, that the approval of the District’s borrowing by this vote shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. c. 59, § 21C (Proposition 2 ½); and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

The Moderator recognized Superintendent of Schools Michael Harvey and HW Regional School Committee members Roger Kuebel and Bill Dery who presented background information

on the school department’s proposed building maintenance projects that the Capital Management Committee is recommending need to be done.

The Moderator recognized resident Cora Sanders who asked if there are any annual funds set aside in the school budget for general maintenance by the HWRSD. In response, Kuebel said the maintenance amount would be voted as a separate HWRSD budget line item so it would be set aside for maintenance use.

The Moderator noted that this bonding request requires a two-thirds vote. Kuebel said the vote cannot be conditional on anticipation of receiving state aid that all funding has to be authorized in order for HWRSD to receive expected reimbursement from state.

The Moderator stated the vote on the debt exclusion for Article 2-1 is by ballot on Tuesday, the 6th of November, 2012 at the Winthrop School. The polls will be open at 7:00 AM and will close at 8:00 PM

The Moderator called for the card vote.

**CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**  
**Declared by the Moderator**

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### ARTICLE 2012/10 2-2 Approval of Hamilton Wenham Regional School District Borrowing – Various Capital Projects Requires 2/3rd Vote

The Moderator recognized Marc Johnson.

Moved by Marc Johnson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town approve the \$1,500,000 borrowing authorized by the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (the “District”), for the purpose of paying costs of the following capital projects within the District:

Project	Approximate Amount
Replace Winthrop School roof	\$713,000
Install insulation at the Buker School	\$60,000
Replace windows on the Buker School	\$114,000
Install a fire suppression system in the Buker School	\$154,000

# Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

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Replace windows in the Cutler School	\$50,000
Repair and reconstruction in all HWRSD buildings	\$409,000

including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; provided, however, that the approval of the District's borrowing by this vote shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. c. 59, § 21C (Proposition 2 ½).

The Moderator recognized Jack Lawrence, 105 Rock Maple, who acknowledged that the school buildings were in need of maintenance. However, he questioned why \$88,000 was included to re-side the Center School in Wenham and the only occupant is the school administration personnel. He inquired as to when the HWRSD was going to provide an energy plan for its buildings.

The Moderator recognized Town Manager Michael Lombardo who said long term planning is in the works for HWRSD. Also, the Capital Management Committee is prioritizing the capital improvement plan for Hamilton, Wenham and HWRSD facilities in the long term with citizen input.

The Moderator recognized Bill Bowler, 328 Essex Street, who inquired about ESCO energy efficient project and was responded to by Bill Dery who said it would be more expensive to use ESCO.

The Moderator recognized David Neill, Selectmen chair, who said the Board of Selectmen and John McWane, Finance and Advisory Committee chair, that the Finance & Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on these articles.

A resident from 211 Sagamore Street and Jean Towne, Savoy Road, inquired about future plans for Center School building and Winthrop Elementary School building. Dery said a cost/tradeoff efficiency plan is in the works. Matt Nevins of Bittersweet Lane said he was in favor of the article.

The Moderator stated the vote on the debt exclusion for Article 2-2 is by ballot on Tuesday, the 6th of November, 2012 at the Winthrop School. The polls will be open at 7:00 AM and will close at 8:00 PM

The Moderator called for a two-thirds card vote.

**CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE Declared by the Moderator**

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## ARTICLE 2012/10 2-3 CPA Project Appropriations

The Moderator noted that there is a correction in the list of proposed projects. The third project should read to fund repairs and railings.

The Moderator recognized Tom Catalano.

Moved by Tom Catalano, Community Preservation Committee Chair, duly seconded, that the Town act on the Community Preservation Committee recommended specified projects and appropriate \$182,500 from community preservation fund annual revenues, specific reserves or other available funds for the Fiscal Year 2013 as set forth in Appendix B to the Fall 2012 Appendix Book, with the correction as noted by the Moderator.

Catalano described the proposed three Community Preservation Act funded projects that include: \$25,000 for the Patton Park playground renovation, \$150,000 for the redevelopment study for the Patton Park pool, and \$7,500 for The Meeting House improvements.

The Moderator recognized Bill Bowler, Essex Street, who inquired about whether or not Selectmen had made a formal decision about the future use of The Meeting House building. Lombardo mentioned that many repairs had been done to the building and Catalano noted that Hamilton is one of the few communities without a dedicated senior center. Rick Mitchell, 36 Rock Maple, asked that the Historic District signs in Town be replaced. Dery said The Meeting House is a sound structure.

The Moderator called for the card vote.

**CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

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## ARTICLE 2012/10 2-4 Council on Aging Appropriation Increase

Moved by Mimi Fanning, Council on Aging, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$12,407 for an increase to Health and Human Services for the Council on Aging budget for Fiscal Year 2013.

The Moderator recognized Marybeth Lawton, Council on Aging Director, who described reasons for appropriation increase.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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# Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

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## **ARTICLE 2012/10 2-5 Appropriations to Hamilton Development Corporation**

The Moderator recognized David Carey, 8 Arabian Way.

Moved by David Carey, Hamilton Development Corporation, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds \$65,000 for Fiscal 2013 to the Hamilton Development Corporation Fund for its general purposes.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/10 2-6 Compensation/ Classification Table**

The Moderator recognized Jennifer Scuteri.

Moved by Jennifer Scuteri, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Personnel By-Law by adopting changes to the Classification and Compensation Table as set forth in the handout, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the record of this Meeting.

Town Manager, Michael Lombardo provided details on this article.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

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## **ARTICLE 2012/10 2-7 General Fund Appropriation Increase – Retroactive Cost of Living Adjustment**

The Moderator recognized John McWane.

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Committee Chair, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds \$3,100 to Protection of Persons & Property, \$7,800 to Department of Public Works, and \$1,500 to Health & Human Services, all to be used for wage and salary retroactive increases for Fiscal Year 2012.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ARTICLE 2012/10 2-8 General Fund Appropriation Transfer –Cost of Living Increase**

The Moderator recognized John McWane.

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Committee Chair, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$30,400 from Unclassified to \$9,300 General Government, \$5,000 Protection of Persons & Property, \$10,000 Department of Public Works, \$5,000 Health & Human Services and \$1,100 Joint Programs, all for cost of living increase for wages and salaries.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SECTION 3: PLANNING/ZONING ACTIONS**

None.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SECTION 4: TOWN BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

### **ARTICLE 2012/10 4-1 Adopt Bylaw to Provide Water through Mutual Aid Agreement**

#### **Town Bylaw**

The Moderator recognized Jeff Stinson.

Moved by Jeff Stinson, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws by adding a new Section 4, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 39H, to Chapter VIII Town Contracts to read:

The Town, by and through the selectmen in their capacity as Water Commissioners, is authorized to enter into contracts or extend aid to any other municipality or its water district with regard to the operation, administration, repair and maintenance of its water supply system, subject to such terms and conditions as are acceptable to the selectmen. Contracts under this section may not exceed twenty (20) years, or such maximum term as permitted under G.L. c. 40, § 39H. All other requirements of G.L. c. 40, § 39H shall apply to contracts or aid extended under this section.

# Town Meeting Minutes and Election Documentation

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Stinson noted that the Board of Selectmen recommends favorable action on this article. Lombardo provided details on this article.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SECTION 5: OTHER ACTIONS**

### **ARTICLE 2012/10 5-1 Beech St. Easement Requires 2/3rd Vote**

The Moderator recognized David Neill.

Moved by David Neill, Board of Selectmen Chair, duly seconded, that the Town grant an easement across town land abutting Beech Street and Chebacco Lake for water line purposes to the owner of 1 Beech Street, Hamilton, as shown on a plan on file with the Town Clerk.

Lombardo provided details on this article.

The Moderator called for the two thirds card vote.

**CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE  
Declared by the Moderator**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ARTICLE 2012/10 5-2 Drainage Easements Requires 2/3rd Vote**

The Moderator recognized David Neill.

Moved by David Neill, Board of Selectmen Chair, duly seconded, that the Town accept easements for underground culvert pipes between Howard Street and the wetlands to the West of Howard Street.

Lombardo provided details on this article.

The Moderator called for a two-thirds card vote.

**CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE  
Declared by the Moderator**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SECTION 6: CLOSING FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

### **ARTICLE 2012/10 6-2 Free Cash Application**

The Moderator recognized John McWane.

Moved by John McWane, Finance and Advisory Committee Chair, duly seconded, that the Town take no action on this article.

McWane spoke to the article.

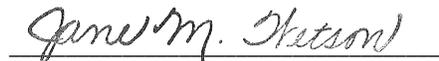
The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY  
To take no action**

\*\*\*\*\*

Meeting dissolved at 10:46 a.m. The Moderator noted that the vote on the debt exclusion for Articles 2-1 and 2-2 is by ballot on Tuesday, the 6th of November 2012 during the state election at the Winthrop School.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:



Jane M. Wetson, CMMC  
Town Clerk

# Financial Reports

All financial data cover the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

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 April 4, 2013.

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

## **Town Audit**

An audit of the Town of Hamilton's 2012 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 2013, the total assessed taxable valuation of Hamilton is \$1,291,952,004.00 with a property tax levy of \$22,182,815.92. The fiscal year 2013 tax rate as certified by the Department of Revenue is \$17.17 down \$.15 from the previous year. Building permits issued in 2012 resulted in an additional \$186,907 in tax levy growth.

In 2012, the Board of Assessors completed their mandatory Interim Year Adjustments 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 2786 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 \$461,500. 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	1,222,152,600	95%	\$20,984,345	95%
Commercial	53,065,500	4%	\$911,137	4%
Industrial	711,500	1%	\$12,223	1%
Personal	16,022,404	1%	\$275,111	1%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,291,952,004</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$22,182,816</b>	<b>100%</b>

Also in 2012, 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*

# Finance and Advisory Committee

The following is a report of financial actions and the financial status of the Town of Hamilton during the 2012 calendar year.

## **Fiscal 2012 Summary**

### *Town Operations*

The Fiscal 2012 sources of funds and revenue have stabilized and appear to indicate a shift in the local economy. The largest local receipt Motor Vehicle Excise continues to increase with a jump of 2.4% over fiscal 2011. Building permits jumped by 18% over its all time low for the last two fiscal years. The town sold a parcel of land from a tax taking on Hatfield Road for \$181,500. The collection of Tax Revenue continues to lag driving higher payments of penalty and interest generating an additional source of receipts. The outstanding receivable for Fiscal 2012 was \$170,654 and the tax title receivable continues to be at record high of \$551,030. The combined impact was an increase local receipts collected were \$184,634.

The Town's departments under spent the expense budget by \$613,191. The largest singular amount of \$114,310 is a direct result of the implementation of the new Health Insurance Plans. This included an OPT-Out option for which 7 employees choose to take an advantage by participating. The use of discounts to reduce retirement and general and work compensation insurance combined with organizations changes impacting Medicare and Unemployment \$66,284. A warm winter resulted in a savings of \$84,914 from Snow Removal. The Police Department returned \$86,418, Emergency Report Center \$34,882, Finance Committee Reserve Fund returned \$28,900, Legal Services \$28,749, and Elections \$8,000.

The Town's Certified Free Cash for Fiscal 2012 is \$2,004,703.

### *Enterprise Operations*

#### *Water Enterprise*

The Fiscal 2012 revenues were \$1,009,783 to an expense of \$938,164. The year closed with an outstanding receivable of \$43,618.71. The use of retained earnings for purchase of vehicles reduced the certified retained earnings for Fiscal 2012 \$195,942.

#### *Waste Reduction Enterprise*

The Fiscal 2012 revenues were \$437,532 to an expenses of \$515,127 reducing the retained earnings to (\$1,805). The shortfall in revenue and other sources of funds was directly related to intergovernmental receivables of \$72,436.

## **FY 2013 Budget**

### *Town Operations*

The actual local receipts for Fiscal 2012 provide a basis for a modest increase of the local receipt projections for the Fiscal

2013 revenue by \$66,000. The outstanding tax title revenue could provide a onetime windfall in the future and is not a basis for fiscal 2013 projections. The state funding of local aid was increased by 7.8% providing more support to the Towns. The change in trend is hopeful for the future but the pressure continues on the budget for Fiscal Year 2013 (beginning July 1, 2012). The challenge to minimize the growth in the real estate tax, maintain town services, fund long term liabilities and provide funding for an exceptionally ranked Hamilton-Wenham Regional Schools (HWRSD). 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 2013 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 \$175,000 for the purchase of a vehicle and the replacement of the Howard Street Culvert.
- Authorized the Selectmen to borrow \$5,000,000 to begin a ten year capital Improvement Plan for the town's water distribution system.
- Authorized the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District to borrow \$2,075,000 for the replacement of the roof at Cutler and Winthrop Schools, window replacement at Cutler and Buker Schools, install insulation at the Buker School, and repair and construction in all the HWRSD buildings.
- Authorized the funding of 5 year construction and/or reconstruction of the Town's sidewalk network. First year funding is \$50,000.
- Authorized the funding of \$25,000 for the third year to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability (OPEBL) Trust Fund to reduce the unfunded liability for health care and other post employee benefits.

# Financial Reports

- Authorized the use of \$140,000 of Retained Earnings for the purpose of purchasing vehicles for the Water Enterprise Operations.
- Acceptance of Patton Homestead as a gift from the Patton Family. The value of this gift is \$2,135,300. A temporary reduction in tax revenue of \$36,663 annually until the development of 4 acres for mixed use is implemented.

## Debt Status

The debt structure for the Fiscal 2013 budget is as follows:

Debt	Original Amount	Remaining Balance	Term	FY 2013
<b>Levy Exclusion</b>				
Public Safety Building	\$ 8,372,385	\$ 4,809,743	2026	\$ 454,657
Public Safety Building	\$ 321,500	\$ 112,000	2017	\$ 31,500
Joint Library	\$ 1,204,868	\$ 900,888	2020	\$ 147,725
Water Plant	\$1,831,838	\$ 1,356,868	2020	\$ 229,375
HWRSD-2009*	\$18,411,489	\$11,055,310	2019	\$1,841,232
<b>Within the Levy Limit</b>				
ESCO	\$301,277	\$ 262,245	2020	\$ 35,700
<b>Other Sources of Funds</b>				
Donovan Property	\$415,037	\$ 311,200	2020	\$ 47,000
Water Plant Filtration	\$340,413	\$ 245,900	2018	\$ 50,925

The debt financed as part of the tax structure is \$1,255,625 which represents about \$.97 on the tax rate or about \$381 on the median priced home of \$393,000. For FY2013 HWRSD debt service payment was comprised of 61% MSBA, 25.6% Hamilton and 13.4% Wenham.

## Tax Rate and Levy Limit Status

The estimated tax rate for FY 2013 will have a decrease of \$0.15 per \$1,000 of evaluation from \$17.32 to \$17.17. Note, however, that the tax rate depends on property valuations, which are updated every year. The FY 2013 budget and estimated tax rate are composed of the following:

Budget Item	Amount	Tax Rate
Town Net Budget	\$ 5,630,918	\$ 4.34
HW Regional Schools	\$15,151,673	11.73
No. Shore Regional School	\$ 144,600	.13
Town Debt	\$ 1,255,625	.97
Total	\$22,182,816	\$17.17

Based on the approved FY 2013 budget, the town is under the allowable real estate tax levy limit by \$1,873,538.

## Fund Balances

At the end of FY 2012, key fund balances were as follows:

• Stabilization Fund.....	\$ 733,123
• General Fund.....	\$2,412,912
• Cash Reserves.....	\$1,350,982
• OPEB Trust Fund .....	\$ 50,238
• Water Enterprise Fund .....	\$ 195,946
• Community Preservation Fund .....	\$ 1,570,995

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 5% 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 first time applicants were 40 totaling a request of \$73,863.40 in real estate exemptions. 35 were qualified for funding totaling \$63,759. The Fiscal 2013 funding is \$75,000.

## Financial Audit

The audit of the Town's financial statements for FY 2012 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 Fin Com 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*  
 Scott Maddern, *Secretary*  
 Charles Chivakos  
 Rick Sprinkle  
 Nancy Gerardi-Walsh

# Treasurer/Collector

I hereby submit my Annual Report as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Hamilton for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

July 1, 2011	\$6,513,754
Receipts	\$27,497,226
Disbursements	<u>(\$26,436,499)</u>
June 30, 2012	<u>\$7,574,481</u>

## Segregated Cash Accounts - June 30, 2012

Affordable Housing Trust	\$ 125,160
Clark Property Fund	\$ 218,484
Conservation Commission	\$ 97,353
Cultural Council	\$ 7,555
CPA	\$ 1,934,956
Junction	\$ 188
Landfill	\$ 190,042
OPEB Fund	\$ 50,238
Planning	\$ 1,123
Stabilization Fund	\$ 733,124
Trust Funds	<u>\$ 470,520</u>
	\$ 3,828,742

Respectfully Submitted,

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

# Treasurer/Collector (cont.)

COLLECTIONS	YEAR	July – December	January – June	Total
REAL ESTATE	2012	\$ 10,815,638	\$ 10,986,314	\$ 21,801,952
	2011	\$ 163,351	\$	\$ 163,351
	Prior to 2010	\$ 5,151		\$ 5,151
		\$ 10,984,140	\$ 10,986,314	\$ 21,970,454
PERSONAL PROPERTY	2012	\$ 130,351	\$ 136,737	\$ 267,088
	2011	\$ 188	\$ 305	\$ 493
	Prior to 2010			
		\$ 130,539	\$ 137,042	\$ 267,581
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	2012	\$ 819,760	\$ 819,760	
	2011	\$ 99,166	\$ 19,266	\$ 118,432
	2010	\$ 1,956	\$ 1,068	\$ 3,024
	2009	\$ 872	\$ 348	\$ 1,220
	Prior to 2008	\$	\$ 1,817	\$ 1,817
		\$ 101,994	\$ 842,259	\$ 944,253
BOAT EXCISE	2011	\$ 2,167	\$ 219	\$ 2,386
	2010	\$		
	Prior to 2009	\$	\$8	\$ 8
		\$ 2,167	\$ 227	\$ 2,394
WATER				
Rates		\$ 555,550	\$ 406,780	\$ 962,330
General Billing		\$ 2,680	\$ 2,745	\$ 5,425
Liens		\$ 8,434	\$ 26,956	\$ 35,390
Penalties & Interest		\$ 2,872	\$ 150	\$ 3,022
		\$ 569,536	\$ 436,631	\$ 1,006,167
CPA	2012	\$ 171,862	\$ 170,238	\$ 342,100
	Prior to 2011	\$ 2,252		\$ 2,252
	Interest	\$ 299	\$ 556	\$ 855
		\$ 174,413	\$ 170,794	\$ 345,207
TAX TITLES		\$ 156,377	\$ 134,297	\$ 290,674
MISC		\$ 12	\$ 267	\$ 279
PENALTIES & INTEREST		\$ 53,076	\$ 131,246	\$ 184,322
MUNICIPAL LIEN CERTIFICATES		\$ 7,750	\$ 9,200	\$ 16,950
TOTAL		\$ 12,180,004	\$ 12,848,277	\$ 25,028,281







Town of Hamilton, MA  
2012