

TOWN OF HAMILTON
JOINT MEETING WITH SELECTMEN and FINANCE COMMITTEE
JUNE 20, 2011

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 20, 2011 with Jeff Hubbard, Jeff Stinson, Jennifer Scuteri, Dave Carey, Marc Johnson, John McWane, Joe Santarelli and William Boesch present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo, Town Moderator Bruce Ramsey, Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, and Community Preservation Committee member Edwin Howard also present.

Accept minutes (June 6, 2011 Regular and Executive Session and June 10 and June 13, 2011 Regular Session)

David Carey entertained a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen regular session meeting minutes for June 6 and June 10, 2011. Jennifer Scuteri so moved. Jeff Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen executive session meeting minutes for June 6, 2011. Jeff Stinson so moved. Marc Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen regular session meeting minutes for June 13, 2011. Scuteri so moved. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: 4-0-1. Johnson abstained since he did not attend.

Public Comment (3 minutes on topics not already on agenda)

None.

Town Manager's report

Town Manager Michael Lombardo provided Board with an initial draft of the community survey results. He has asked for a complete data set on all information queried. Selectmen will provide him comments by end of the week so all factual information can be made available to the public as soon as possible.

Chairman/Selectmen reports

Selectmen's retreat is Tuesday, June 28 at 5 to 8 p.m. at the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library. Lombardo is compiling list of topical items. Liaison positions for Board members will be discussed at event.

Community Preservation Committee Edwin Howard discussed Town beach at Chebacco Lake and mentioned that it is heavily used although it is technically closed. Lombardo noted that an offer has been made to an individual for the Recreation Director's position. A responsibility associated with that position is the recreation master plan so the new director can address the Town beach regarding ongoing issues and maintenance (currently, CPA funds could not be used for this purpose).

Tracy Strauss –Hope4Horses

Selectmen will vote on Thursday, June 23 at 8 a.m. on one day liquor license for the Hope4Horses local organization for a fundraising event to be held on Sunday, June 26 at the Myopia Hunt Club. Wine and beer will be served during half time at the polo match.

TriROK Events at Patton Park

April Bolling and Donna Firth of TriROK described their organization's planned events, including 5K and triathlon races, which will be held at Patton Park on June 25. As many as 800 people are expected to attend and parking will be provided at the Myopia schooling field.

According to Scuteri, Selectmen have approved a banner for the event that the group proposes to hang on the split rail fence along Route 1A on the periphery of the park grounds. Lombardo said the group was well-prepared and well-organized. They have been working with the Town's police and fire personnel and plan to use one of the Town's fire hydrants to fill a dunking tank. TriROK's \$2 million insurance coverage names the Town as insured.

Jeff Bird – Two Town Fourth –Request for Amusement Rides

Jeff Bird from the Hamilton and Wenham Community House, and Cheryl Mallory of All About Fun organization met with Board to discuss request for amusement rides to be set up, used and removed the day of the Two Town

Fourth of July celebration at Patton Park. A Department of Public Safety inspector will inspect the rides.

Scuteri entertained a motion to approve the request from the Hamilton and Wenham Community House to have amusement rides and games at Patton Park for the Two Town Fourth. Stinson so moved. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Warrant Hearing and Vote Recommendation on Warrant Article

Finance Committee Chairman John McWane presented historical and up-to-date information on the regional school budget relative to the upcoming vote to be taken by Hamilton voters at Special Town Meeting on Monday, June 27 at Winthrop School.

At the May 2011 Annual Town Meetings Wenham approved a school budget that was \$500,000 higher than the school budget amount approved by Hamilton's voters. As a result, the regional school budget was not certified. Subsequently, the HW Regional School Committee voted to return \$300,000 to Hamilton and Wenham in tax dollars appropriated for the schools in an effort to get the school budget certified.

Next Monday's Special Town Meeting vote will decide whether or not the Town will accept the \$300,000 giveback recommendation from the School Committee or if Hamilton will remain steadfast about the vote taken at Annual Town Meeting for a school budget amount that specifies \$500,000 be given back to the two towns.

McWane said the school budget for last year exceeded school district need by \$981,605 and \$420,000 of that was due to budget errors. The regional school district superintendent had suggested \$350,000 be returned to the towns. The regional School Committee voted down that proposal.

In addition, the two towns expect \$120,000 more in Chapter 70 money than was originally anticipated earlier in the budget cycle and a teaching position with a salary of \$70,000 will not be funded.

McWane noted that up-to-date information reveals that \$757,000 in revolving fund money is available from Circuit Breaker, Medicare reimbursement, school choice, all day kindergarten tuition and a pre-kindergarten fund. This

information was not available to the Wenham Town Meeting voters in May when that community voted a school budget number that did not include the \$500,000 giveback. Prior to the Annual Town Meetings in both towns, officials in Hamilton and Wenham had recommended that the voters take favorable action on the \$500,000 giveback budget figure.

The Hamilton Finance Committee recently voted again on this issue and it unanimously recommends that the school department return \$500,000 to the two towns. It will make an unfavorable recommendation about the \$300,000 giveback proposal from the School Committee at Special Town Meeting.

If \$500,000 were given back to the towns, the regional school district would still have \$600,000 in its E&D fund or 2.3%. There was discussion about whether or not the school's auditor recommended 3% of funds be kept in reserves. Also mentioned was that the school district does not have a cash flow issue.

Discussion amongst residents, including Lynette Fallon and Tracey Mayor, and Town officials about whether or not the School Committee should have demonstrated a need for any unused funds in the school budget.

The school budget is fully funded for the upcoming school year and includes the addition of three teaching positions. Also, the budget picture for the schools in FY'12 and FY'13 is brighter than originally thought.

Discussion with residents, Town officials and School Committee member Lauren Prior about accuracy of budget numbers and prudence of building up school funding reserves since there are multiple school leadership positions needing to be filled.

Discussion about how well money is spent in the HW Regional School District since there is a shortage of Advanced Placement courses at the regional High School and 100% user fees for athletics are charged compared to cohort school districts with lower per pupil costs.

The next step in the process will be the Special Town Meeting vote that either approves the \$300,000 giveback number and certifies the school budget concluding the discussion or if this giveback number is not approved, then a district-wide meeting will be held and the School Committee cannot present another budget figure.

Wenham is not required to hold another Town Meeting since it approved the highest school budget number presented by the School Committee that does not include any giveback amount to the towns.

Hamilton's upcoming Special Town Meeting will cost the Town slightly more than \$2,000 to conduct.

Selectmen expressed their views on the school budget decision: Scuteri, Carey and Stinson continued to support the \$500,000 giveback figure, Hubbard and Johnson were interested in moving forward and accepting the School Committee's proposal for a \$300,000 giveback.

Stinson moved that the Hamilton Board of Selectmen recommend unfavorable action on the School Committee budget proposal for a \$300,000 giveback at Special Town Meeting on June 27, 2011 at Winthrop School at 7 p.m. Carey seconded motion. VOTE: 3-2-0. Stinson, Scuteri and Carey in favor. Johnson and Hubbard opposed.

Discussion about position paper recommending unfavorable action on the \$300,000 giveback from the schools and support for \$500,000 amount to be returned by the school department to the towns. The Finance Committee had voted 4-1 to publish an article in the Hamilton Wenham Chronicle newspaper. Finance Committee voted again, 2 to 1 with William Boesch opposed, to publish an article in the Chronicle.

Scuteri entertained a motion to disperse the Hamilton Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommendation on the FY'12 School Budget vote to all media: HW Patch, HW Chronicle and Salem Evening News. Stinson so moved. Carey seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Warrant hearing included discussion on how the Town budget was set at ATM including Hamilton's appropriation for the school budget and if there is a variance in the dollar amount voted for the school budget (i.e., \$300,000 versus \$500,000 giveback) at Special Town Meeting, the difference would be appropriated at a Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Discussion on asking Jack O'Keefe, Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee Vice Chairman, to make motion on the one warrant article at June 27, 2011 Special Town Meeting that addresses School Committee proposal for

\$300,000 giveback of funds from tax dollars appropriated for the FY'12 regional school budget.

Discussion about using PowerPoint presentation at STM to explain complexity of regional school budget process, multiple votes on giveback amounts and next steps to reach a certified regional school budget.

Town Moderator Bruce Ramsey mentioned that if the warrant article goes to a counted vote at Special Town Meeting on June 27, a ballot question that asks for a simple yes or no answer would be used so votes could be counted quicker with election voting machine technology.

Discussion on Board of Selectmen meeting on Thursday morning and that School Committee chair would be notified as well as school administrators if they want to attend and discuss facts. A School Committee meeting will be held Thursday night. If the school board changes its mind about accepting a \$500,000 versus \$300,000 giveback then the Special Town Meeting vote would not be required.

Board and Committee Reappointments

The Board voted on appointments for boards and committees other than those where the Selectmen serve because the liaison positions will be defined next week at the Board's retreat meeting.

Scuteri entertained a motion to appoint Dyan Katz as Animal Inspector for a one-year term expiring on June 30, 2012. Hubbard so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Scuteri entertained a motion to appoint Karen Zagorski to the Board of Health for a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2014. Stinson so moved. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Scuteri entertained a motion to appoint Virginia Cookson and Susanna McLaughlin to Chebacco Woods Management Committee for three-year terms expiring June 30, 2014. Johnson so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Scuteri entertained a motion to appoint Ed Howard to the Community Preservation Committee for a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2014. Johnson so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Scuteri entertained a motion to appoint George Tarr and Keith Glidden to the Conservation Commission for three-year terms expiring on June 30, 2014. Johnson so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Scuteri entertained a motion to appoint Robert Nyland, Robert Poole and Clarence Trepanier as Constable for one year terms expiring on June 30, 2012. Johnson so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Stinson moved that the Board appoint Emily Cook, Barbara Essensa, Theresa Fanning, Betty Gray, Madelyn Liberti, Mary Maione and Lois Thompson to the Council on Aging for one year terms expiring on June 30, 2012. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Stinson moved that the Board appoint Peter Gourdeau to the Economic Development Committee for a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2014. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Stinson moved that the Board appoint Jane Wetson as Federal Census Liaison for one-year term expiring on June 30, 2012. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Stinson moved that the Board appoint William Boesch, John McWane and Kalil Boghdan to the Finance Committee for three-year terms expiring on June 30, 2014. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Stinson moved that the Board appoint Loretta Cusick, Heather Ford, Mary Helming, Maureen Hickey, John McWane and Susan Lawrence to the Hamilton Foundation for one-year terms expiring on June 30, 2012. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Stinson moved that the Board appoint Meredith Gisness to the Hamilton Wenham Cultural Council for a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2014. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Stinson moved that the Board appoint Jay Butler, John Cusolito and Lindle Willnow to the Hamilton Wenham Recreation Board for three year terms expiring on June 30, 2014. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Stinson moved that the Board appoint Arthur Crosbie, Elizabeth Wheaton, Steve Homer, Edwin Howard, Fred Mills and Stephanie Serafini to the Historic District Committee for three-year terms expiring on June 30, 2014. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Jack Spellman as MBTA Representative for a one-year term expiring on June 30, 2012. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Leigh Keyser and David Cooper to the Office of Disability for one-year terms expiring on June 30, 2011. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Jacqueline Hodge and Fred Sheppard to the Open Space Committee for three year terms expiring on June 30, 2014. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Jane Wetson as Parking Clerk for a one year term expiring on June 30, 2012. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Christine Lindberg as Parking Clerk – Assistant for a one year term expiring on June 30, 2012. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Claudia Woods as Planning Board – Alternate for a one-year term expiring June 30, 2012. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Scott Janes as Police Lieutenant for a three year term expiring June 30, 2014. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Stephen Trepanier, Kenneth Nagy and Stephen Walsh as Police Sergeants for three year terms expiring June 30, 2014. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey moved that the Board appoint Brian Shaw, Karen Wallace, Matthew Donovan, Kent Richards, Michael Wetson, Andrew Neill, Joe Achadinha and Michael Girolimon as Police Officers for three year terms expiring June 30, 2014. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Johnson moved that the Board appoint Charles Downey, Nathan Swisher, Keith Holloran, Jeffrey Cross, Stephen Friedman, Kenneth Shedden and Matthew Shedden as Police Officers (Reserves) for three year terms expiring June 30, 2014. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Johnson moved that the Board appoint Gretel Clark, Heather Ford, Fran Grace, Susanne Richey, Jane Roundy and Alisa Greco to the Recycling Committee for one year terms expiring on June 30, 2012. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Johnson moved that the Board appoint Robert Rose as the Sealer of Weights and Measures for a one year term expiring on June 30, 2012. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Johnson moved that the Board appoint John Tomasz as the TIP Coordinator, Tree/Insect Coordinator and Water Use Restriction By-law Enforcer for one year terms expiring on June 30, 2012. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The Board decided to wait to make the decision on the appointment for Zoning Board of Appeals where there are two interested candidates for one position.

Other business

Next Selectmen's meeting is Thursday, June 23 at 8 a.m.

The next regular Hamilton Selectmen's meeting is on Monday, July 11.

Scuteri entertained a motion to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Hubbard so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Clerk