

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 30, 2009**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2009 with Richard Low, David Carey and William Bowler present. Town Moderator Bruce Ramsey, Acting Police Chief Robert Pomeroy, Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Government Study Committee co-chair Jack Lawrence and Town Administrator Candace Wheeler also present.

Police Chief Search

The Town has received 93 applications for the police chief's position. The number will be narrowed down to five for the one-day Assessment Center and then to three finalists.

Consultant Steve Unsworth of BadgeQuest and the Police Chief Search Committee are working with 10 finalists, seven from Massachusetts and three from New England. The candidates range from lieutenant to deputy chief and their educational background includes law and master's degrees. Some are adjunct professors. The overall experience of the candidates tends to be 22 years.

The candidates were informed of the Town's discussion with Wenham about regionalizing police services but they have opted to remain in the process. Regionalization could help both communities achieve economies of scale and potential savings of \$300,000 each. A decision should be made soon (perhaps in one week) since the regionalization analysis and search for the Hamilton police chief are being done in parallel. David Carey is working with Wenham Selectman Larry Swartz.

There was a brief discussion about how Hamilton could decide to use another interim police chief when Acting Police Chief Robert Pomeroy leaves Town in May.

Draft ATM Warrant

The Board reviewed the draft Annual Town Meeting warrant and decided on some of the Selectmen's recommendations that they could make before Town Meeting.

Richard Low entertained a motion to reopen the ATM Warrant and add the FY'09 appropriation increase to the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Carey so moved. William Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Low entertained a motion to close the warrant. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

There was discussion in reference to the property tax exemption article and how household income would include income from working children living at home.

Set Date to Sign Warrant

On Friday, April 3 at 2 p.m. the Board will sign the warrant.

Wind Turbine Feasibility Study Contract

Carey will get an answer for the Board by next week about if the in-kind contribution from the former GE employee with wind energy expertise can be applied to the cost of the feasibility study for the proposed wind turbine at Sagamore Hill.

ESCO RFP Process

Low entertained a motion to authorize the Capital Management Advisory Committee to act as the selection committee, agreement review committee and building committee in relationship to the installation of energy saving technology in the Town and school buildings subject in the case of the Town of Hamilton buildings to Board of Selectmen approval. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

EDC Landfill Funds

DPW Director John Tomasz has spoken to the Economic Development Committee (EDC) Chairman Bill Gisness about releasing \$8,000 in EDC funds for the landfill work related to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirements. Gisness has said the EDC would vote to release the funds at its Wednesday meeting.

Low entertained a motion to submit a request to the Economic Development Committee for the expenditure of \$8,000 in funds for DEP related studies in the landfill. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Hayes Report Inquiry – Actions Taken by Town Counsel

Low entertained a motion to appoint Attorney Thomas Urbelis as independent counsel to look into the actions taken by Town counsel and provide advice on what steps the Board should take. Carey so moved. Low seconded the motion. VOTE: 2 in favor, 1 opposed. Bowler felt rushed in making this decision and thought conflict checks should be done as well as more investigation into an attorney before appointment was made. Labor Attorney Jack Collins and MIIA Defense Attorney Lenny Kesten had recommended the Board proceed by appointing Urbelis.

Minutes Approval

Low entertained a motion to approve the December 1 and 8, 2008 regular session minutes. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Low entertained a motion to approve the November 24 and December 1, 2008 and February 3 and 17, 2009 executive session minutes. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Low entertained a motion to go into executive session at 9:15 p.m. not to return to open session to discuss union contract negotiations. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. Members raised their hands for a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Clerk