

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 1, 2010**

The Board of Selectmen met at the Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2010 with David Carey, William Bowler and Jennifer Scuteri present. Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Police Chief Russell Stevens, DPW Director John Tomasz, EMS Consultant Pat Roselli, Fire Chief Phil Stevens and Town Administrator Candace Wheeler also present.

Update on storm damage

Police, fire and public works departments took many phone calls, cleared trees and roadways as a result of a recent windstorm that left the Town and its residents without electrical power from hours to days. Since the storm caused some basements to flood, the Town contacted trash hauler Hiltz and notified them that residents would be allowed to put out two extra trash barrels this week at no additional cost to residents. This information was posted on the Town's website.

David Carey entertained a motion to allow the trash disposal by household to be three barrels of straight waste for this week. William Bowler so moved. Jennifer Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Public safety and public works officials will review what could be done better in response to future storms. The Town does have an Emergency Response Plan. Residents are encouraged to provide their cell phone numbers in addition to home phone numbers to be logged into the Connect CTY system. A list of residents who are 70 years old or older is being compiled. The landfill will be open on Saturday, March 13 from 12 to 4 p.m. for brush drop-off.

Pat Roselli – Police and EMT certification, EMT status of firefighters

Discussion was on the police department no longer running an ambulance service so the Town is not responsible to pay for training for EMT certification for police officers. If an officer maintains EMT certification at his/her own expense, the Town will continue to pay the EMT stipend as described in the police union contract. The fire department has 12 certified EMTs. It was agreed that EMT training is useful for public safety personnel as first responders at the scene of a medical emergency or accident. Carey

entertained a motion to no longer require the police officers to be EMT certified. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Town will decide how to proceed with the fire department in regard to contract issues, etc.

Declaring old ambulance surplus

Discussion was on the fact that the fire department can't afford to run the ambulance, there is no maintenance money and the Town will not be doing transports. Carey entertained a motion to declare the second ambulance surplus so it can be sold or disposed of. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Sign credit application for lease agreement for police car

Carey entertained a motion to sign the application for the credit for the lease (for the new police cruiser). Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discuss organics re: intermunicipal agreement

Discussion was on an intermunicipal agreement between Hamilton and Wenham for an organic waste program to be done with New England Solid Waste Incorporated. A pilot year is proposed for the program that will not require the use of municipal funds. A state grant of \$7,000 could be used. Program participants will pay \$29 for bins and these funds will go into the Town's waste enterprise fund. Program volunteers for organic waste pickup would pay a \$75 annual fee. Town counsel still needs to comment on the intermunicipal agreement.

Discuss meals tax

Discussion was on a potential Annual Town Meeting warrant article to implement the meals tax in Hamilton. If the tax were put in place it is believed as much as \$48,000 would be brought into Town. This money could be used for downtown improvement including burying the utility lines underground (cost unknown at this point) and improving the downtown streetscape. The consultant who helped Hamilton with the downtown charrette could help develop the warrant article that has to be completed by the third week in March.

Sign Holocaust Awareness Week proclamation

Carey entertained a motion to authorize the chairman to sign the document referred to as the Holocaust Remembrance. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Request from North Shore United Way to keep sign up until March 31

Discussion was on the extended amount of time that the United Way has requested to hang its sign in the center of Hamilton. A policy should be put in place as to the maximum amount of time that a sign could be posted in Town (i.e., two to three months).

Carey entertained a motion to allow the United Way to leave its sign in place until March 31, 2010. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 opposed.

Discuss painting at Town Hall

Carey entertained a motion to authorize the DPW director to proceed with painting interior areas of Town Hall with colors proposed by Janet Collette of Simasko and Verbridge. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Inmates from the Middleton jail will do the painting during working hours.

Sign cemetery deeds

Carey entertained a motion for the Board of Selectmen to approve and sign cemetery deed #1050. Scuteri so moved. Carey seconded the motion. VOTE: 2 in favor. Bowler recused himself because the cemetery deed was associated with his client.

Water abatement requests

Water abatement requests have been received for \$140.75 from the Michaud residence and \$272 from the Willcox residence. They have met the criteria allowed. Carey entertained a motion to approve the water abatements from water accounts for Willcox and Michaud. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Discussion was on whether or not the water abatement decisions could be delegated to John Tomasz, DPW director, from the Selectmen in the Board's capacity as the Town's water board.

Sign letter re: deficit spending for storm damage

The estimated cost of the recent storm damage for the Town is \$20,000 and this expense was not budgeted for. Carey entertained a motion to request from the Department of Revenue approval to deficit spend in the tree and flood damage budget. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discuss date to interview finalists for Town Manager position

The Board decided to interview the three finalists for the Town manager's position on Friday, March 5, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. One of the finalists is coming in from out of town.

Carey entertained a motion to allow Town Administrator Candace Wheeler to release the names of the three candidates on the condition that Consultant Tom Groux states he is ready to proceed and has written waivers from all three candidates. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Semi-annual bill for real estate tax

Discussion on policy shift where the Town could save \$3,000 annually if two tax bills are sent out a year. The bill envelopes will contain coupons for the four billing cycles done during the year. Residents will still pay four bills a year. Mortgage companies that pay resident tax bills should have no problem with this change.

Carey entertained a motion to authorize the Finance Department to change to a process under which the Town will bill property taxes semi-annually and collect taxes quarterly effective July 1, 2010. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Exemption for poll workers from online Ethics requirements training

Town Clerk Jane Wetson has requested that the poll workers could sign a waiver where they would not be required to take the Ethics training online. This was deferred until Town counsel vetted it. All employees or Town board members have to return forms confirming they have completed the training to Wetson by April 2.

Carey entertained a motion to go into executive session at 8:36 p.m. not to return to open session for the purpose of discussing union and non-union negotiations. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Clerk