

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 2012 with David Neill, Marc Johnson, Jennifer Scuteri and Jeff Hubbard present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo, Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Finance Committee member John McWane and Council on Aging Director Marybeth Lawton also present.

Call to order

Chair David Neill called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

None.

Town Manager's report

Town Manager Michael Lombardo reported that Fire Department would be conducting ceremony to acknowledge 11th anniversary of September 11 tomorrow, that a Public Safety Day would be held on September 15 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and that this past Saturday a youth was bitten at Patton Park by a leashed dog and he reminded residents that no dogs are allowed at the park.

Lombardo provided an update on Hamilton having received three positive tests for diseased mosquitoes with two carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis where one species was bird biting and the other mammal biting, and one species carrying West Nile Virus in the Highland Street area. Northeast Mosquito Control District will do ground spraying for the mosquitoes tonight from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. Town officials notified Lombardo that his Connect CTY message received by residents on the matter had a caller ID of Town of Wenham that he will address with message provider.

Chairman/Selectmen reports

Jeff Hubbard noted that merchants at sites around Town had been cleaning up their grounds including at Sargent's Garage, Asbury Motors, Hamilton Convenience Store and Gulf station. He also mentioned attendance of 300 people

at Essex County Trails Association recent event and noted that trail users are shifting from primarily equestrians to mountain bikers and trail runners. In addition, he described how Green Meadows farm is going to have a vegetable truck at the corner of Bay Road and Railroad Avenue on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. Also, that the Hamilton Wenham merchants are holding a fall festival on September 22 and Selectmen will be holding their apple pie baking contest again this year. Hubbard mentioned that a parade of Hunt equestrians and hounds would be conducted the same day as the festival at 10:30 a.m.

Marc Johnson described the success of Whiffle ball tournament and flag football at Patton Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

Neill read the following items for adoption of the Consent Agenda:

Approval of the minutes:

- August 20, 2012 Regular Session
- August 27, 2012 Regular Session

Jennifer Scuteri requested a separate vote on the August 27, 2012 Regular Session minutes since she did not attend.

The other items read by Neill for consideration as part of Consent Agenda were:

Patton Park Playground – General Donations

- Mary Louise and Peter Dana Charitable Gift Fund \$500
- Heney & Associates \$250
- Peter & Lisa Abdinoor \$250
- Mary Ann Esdaile \$100
- Christopher T. Perkin \$2,500
- Hamilton Wenham Mother's Club \$5,914.91
- Jane & Jefferson Prince \$100
- Joshua Lerner \$250
- Winifred Gray \$3,000
- Sara Olson \$100
- David & Nicole Ireland \$250
- Walter & Michelle Brillard \$300
- Caroline Horner \$500
- Rainer Kohler \$25

- The Vesper Foundation \$10,000
- Peter Whitman \$100
- Heather & James Beville \$2,500
- Thomas & Heather Ford \$1,500
- Sarah Laubinger \$500
- Edward & Joyce Schreier \$300
- Alisa Greco \$250

Patton Park Playground – Brick Campaign:

- Joan & Troy Gustavson \$300
- Christopher Perkins \$300
- Joyce M. Toomey \$100
- Robert & Amy Howell \$100
- Shaun Hutchison & T Cochran-Hutchison JT Wros \$100
- Benjamin John & Helen Teresa Allard \$100
- Madeleine Donachie & Paul Melican \$100
- Kim & Sean Scanlon \$100
- Lea Parson \$300
- Craig & Andrea Stewart \$200
- Scott & Diane McClintock \$500
- John & Deirdre McCrae \$100
- John & Stephanie Serafini \$100
- Robert Preston \$150
- Gerald & Lyndie Donovan \$100

One Day Liquor Licenses:

Gourmet Delight Catering for an event at the Community House on September 15, 2012

Neill entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda except for the items held. Hubbard so moved. Johnson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Neill entertained a motion to approve the August 27, 2012 regular session Board of Selectmen minutes. Hubbard so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: 3-0-1 with Scuteri abstaining since she did not attend.

School Capital Projects – School Committee

Larry Swartz of the Hamilton Wenham School Committee and Superintendent of Schools Michael Harvey provided an overview on school department's fall

request for funding that will be included in two Special Town Meeting warrant articles for a total of \$2.075 million. The Capital Management Committee has determined the most pressing repairs that need to be done at school buildings including Winthrop School roof (\$713,000), Buker School windows (\$114,000), insulation at Buker (\$60,000) and sprinkler system at Buker (\$154,000), windows at Cutler School and a series of smaller maintenance items (\$400,000) and Cutler School roof that is on short MSBA list where HWRSD could get 43% in funding and National Grid reimbursement for energy savings from \$350,000 to \$400,000 to offset cost to taxpayers.

Projected cost for both towns is \$7 to \$8 per \$100,000 of assessed value, if \$2.075 million was borrowed at 4% for 20 years. For the median home in Hamilton with assessed value of \$390,000 the cost to the taxpayer for the level debt would be \$31.50 per year for 20 years. The cost for Wenham taxpayers for the median home assessed value of \$467,500 would be \$33.62 annually. Scuteri also plans to talk to the League of Woman Voters about the bonding.

The School Committee is trying to engage the community by presenting this information in an educational forum to the Council on Aging, Enough Is Enough and Support Our Schools groups. Hamilton's share of these costs would be two-thirds or 68.13% as part of the three year rolling average with the amount split each year based on enrollment.

Discussion ensued about projects such as boilers not originally being allowed under MSBA although the state is considering school maintenance projects for communities throughout Mass., and the need to fix roof at Winthrop due to the extent of deterioration. Despite the fact that the Winthrop School building's lease expires in 2015, and there are no long term plans for use of the building nor is there any expected change in the use in the near future. Hubbard noted that taxpayers do not want to incur debt for a school roof repair for an older school building when there could possibly be plans for a new school in the next 12 years. The needs of the school district should be assessed moving forward.

Bob Gray of Bay Road suggested that the virtual DPW could be responsible for oversight of these projects. There is currently an interim VDPW agreement in place and a final agreement could be reached by the election in November. Scuteri noted that a two-thirds vote is required on these debt exclusions at Special Town Meeting and a simple majority vote is required at the ballot.

Discussion ensued about School Committee holding public hearings on the matter and that education and communication will occur with handouts available at meetings, information on HWRSD website as well as on HWCAM. A joint meeting will be held between Town boards once a date is set sometime in September.

Patton Park Pool Committee Appointments

Discussion ensued about what is the most efficient means to appoint Committee that is a workable core group involving Hamilton and Wenham that will analyze improving Patton Park pool and accompanying park buildings. Scuteri and Hubbard suggested five individuals be selected drawn from Selectmen in both towns, from the joint Recreation Board, Friends of Patton Park organization as well as Recreation Director Sean Timmons and possibly abutter Myopia Hunt Club. With the intent that this working group would report to boards and committees in both towns where leadership would be represented from the communities and committee that is not too unwieldy. Rather than appoint a larger committee of members including some from two town's Finance Committees because large committees can encounter difficulty setting meeting schedules with so many people.

Hubbard noted a key aspect of the discussion should address scale of proposed project with consideration that \$3 million for a service that is used nine weeks a year might be too expensive for the two towns. Finance Committee Chair John McWane said the Finance Committee would opine if it thought the project was too expensive.

Lombardo mentioned that Committee would recommend charge, timelines and funding. Johnson said after the scope is determined and recommendation made, the Town would be an applicant going through the regular permitting process for site development in Hamilton and he thought that the Committee could articulate scope of program by December. Neill expressed his interest in the broader community of Hamilton and Wenham deciding what occurs with Patton Park pool as a first step in process and that options could include no longer supporting pool, improving existing pool and buildings or starting a new project.

Neill entertained a motion to recommend the Committee with representatives from Selectmen from each Town, Recreation Director, Friends of Patton Park and joint Recreation Board or an at-large member. Finance Committee will be kept informed of actions suggested by Committee. Charge is to propose action plan

on what to do with Patton Park pool. Hubbard so moved. Scuteri seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Hubbard was appointed to the Committee with Scuteri as back up.

Consideration of Board Recommendation for the appointment of Charles Chivakos to the Finance & Advisory Committee

Neill entertained a motion to appoint Charles Chivakos to the Finance & Advisory Committee. Hubbard so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Warrant Articles Review

Council on Aging Director Marybeth Lawton described budget figures and a request for budget increase at STM. The areas for budget increase were wages and salaries to fund a part-time outreach coordinator and printing and postages to increase the frequency of the newsletter. She discussed specific areas that she was working on to change or enhance services such as the cost of cases and activities will be covered by participants, that the funding for the Senior Van program should come from ridership donations, that an application would be submitted to Community Preservation Committee for \$75,000 under historical preservation category to upgrade kitchen at The Meeting House. The facility would be able to offer two meals a day five days a week in concert with Senior Care providing Meals on Wheels and grant money available for training staff.

Lawton also mentioned her plans to write a grant application to fund a feasibility study that would analyze possibility of regionalizing CoA between Hamilton and Wenham where there are nearly 400 more people in area in this demographic, partnerships she hopes to establish with Recreation Department and joint library (i.e., bookmobile), and her interest in increasing hours for outreach workers. She is working with Recreation Director Sean Timmons relative to workout stations for seniors at Patton Park and ensuring that pool has a use for seniors. Also noted was plan to provide weekly movies for seniors at The Meeting House.

Discussion ensued about how STM warrant article request would increase Council on Aging budget to \$28,878 annually and that total budget for CoA including senior van, departmental budget, facility cost, and benefits is six figures comparable to benchmarked surrounding communities and that this function is under budgeted for operations. Also that one of Lawton's goals is to

have discussion about dedicating The Meeting House as a senior center open from 8 to 4 on weekdays. Lombardo reiterated that additional funding request for CoA is to enhance existing lunch and travel program.

In response to Johnson, Lawton said she is working on getting a 501(3)c in place and that there is currently a CoA gift account in place for fundraising.

Lombardo addressed other STM warrant articles including school expense, Community Preservation Act projects such as \$25,000 for Patton Park playground expansion, \$150,000 for Patton Park pool preliminary site design work and \$7,500 under historic preservation for ceiling and railing at The Meeting House.

Discussion ensued about Article 2-5 relative to school assessment and whether it needs to be included in warrant, because vote is likely not necessary according to conversations with Town counsel, if there is a reduced assessment and if Excess & Deficiency funds were not certified by STM, a lower school budget would be adjusted for with the tax recap. Town officials thought a reduced assessment could be publicized in local press. Currently, no reports are scheduled for STM where this would be described to Town Meeting voters. Consensus amongst Board was this article was unnecessary.

Also mentioned was article that addressed \$65,000 in funding for Hamilton Development Corporation that would be raised and appropriated and Meals Tax revenue would be transferred to local receipts to support HDC fund. Neill mentioned that once the Corporation gets going it would be eligible for grants. Discussion ensued about Corporation having two Committee members and need to complete board potentially with a business owner who does not have to be a resident but may have to be a Hamilton business owner. As well as need to get the Corporation funds now rather than waiting until next April at ATM.

In regard to Article 2-7, discussion ensued about potential changes to compensation tables for cola adjustment if three AFSMCE unions complete contract negotiations. Article 2-8 addresses retroactive payments for 2012 if contracts are ratified where money previously set aside went to free cash. If free cash is certified by October 13 then the funds for this purpose would be used, if the October date is not met then funds will be raised and appropriated for this purpose. Article 2-9 addresses the transfer of FY'13 colas unclassified to respective categories. Article 2-10 speaks to the water mutual aid agreement.

Lombardo described details about Article 5-1 for Beech Tree easement and whether this falls under wetland protection and if it was put in place when road was installed. If this were not the case, a Special Act would be required. He is working with Town counsel and Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin on the issue. Drainage easements were discussed relative to Howard Street culvert work and residents are ready to issue easements and Board will be provided more details by DPW Director John Tomasz.

The last warrant article reiterated use of free cash if it is certified by October for Hamilton Development Corporation. Discussion ensued about \$23,000 being subtracted from Meals Tax revenue for downtown improvements approved at ATM that included trees, flower boxes and lanterns, according to Hubbard, as well as banners at playground. Scuteri suggested there should be a list of projects completed with Meals Tax revenue that is transferred to free cash. Selectmen emphasized need to get HDC Committee to have a full board by STM.

Close Special Town Meeting

Neill entertained a motion to close the warrant for Special Town Meeting on October 13, 2012. Hubbard so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Set Date for Next Meeting: September 17, 2012

Discussion ensued about Board doing Town Manager's review on September 17. Lombardo mentioned that trees will be installed downtown by September 22 fall festival. Also, that the Recreation Master plan would be presented at Thursday meeting on September 20 at 7 p.m.

Other business

Neill entertained a motion for the Board to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Hubbard so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____



Clerk