

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 22, 2009**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2009 with David Carey, William Bowler and Jennifer Scuteri present. EMS Planning Committee Chairman Pat Roselli, Government Study Committee members and Town Administrator Candace Wheeler also present.

Announcements

A test call using the Connect CTY system will be done on Wednesday to all telephone numbers on record in Hamilton.

The Department of Revenue study report addressing the possibility of merging Hamilton and Wenham should be available as early as Friday.

EMS Planning

EMS Planning Committee Chairman Pat Roselli described three public safety answering points: 1) 911 calls received at ECO by certified call taker (EMD) 2) First Responders – fire or police with first aid and CPR certification, (EPI pens are not currently carried by them) and 3) EMS medical call.

Lyons Ambulance Proposal

Discussion focused on Lyons Ambulance five-year proposal to provide ambulance service to Hamilton and Wenham. The contract cost for the Town would be \$50,000 a year for a BLS ambulance garaged in Hamilton (although it would travel to other communities) and an ALS ambulance in Beverly or Danvers.

Sixty percent of the ambulance calls in Town are for the BLS ambulance. The response time would improve for the BLS ambulance with a truck housed in Hamilton but remain approximately the same for the ALS truck coming from Beverly or Danvers.

The Town officials need to negotiate a contract agreement with Lyons. Hamilton currently does not have a contract with Lyons.

Roselli recommended that residents concerned about response times from first responders and EMS personnel should talk to Acting Police Chief Scott Janes.

Government Study Committee – Special Act establishing a Town Manager

Key tasks for the Town related to the passage of the Special Act and transition to Town manager form of government: track bill number and hearing date (not assigned yet), prepare testimony for Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, follow and encourage passage of bill, inform citizens of bill progress via Town web site, prepare by-law changes to present at Special Town Meeting including any changes to the role of FinCom and Personnel Committee, transition role of Selectmen to policy focus, communicate frequently with staff and public, and appoint search committee.

Who is responsible for these tasks and a related timeline will be presented at the Board's July 27 meeting. A workshop will be scheduled with representatives from three communities to understand the challenges and opportunities in the short and long term related to changing to a strong Town manager.

Joint Custodial Position

David Pereen has been hired for the joint custodial position serving Hamilton and Wenham and will start work on July 13.

Choose Location and Date for STM

Town Clerk Jane Wetson will decide the Special Town Meeting date for either October 17 or 24 at Winthrop School.

Annual Appointments

Discussion focused on the years of service John Hamilton brought to the Conservation Commission. He was not reappointed to the commission.

David Carey entertained a motion to reappoint Peter Dana to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012. William

Bowler seconded the motion. Jennifer Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to appoint Interim Police Chief Scott Janes as Harbormaster. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to appoint Christine Lindberg as the MAPC representative from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to appoint Donna Brewer as Town counsel from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Special Counsel Jack Collins has been hired to handle all issues related to police matters.

The Board decided to appoint the balance of the list next week.

Summary of Blue Ribbon Committee Report

Discussion focused on the BRC's report from its study of the school budget. The total cost of instruction (average teacher salary is lower) and special education costs (\$7 million, \$1 million high) are somewhat high as compared to similar school districts/towns (15% versus 14% of total budget). The report is on the Wenham web site and will be added to the Hamilton web site. The committee recommended the school hire a consultant with expertise in these areas.

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District has had an internal strategy to build up internal resources rather than out place many children. Information for the study was from comprehensive 2007 state data.

Town By-Law Updates Initiative

Discussion on need to update and reorganize Town's by-laws possibly before Special Town Meeting. Board will ask Town Counsel Donna Brewer about this.

Liberty Markers

Carey entertained a motion to approve a \$1,000 donation to be deposited into the Parks Expendable Trust Fund for the Boy Scouts' materials (to build winter

covers) for the Liberty Markers at Patton Park. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Minutes Approval

Carey entertained a motion to approve the executive session minutes for May 18, May 22, June 1, June 5 and June 8, 2009. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to approve the regular session minutes for May 22 and June 1, 2009. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Harbor Lights Letter

Carey entertained a motion to sign a letter supporting the Harbor Lights Community Partners proposed project on Willow Street to provide a permanent location for the Acord food pantry and four affordable housing units. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: 2 in favor. Carey recused himself since he is a board member of Harbor Lights.

Carey entertained a motion to go into executive session at 8:29 p.m. not to return to open session for the purpose of discussing non-union and union personnel negotiations and litigation strategy. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. Members raised their hands for a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Clerk