

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 24, 2009**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2009 with David Carey and Jennifer Scuteri present. Town Counsel Donna Brewer, CPA coordinator Christine Berry, DPW Director John Tomasz, Finance Committee co-chair Arthur Oberheim, Town Moderator Bruce Ramsey and Town Administrator Candace Wheeler also present.

North Shore Technical High School

Amy O'Malley, superintendent of North Shore Technical High School, presented information on the proposed new \$180 million building to house the merged Essex Agricultural School and North Shore Technical High School. Hamilton has already signed a district agreement to support the proposal. O'Malley is looking for community support and the Board suggested a similar, smaller presentation be made at Special Town Meeting.

Develop Permanent Community Sign/Banner Placement and Frame

DPW Director John Tomasz described how granite posts with four hooks could be installed as a permanent frame built in front of the former Hamilton public library building to hang community signs and banners.

CPC STM recommendations

Christine Berry discussed Community Preservation Committee recommendations for Special Town Meeting. Items included: \$13,000 to repair the Hamilton cemetery building, \$33,000 to paint Town Hall, \$38,000 for a study of an elevator and mold problems at Town Hall, \$1,000 to redo the Historic District signs, \$28,000 to replace the front steps at Town Hall and \$9,400 to cut the vegetation in Weaver Pond.

Willow Street Pole Relocation

David Carey entertained a motion to approve the new plan to move the National Grid pole. Jennifer Scuteri so moved. Carey seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Commendations

Wenham Police Chief Ken Walsh commended dispatchers Brian Pratt and Keith Holloran and Hamilton Police Officer Ken Nagy due to their actions on June 29. A breaking and entry was reported to police and these people responded quickly to stop the crime.

Shared Building/Inspectional Services with Wenham

A negotiation is underway between Wenham Town Administrator Jeff Chelgren and Deb Paskowski, Hamilton's building department administrative assistant, to assist Wenham in an expanded role for Paskowski. A more detailed compensation package is being created.

Set September Board of Selectmen Schedule

Selectmen discussed meeting on Tuesday, September 8.

Town Manager Status and Recruiter Choices

A placeholder is on the Special Town Meeting warrant for any by-law changes that might be required for Hamilton to restructure its Town government to include a Town manager versus Town administrator.

William Bowler will be interviewing the recruiting firms that will find candidates for Town manager. There will be an appropriation Town meeting warrant article for the search firm fee.

Close STM warrant – Finalize Articles

Two major articles include one for the Regional ECO and one for the Regional Vocational School.

There are three citizen petition articles. After discussion of the first, Carey entertained a motion to accept the arrangement under which the Town Meeting would allow a 25% vote to call for a secret ballot. Scuteri so moved. The vote would be from the number of registered voters present at the Town Meeting. The vote would not be just for financial items but if it were addressing a financial item it has to be at least \$250,000. VOTE: Unanimous.

If this involved an override, the first vote would appropriate the money and the second vote on the ballot would allow this to go outside of the levy limit.

The second citizen petition article asked voters to consider a non-binding question if they would prefer to have a 0% increase in the property tax. Usually Hamilton has a 2.5% increase or \$550,000 a year. This amounts to an equivalent cut of 8 employees. The proposal affects residential only. This is contingent upon Wenham participating in the language if it involves both Town and school and voting as well. This will be discussed further.

In regard to the third citizen's petition article, Carey entertained a motion to put the article on the warrant that would require the evaluation of shared police services. Scuteri so moved. Carey seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Placeholders were for the firehouse place septic system at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Willow Street, purchase of a used ladder truck for \$10,000, Home Rule petition for increasing the number of Selectmen to 5, and proposed water by-law in regard to compliance with the water withdrawal permit requirements from the Department of Environmental Protection. These will be addressed at a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on Wednesday night.

Essco Contract

Carey entertained a motion to sign the contract with Johnson Controls to improve the energy efficiency of the Town buildings. Scuteri so moved. Carey seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

CMAC Evolution

Carey entertained a motion for the Selectmen to agree that the CMAC should be evolved such that the make up of the committee is changed to include from both Hamilton and Wenham: a Selectman, Finance Committee member, Town administrator or Town manager, DPW directors, the facility maintenance director and 5 to 7 residents. Scuteri so moved. Carey seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Green Community

A group at the state received the Town's application to become a green community. Applications will be accepted until September 1.

Meals Tax

Danvers is voting on this tonight. A placeholder will be put on Hamilton's STM warrant.

Carey entertained a motion to go into executive session at 9:10 p.m. not to return to open session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy, non-union and union negotiations. Scuteri so moved. Carey seconded the motion. Members raised their hands for a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Clerk