

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 7, 2011**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2011 with Jennifer Scuteri, William Bowler, Marc Johnson and Jeff Stinson present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo, Town Counsel Donna Brewer and EDC member Bob Bullivant also present.

Town Manager's report

Town Manager Michael Lombardo explained that residents would not receive a refund for overpayment of taxes related to the recap error that occurred recently rather the amount of the overpayment would be reduced in next year's budget.

Jennifer Scuteri asked Lombardo to schedule updates from all Town departments to be presented at upcoming Selectmen's meetings.

Sign Bonds

Selectmen signed bonds for capital debt for \$3,630,000 for water, library and escrow.

Benchmarking with Boxford

Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena will report on this at a future Selectmen's meeting. Hamilton's spending will be compared to Boxford since that community is similar in size and demographics.

Discuss financing for landfill

The Town's landfill on Chebacco Road has been partially closed for 30 years but needs to be completely closed in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection standards at a cost of up to \$2.5 million.

Lombardo suggested that a Town Meeting article be put on the May 14, 2011 ATM warrant for this purpose to complete the closure process in the most cost-effective and timely manner possible.

Scuteri entertained a motion to approve the inclusion of a Town Meeting warrant article addressing the financing for the landfill. William Bowler so moved. Jeff Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

EDC – proposed EDIC

Economic Development Committee member Bob Bullivant presented the EDC's proposal for an economic development corporation that would be a legal entity focused on ways to diversify the Town's tax base. It would help integrate the downtown business district and use financial tools to attract new businesses to Hamilton as well as have options to purchase land with a right of first refusal, define the development zone in Town, and provide leadership with a 7-member board of business owners and residents serving three to five year terms.

The ratification process for the corporation would involve Town Meeting approval and a Home Rule petition related to adopting M.G.L. Chapter 121C for economic development. There would be no inclusion vehicle for meals tax revenue into the corporation as defined by the Home Rule petition.

Bullivant will present at forums around Town before the ATM in May on the economic development corporation concept and necessity of Town Meeting vote to move forward with Home Rule petition. He will also put his PowerPoint presentation on the corporation proposal on Hamilton's website.

Discuss adoption of recall bylaw

Selectmen discussed adoption of a recall bylaw that would provide a mechanism/election process for removing a local official as the result of an event, conviction of a crime or if the person is deemed incompetent, from an elected post before term expires and filling the vacated seat with a replacement person.

Town Counsel Donna Brewer explained that this could not be done with a bylaw, and since the Town has no charter it would have to be done with a Special Act requiring a Home Rule petition to set up the recall.

Selectmen decided that the Special Act was an arduous process and since there is no need for a recall at this time, the Board decided not to pursue this further.

Accept donation of electrical work for Patton Park lights

Scuteri entertained a motion to approve the gift from Dennis Curran of the installation of the lights at Patton Park in the amount of \$6,600. Bowler so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Accept donation of crane work for Patton Park lights

Board postponed vote until Town receives all paperwork.

Discuss increasing one-day liquor license fees

Stinson had researched one-day liquor license fees in North Shore communities and recommended to the Board that the Town increase its fee from \$50 to \$100.

Scuteri entertained a motion to increase the Town's one-day liquor license fees from \$50 to \$100, effective immediately. Stinson so moved. Bowler seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Sign North Shore HOME Consortium Program Agreement

The North Shore HOME Consortium Program Agreement had to be signed by the Board to allocate \$50,144 accrued in the last three years to the Harbor Lights project in Town.

Scuteri entertained a motion to sign and accept the North Shore HOME Consortium Program Agreement. Bowler so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Follow up on analysis of businesses and collecting taxes

Stinson researched if businesses in Town are being consistently taxed, permitted and licensed as part of a compliance process. A listing of the 350 businesses in Town (LLC and "doing business as") is maintained by the Town clerk's office and used by the Assessors Office to assess business property. If a business has property assessed for less than \$2,000 Hamilton does not tax it.

Discussion was on need for clear documentation from Town outlining process regarding obligations and responsibilities for businesses in Hamilton that should be certified and for follow-up when certification should be renewed.

Accept Minutes: Regular Session: February 22 and March 1, 2011

Board will accept these minutes at its next meeting.

Other business – schedule next BOS meeting (March 21, 2011)

Discussion was on interest from other municipalities (Topsfield and Lowell) to file a Home Rule petition that would foster the uncoupling of collective bargaining from health insurance plan design. Currently, it takes a 70% approval rating by union membership in a community to join the Group Insurance Commission plan offered by the state. Bowler will send language on this topic to Town officials including Brewer for review.

Lombardo noted that a meeting is going to be held in Hamilton tomorrow with Town employees regarding insurance rate changes and the employee group has expressed willingness to consider again the possibility of joining the GIC.

Selectmen will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 21.

Bob Gray from the Enough Is Enough group mentioned that a membership meeting would be held on March 16 at the Community House at 6:30 p.m.

Scuteri entertained a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Bowler so moved. Marc Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Clerk