

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2009 with David Carey, William Bowler and Jennifer Scuteri present. Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Town Clerk Jane Wetson, Board of Assessors, DPW Director John Tomasz, Town Counsel Donna Brewer, Town Moderator Bruce Ramsey and Town Administrator Candace Wheeler also present.

Meeting with Board of Assessors

The Selectmen met with the Board of Assessors and discussed how the tax rate in Wenham is lower than in Hamilton (\$13/\$1,000 versus \$15/\$1,000), how the properties in each town are valued and that the senior housing projects in Wenham bring in \$300,000 in taxes at the Boulders, \$183,000 from the Maples and \$168,000 is the projected tax revenue for the senior housing project planned for the Mullen site. These properties don't put any pressure on the schools since school-aged children do not live there.

It was noted that 11.8% of the property in Hamilton is tax exempt and does not bring in tax dollars (i.e., Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, churches and Pingree School).

According to Steve Ozahowski, there have only been two sales of properties valued at more than \$1 million in Town this year.

The Department of Revenue is analyzing excess land (acreage over an acre, additional rear acreage is discounted) throughout the state and is trying to standardize the values on the North Shore said Tom Hogan, chief appraiser. In Hamilton, there is a flat per acre valuation for anything over 1 acre ranging from \$19,000 an acre for estate property to \$9,000 an acre for in-Town, subdivision property. Valuation is done in-house.

Sign motor vehicle lease – Police cruiser

David Carey entertained a motion to sign the lease with Ford Motor Company credit for the police cruiser. William Bowler so moved. Jennifer Scuteri seconded the motion.
VOTE: Unanimous.

Consider warrant article for STM re: HWRSD debt exclusion

Bowler moved that the Town open the warrant for a Special Town Meeting on October 17, 2009 to immediately follow the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. on October 17, 2009 to consider the Cutler School HVAC project. Carey so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to include one warrant article (the HVAC system replacement) for the (second) Special Town Meeting in an amount not to exceed \$1,531,720. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to close the warrant for October 17, 2009 to follow on the first Special Town Meeting. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Carey entertained a motion to authorize Town Administrator Candace Wheeler to prepare the paperwork for a Reserve Fund Transfer with Finance Director Deborah Mena to submit a RFT request to the Finance Committee. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Four ballots would have to be used for simultaneous elections.

Requests for appointment to Budget Process Committee

Bowler moved they appoint George Lamontagne as the citizen at large member. Carey so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Chapter 90 project and DPW project update

Carey entertained a motion to approve and sign the request for a Chapter 90 project (crack sealing on Miles River and Chebacco Road). Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

DPW Director John Tomasz updated the Board about DPW projects including: Winthrop Street Bridge, Bridge Street culvert, Woodbury Street path, water evaluation and filters replacement at the water treatment plant, solid waste tonnage, water ban elimination at the end of September, Myopia Hunt Club culvert replacement, tree planting at Depot Square, highway work on Chebacco, Miles River and Gregory Island, CPA articles for STM, DPW notification about coliform found in water sample, and dome at Town Hall to be painted soon.

Resolution in support of Bottle Bill

Carey entertained a motion for the Hamilton Board of Selectmen to support the coalition for Mass. Recycle to increase the bottle bill to include additional containers. Scuteri so moved. Carey seconded the motion. VOTE: 2 in favor, 1 opposed.

Town Manager Recruiter search

The Government Study Committee has circulated a draft RFP and identified vendors who could provide the search service to find candidates for Town manager. Interviews of three finalists chosen by the search firm to be done by the Selectmen in open session. The Board will not interview the recruiters. A final RFP will be done and sent out.

Discuss e-mail response time

Town officials agreed to respond to e-mails in two to three hours after receiving them and to attach the e-mail they are responding to.

Request for appointment of Alisa Greco to the Recycling Committee

Carey entertained a motion to appoint Alisa Greco to the Recycling Committee. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Parking at Town lot

Carey agreed to send an email to new Police Chief Russell Stevens about possibly putting a more prominent sign at the Town parking lot across the street from the Weathervane Restaurant about the two-hour parking limit. A notice on car windshields was also discussed to inform people that they can't park at this location all day.

Update Highland Street speed limit, crosswalks for Bay, Ortins and Meadowbrook

More statistics are needed for speed limit on Highland Street, most cars travel faster than the 35 mph posted speed limit. State needs to post signs for the crosswalk ahead at Bay and Ortins Roads. Meadowbrook Farm wants to locate a crosswalk on Essex Street but for it to end in the parking lot has to be resolved before it can be installed.

Open Meeting Law

Carey said it is not clear if allegations can be discussed in executive session. The district attorney's office and attorney general are planning an Open Meeting Law educational session in the fall.

Carey entertained a motion to go into executive session at 9:00 p.m. not to return to open session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy and real estate negotiations. Bowler so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. Members raised their hands for a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Clerk