

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 21, 2009**

The Board of Selectmen met at the Hamilton Town Hall at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 with Richard Low, David Carey, and William Bowler present. Finance Committee member Bob Bullivant, Acting Police Chief Robert Pomeroy and Town Administrator Candace Wheeler also present.

Planning Board Appointment

Richard Low entertained a motion to appoint Julie Nagazina Einhorn as an Associate Member of the Planning Board for a term to begin April 21, 2009 to June 30, 2010. David Carey so moved. William Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Interim Police Chief

There was discussion about Acting Police Chief Robert Pomeroy leaving Town on May 1. Many residents expressed concern that not enough time had been given to regionalizing police services with Wenham. Selectmen had received a letter from Wenham that was read at the April 13 Board meeting stating that the Wenham Selectmen were not interested in analyzing police regionalization any further.

Hamilton is in the midst of a search for a new police chief. Pomeroy recommended the Board appoint Sgt. Scott Janes as the next interim police chief for Hamilton until a permanent chief is hired (probably in the summer). William Bowler raised the question of Janes as a member of the police union being interim chief since the Hamilton police chief is not a union member. Pomeroy will draft an agreement to be reviewed at the Board's next meeting.

Property and Evidence Audit

A consultant conducted an audit at the Hamilton police department of property and evidence. A full inventory of evidence was done in the evidence room only with 335 items identified. Many items were not properly tagged in regard to incidents. The 71 handguns and 90 rifles have been entered into the records management system. There was no concern with drug evidence.

The locks have been recoded so evidence officer Steve Trepanier and a backup only have access. Trepanier completed a property management course. The consultant recommended a computer terminal and telephone be installed in the evidence room.

The property is being researched to see if any of it could be returned to victims or rightful owners. A potential auction list has been developed for evidence, unused property and old equipment.

The firearms that cannot be returned to rightful owners will be disposed of. A list is being developed some has to be destroyed and some can be auctioned. The Secretary of Public Safety Office prefers that weapons be destroyed.

Pomeroy said due to the number of weapons some might have significant value. He will recommend vendors to provide the Town with a price for the entire inventory.

The consultant also recommended that a yearly inventory take place. This would allow for a number of items to be removed from the police department. National accreditation standards are being used for the process. Pomeroy said the Town should be able to get rid of 90% of the inventory.

The new process at the police department would track intake, where evidence is stored and maintained as well as the final disposition. The department's computer system works well for this. After the initial appraisal work of the weapons is done to determine if they have moderate or limited value, Pomeroy will recommend what should be done including whether or not the Town should hold an auction.

House FY2010 Budget Proposal

Finance Committee member Bob Bullivant noted that the proposed room and meals tax revenue being discussed by the state has not occurred and the Town did not build that expected revenue into the budget.

The state had funded \$67,361 for the Town of Hamilton in regard to the Quinn bill but this would not cause any impact because the police union contract says if the Town does not receive Quinn bill funding there is no penalty to Hamilton. It is a 50/50 impact where the Town pays for half of the Quinn bill funding. There is likelihood it could see its way back into the budget.

This year the Town will be voting a budget without any clear guidance on the local aid number for Hamilton. Bullivant said the Town would not need drastic steps to further reduce the FY'10 budget.

Website Update

Information is being supplied to Andy Wood and the hope is to have the new website up and running by May 1 and demonstrated at Town Meeting.

North Shore Home Consortium Funding – Harborlight Project

Low entertained a motion to approve the recommendation of the Housing Partnership Committee to request North Shore Home Consortium funding to the extent available up to \$30,000 for the Harborlight Project. The dollar amount was amended to \$35,000. Bowler so moved. Low seconded the motion. VOTE: 2 in favor. Carey recused himself since he is on the board of Harborlight.

This is for a renovation project for four affordable units and retention of the Acord food pantry on Willow Street.

SeniorCare Award

This award is for an individual versus a group so the Meals on Wheels drivers don't fit the requirements of the program. This group could be recommended next year for the Hamilton-Wenham Community House volunteer nomination.

Guidelines for use of Old Library

The next step is to hold the downtown charette to assess the current and future uses of the former Hamilton public library building. The building is presently only used by Town boards and organizations such as the Council on Aging. A children's theater group and after school program have expressed interest in the building.

In the past the Town decided it didn't want to compete with the Community House space. Bowler offered to work with Town Administrator Candace Wheeler to develop new language. They will come back to the Board for further discussion. Also to be determined is required insurance certificates.

It was noted that keys for the building are at the ECO and Town clerk's office.

Intermunicipal agreement Shared Facilities Maintenance

Town counsels from Hamilton and Wenham are analyzing details on the intermunicipal agreement for the shared facilities manager position including the cost of cell phones, certifications and licenses.

The DPW directors in the two towns would manage the person but there would be no administrative fee or sponsor. The facilities manager would work 20 hours a week for both towns for a total of 40 hours a week. The healthcare insurance cost would be shared 50/50 between Hamilton and Wenham. The arrangement would be very similar to the one the two communities currently have with Building Inspector Charles Brett.

The 20 hours would show up in the retirement assessment for each town so there wouldn't be any retirement contribution from the communities. Both towns provide life insurance and it would probably be split similar to the healthcare insurance premium.

Low said the termination period is six months and it is an annual renewable contract. He thought the termination period is too long three months notice would be enough. Wheeler said either town could terminate the agreement on the first day of the next fiscal year provided that notice is given six months prior. She'll follow up with Wenham so the towns can provide guidance.

Wheeler said the towns would be involved in the hiring process in three to four weeks. The money is budgeted for the position in the FY'10 budget.

Minutes Approval

Low entertained a motion to approve the regular session minutes for January 20 and March 23, 2009. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Low entertained a motion to approve the executive session minutes for January 20 and 26, February 23, March 2, 9 and 16, 2009. Carey so moved. Bowler seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Low entertained a motion to go into executive session not to return to open session at 8:29 p.m. for the purpose of continuing the Pomeroy Report Hearings in relation to Officers Hatfield and Wallace. 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