

**TOWN OF HAMILTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MAY 4, 2009**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 10:06 a.m. on Monday, May 4, 2009 with Richard Low, David Carey and William Bowler present. Town Administrator Candace Wheeler, Assistant Town Administrator Allison Jenkins, Finance Committee Acting Chairman Bob Bullivant, Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Fire Chief Phil Stevens, Superintendent of Schools Marinel McGrath, School Committee members Alexa McCloughan and Laurie Wilson also present.

**Letter to Gun Clubs**

Richard Low entertained a motion to authorize Town Administrator Candace Wheeler to send a letter to the Hamilton-Wenham Rod and Gun Club and the Miles River Marsh Rats Gun Club substantially in form of letter the Board reviewed last week as revised by Town Counsel Donna Brewer. Motion was so voted unanimously.

**Review Materials for Town Meeting: Script and Slides**

Low referred to the Community Preservation Committee warrant article 2-16, Liberty Road marker project. William Bowler will contact Town Counsel Donna Brewer and Town Moderator Bruce Ramsey in reference to the mechanics of taking no action on that item as other funding source found.

**Financial Changes**

Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena provided changes to page 7 – DPW Highway change in highway salaries and page 8 – Employee Health Insurance.

These are the only budget changes that Nippes-Mena will incorporate into the script for Article 2-10 and she will provide a new Appendix C.

Fire Chief Phil Stevens noted that the uniform allowance \$4,600 was on page 6 under Fire Expense. Nippes-Mena will see if this is already in Fire Expense.

School Committee members Laurie Wilson will do motion and Alex McCloughan will do presentation.

Enough Is Enough (EIE) representative will speak to School Department motion on warrant article 2-11 then Bill Dery will be recognized.

EIE won't have a copy of their video slide show. Assistant Town Administrator Allison Jenkins will make copies of Dery presentation slides for Selectmen, Ramsey and Brewer.

The Board went through slide pages and script as follows: Reports, Website, Connect CTY, Recycling results (insert in script "recognize Dave Carey" to do reports on these) Finance Committee Report.

A motion to change the order of the articles will be made by Carey. Add Article 4-2 (lower age for elder exemptions) to group moved to second night. Jenkins will have "cover slides" (article number and title) for 2-1 through 2-5.

2-7 – Add a slide in reference to wind turbine.

2-11 – School Debt – Jenkins will insert school slides. McCloughan presentation after motion with school slides. Then Ramsey will recognize EIE, Dery and others.

McCloughan noted that in Wenham there was a digression into heated discussion of SPED and the operating budget. Bowler will talk to Ramsey about avoiding this. Operating issues should come up under General Budget article 2-10.

Add introduction by Wilson of McCloughan into script.

No "talking" slides 2-12 through 2-15, 2-17, 2-18 and 2-19.

In reference to 2-19 – Winthrop Bridge – Nippes-Mena urges the Board not to take action on this so we can move forward if FEMA approves project. If we don't use the money it can be returned to free cash in fall. Selectmen and Finance Committee Acting Chairman Bob Bullivant agreed. The source is free cash and no slide is needed.

No slide for 2-20 – Parks Revolving Fund.

For 3-1 – Landfill overlay – Wheeler will call Planning Board member Marc Johnson or Economic Development Committee member Bill Gisness to ask if they have slides especially a map.

Tuesday Night Articles

4-1 – Town Meeting Date

Low noted that if the Town Meeting moves to second Saturday in May, the Town would have to do a by-law change to adjust election date change.

Superintendent of Schools Marinel McGrath noted that date of ballot votes is also set in regional agreement so that will have to be amended by Town Meetings of Hamilton and Wenham. Wenham may also need to amend its town by-law.

McGrath asked if the motion could be amended to state that all other processes would be adjusted accordingly? Selectmen think it's too much of a change.

McGrath said the regional agreement can only be changed at Annual Town Meeting not Special Town Meeting and can only go into effect the year after it is voted. McGrath will talk to Rick Manley. Wheeler will talk with Brewer and Ramsey on this.

Wilson asked why the timing of the election didn't get looked at before today?

Low said one option is take no action on this article in order to work on dates or if Selectmen have right to change date.

4-2 – No slides through 4-6.

4-7 – Government Study Committee has provided slides for Board of Selectmen from three to five members.

5-1 – Town Manager – We have slides for this.

5-2 – Elder Tax Exemption: Have slides.

5-3 – Solid waste: No slides.

5-4 – Regional ECO. Wenham voted to give Selectmen authority to enter into this intermunicipal agreement. Bowler thinks we need a presentation.

Wheeler and Carey will do bullets. Wilson asked why Hamilton didn't have the same wording as Wenham giving Selectmen control of discussion. Low stated that Selectmen already have power if they need to use it, but felt decision was too big not to have okay of Annual Town Meeting.

5-5 – Citizen petition – Was withdrawn in Wenham. Wheeler will talk to Ramsey on how to handle this.

In reference to Connect CTY FAQ's – Don't hand out tonight until we make sure all answers are acceptable to all boards involved in public safety.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candace P. Wheeler, Town Administrator

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk