

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 9, 2009**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2009 with Richard Low, David Carey and William Bowler present. Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, EDC Chairman Bill Gisness, Planning Board member Marc Johnson, Landfill committee member Jack Lawrence, Town Administrator Candace Wheeler, Assistant Town Administrator Allison Jenkins, Wenham Board of Selectmen and Wenham Town Administrator Jeff Chelgren present.

EDC Update

Bill Gisness from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) said his committee was going to hold a \$25,000 charette in the fall but there were so many requests for the \$72,000 set aside for downtown development that it was postponed.

The money was from the Depot Square development downtown and \$52,000 remains. Some has been used to date to study the septic system needs in Hamilton's downtown if the commercial use were expanded in the area. Gisness said a second septic study has been considered for \$10,000. The EDC would look for input from the Town before the money is spent.

A decision on potential commercial use for the former library building has to be finalized. Money is needed for a wetlands study at the landfill site that is being considered for possible commercial development.

The Town officials discussed the \$5,600 needed for the wind turbine feasibility study and how an Annual Town Meeting vote would likely be required to expand the use of the EDC funds. Gisness stressed that once the EDC funds are spent there would not be any more money slated for economic development research in Town.

Landfill Update

The Board also discussed with Gisness the need for \$8,880 for a wetlands study to be done at the landfill. Gisness reiterated his committee's reticence about spending the EDC funds for this purpose since the Town could quickly use all of the money without focusing on downtown development.

Landfill committee member Jack Lawrence noted that Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds could possibly be used for the landfill. However, the defined uses for CPA money might not include paying for a wetlands study that is part of an effort towards future commercial development.

Planning Board member Marc Johnson will provide zoning overlay district language to the Board in regard to a Town Meeting warrant article.

Wind turbine

The Board reiterated the need for \$5,600 to pay for the balance of a wind turbine feasibility study on Sagamore Hill. The Town hopes in-kind services volunteered by a former GE engineer with wind energy expertise can also be used to offset the total of \$8,000 needed beyond a \$40,000 grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Meridian Associates is doing the study for \$48,000.

Lawrence and Carey spoke briefly about the possibility of a wind farm as a green industries effort done jointly at the Hamilton and Manchester landfill sites to generate electricity and revenue.

Hearing Schedule

Hearings will be scheduled in regard to the Pomeroy report. It hasn't been decided if they are going to be in open or executive session. The initial hearing will be held on March 23 at 3 p.m. or 8 p.m. The next date might be either March 27 or 30.

EIE GCTS Letter

Carey described how Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary had received a letter from the Enough Is Enough (EIE) group in Town. It lays out what EIE believes should be the seminary's contribution for seminary students' children attending the public schools for now and in the future.

Carey will meet with Bob Landrebe from the seminary this week to discuss the situation. Bowler said it should be made clear that the Selectmen had no input into the letter. Carey will report back to the Board next week about the meeting.

Holocaust Proclamation

Low entertained a motion to authorize him as chairman to sign the Holocaust Remembrance Day Proclamation 2009. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Approval of November 3, 2008 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Low entertained a motion to approve the November 3, 2008 regular session meeting minutes. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Comm-Pass System

Town Administrator Candace Wheeler said the Comm-Pass System is a program run by the state that makes all of the state's purchasing contracts available for communities to use. This includes a wide range of purchases from asphalt to employee uniforms. The system is web-based and contracts can be found online.

DPW Director John Tomasz attended the conference with Wheeler and learned about how the comm-pass system could help with public works procurement. Each state contract has a procurement manager.

A state conference will be held in Boston on May 21 to showcase procurement opportunities in the Commonwealth. The Town might want a representative to attend.

Website Update

Virtual Town Hall is nearly two-thirds done with the new website for Hamilton. Town committees and departments need to enter data in the next couple of weeks so the website can be launched.

ATM Warrant

The Annual Town Meeting warrant will be closed on March 23.

Shared Services Update – Police Operations

The Wenham Selectmen, Wenham Town Counsel Larry Donoghue and Wenham Town Administrator Jeff Chelgren joined the meeting. There was discussion about the difficult economic times and annual increases in property taxes prompting investigation of successful collaboration and shared services between Hamilton and Wenham to try

and realized more economies. Specifically shared services between police departments in the two towns.

Wenham Selectman Larry Swartz said they should look at the potential savings for both towns through a step-by-step analysis. Issues such as collective bargaining would be addressed as the towns determine how to continue providing appropriate services.

Low noted that Hamilton would undertake this process with Wenham while continuing its search for a new police chief in parallel. He added that Hamilton would decide in two weeks how to go forward.

Low entertained a motion from the Town of Hamilton Board of Selectmen to go into executive session at 8:41 p.m. not to return to open session to discuss union contract negotiations in relationship to the shared services arrangements. The executive session would continue after the meeting with the Wenham representatives in relationship to union contract negotiations (i.e., police and new fire union). Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. Members raised their hands for a unanimous roll call vote.

Swartz moved that the Wenham Board of Selectmen go into executive session for purposes of discussing collective bargaining and collective bargaining strategy related to shared police services with the Town of Wenham. Davis seconded the motion. Swartz, Davis and Clemenzi raised their hands for a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Clerk