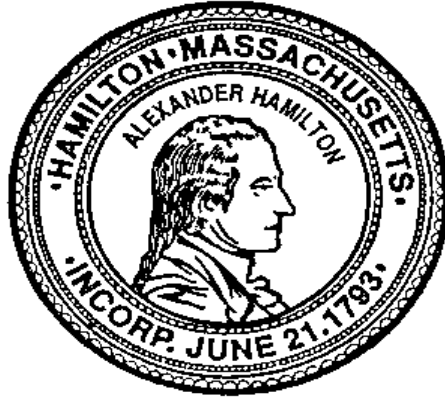


TOWN OF
HAMILTON
MASSACHUSETTS



COMBINED ANNUAL REPORT
FOR YEARS 2008-2009



Town of Hamilton

2008-2009 Annual Report

Town of Hamilton
Essex County
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Incorporated June 21, 1793
Area 14.99 Square Miles
Town Population 8374

Sixth Congressional District
Fifth Councilor District
First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District
Fourth Essex Representative District

State Officials

Congressman: John Tierney of Salem
Senator: Bruce E. Tarr of Gloucester
Representative: Brad Hill of Ipswich

Town Hall Hours

Monday: 8:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

*The following offices are closed to the public on Friday:
Town Clerk, Treasurer/Collector, Assessor, and Board of Selectmen*

In Memoriam *

<u>2008</u>		<u>2009</u>
Edward Cookson	Marion Day	Andrew Tishko
Ernesto Liporio	Diane Meibaum	James Wilson
	James Murphy, Jr.	Norman Wood

** Residents who had served in town government*

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2008 AND 2009 ANNUAL TOWN STATISTICAL DATA may be obtained from the Town Clerk at the Hamilton Town Hall or on-line at www.hamiltonma.gov.

BOARD OF SELECTMAN - 2008

The Town took important steps in 2008 towards addressing its long-term organizational, financial and operational needs.

A Government Study Committee was formed in February to study, evaluate and report on ways to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of Town Government. The Committee's recommendations regarding proposed changes to the Town's organizational structure and number of Selectmen will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

A Blue Ribbon Committee was also formed to develop ideas for increasing revenue and/or reducing the rate of growth in the cost of delivering a quality education to the children in the Hamilton Wenham School System. The Blue Ribbon Committee has met frequently and made important progress but much work remains to be done in developing recommendations that will address the long term funding issues that we continue to face.

Efforts also continued to increase revenues and reduce costs. A new Senior Housing Bylaw was approved at Annual Town Meeting that will support the Town's development needs and generate additional revenue. A Comprehensive Site Assessment was also completed detailing the additional environmental work that will need to be done prior to proceeding with the proposed development of the Landfill site.

Service and cost sharing arrangements represent a significant opportunity to reduce costs while still maintaining required services. Initiatives under consideration with the Town of Wenham include proposed joint programs for the Councils on Aging as well as potential service and cost sharing arrangements for Custodial, Building Maintenance and Police services. Significant progress has also been made on the proposed new Regional Emergency Operations Center that would include 12 surrounding communities.

The Department of Revenue also agreed to undertake a merger and regionalization enhancement analysis at the request of both Towns which is expected to provide further ideas for collaboration and cost sharing that will reduce costs. This study follows a Financial Management Review that the Department of Revenue also undertook at our request to identify ways the Town could operate more effectively and efficiently in the future.

Steps are also being taken to help address the impact that increased real estate taxes are having on our Seniors in particular. A citizen's petition proposing the implementation of a Senior Tax Abatement Program through a Home Rule Petition was considered at a Special Town Meeting in October. While this measure did not pass, a revised proposal will be presented to Annual Town Meeting in May. Changes were also made to expand the Community Service Tax Voucher Program.

Considerable time and effort was also spent on addressing operational issues within the Police Department as well as on developing a long term plan for providing ambulance services to the Town following the suspension of the Town's ambulance service in September. An EMS Planning Committee was formed to develop recommendations for the delivery of Emergency Medical Services to the Town.

The Town continued to work on addressing on-going facilities and infrastructure needs. A study was undertaken to determine the future maintenance requirements and alternative uses for the Old Library and was referred to the Economic Development Committee for use in its Downtown Economic Development study. The Highland Street Bridge is expected to be back in service shortly following completion of repairs undertaken by the Massachusetts Highway Department. Some progress has also been made in addressing high water levels in the Miles River but this remains a significant concern. Further investment will continue to be required to address the Town's infrastructure needs, including drainage, repairs to the Winthrop Street Bridge and re-engineering of the Bridge Street culvert.

A report of high perchlorate levels in the Town's water supply resulted in the issuance of a Drinking Water Health Advisory over the Labor Day weekend. While our drinking water was ultimately determined to be safe, this event highlighted a number of strengths and weaknesses in the Town's emergency response capabilities, which are being addressed and include the installation of a community notification system.

2008 represented a year of change in personnel as Maggie Whitesell, Bob Timpani and Walter Cullen retired after 62 years of combined service to the Town. The Town welcomed John Tomasz as the new Director of the Department of Public Works, Leslie Whelan as the new Health Agent and, in early 2009, Melissa Roy as the new Recreation Director and Christine Lindberg as the new Planning Coordinator.

2008 was also a year of recognition. Edna Barney received the Unsung Heroine Award from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women for her lifetime of dedicated commitment to the Town. Recycling Committee members Gretel Clark, Heather Ford, Suzanne Richey, Jane Roundy and Francis Grace received Volunteer Recognition Awards from Community Service of Hamilton and Wenham for their efforts in implementing the Town's Waste Reduction Program. This program was initiated in March and has resulted in significant increases in recycling and a substantial reduction in waste disposal costs. And finally, the Big League Field in Patton Park was dedicated in memory of Richard A. Vitale for his many years of dedication to the youth of Hamilton as the Recreation Director and a member of the Youth Commission.

2008 also saw the dedication of Phase II of the Veteran's Honor Roll recognizing veterans from the Town of Hamilton that served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

And as the year came to a close, the Historic District Commission approved a request from the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs to allow the burial of Agawam Indian remains at Masconomet's Grave site on Sagamore Hill.

It has been an honor to serve as a Selectman for the past three years. As I will not be running for re-election this Spring, I would like in closing to take this opportunity to wish my colleagues, David Carey and Bill Bowler, and my successor all the best in the future.

Richard A Low
Chairman
Board of Selectmen

Finance and Advisory Committee Annual Report - 2008

Financial Highlights:

During the year, the Finance and Advisory Committee ("FinCom") worked intensely to try to balance the economic pressures being felt by most of the towns and cities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. There is a growing awareness that the revenues available under Proposition 2 1/2 are simply not sufficient to cover the escalating costs of providing services to our citizens. The ongoing challenge will be whether new revenue sources can be generated to overcome the need for override votes or whether decisions will have to be made to curtail and/or eliminate local services.

The Waste Reduction program continues to pay dividends to the Town with a 33% estimated reduction in trash disposal. At a cost to dispose of \$73 a ton that converts to annual tax dollar savings of \$60,000.

The Town and FinCom continue to explore ways to reduce operating costs. These include increased cooperation with Wenham and The HWRSD to increase efficiency and lower costs. Examples are: more regionalization of the Emergency Dispatch Center, buildings and grounds maintenance and pooling supply purchasing.

FinCom continues to both receive and encourage citizen input into the budget process.

At the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting, the Town approved for FY09:

- A total (School and Town) General Fund budget of \$ 24,040,484 an increase of \$1,292,587 or 5.7% over the prior year compared to an increase of \$1,075,104 or 4.96% in FY08.
- A Town Operating Budget of \$7,450,192 an increase of \$197,409 or 2.72% over the prior year. This compared to an increase of \$387,828 or 5.6% in FY08. For the second time in three years, the Town budget included an override (\$177,444).
- A Hamilton Wenham Regional School District Budget of \$15,116,019 (including an override of \$1,288,322), an increase of \$1,416,418 or 10.34% compared to an increase of \$707,941 or 5.54% in FY08.
- A North Shore Regional Vocational School Budget of \$145,850 a slight increase over the prior year, compared to a 27 % decrease in FY08.
- School and Town debt (P&I) payments decreased \$37,172 or 2.2%.
- A Water Enterprise Budget of \$860,715. The purchase of radio- read water meters, which has been a multi-year capital program, is expected to be completed in FY09. The radio-read water meters will give the Town more accurate water use information and reduce the cost to read the water meters.

A Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget of \$327,800. In the future, the revenue and expenses of the Town's Solid Waste collection and disposal will be accounted for in the Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget.

Impact of the FY09 Budget on the tax rate:

2008 Tax Rate	\$13.39
Increase	1.37
2009 Estimated Tax Rate	\$14.76. (1)

- (1) The November 2008 Certified FY09 Tax rate was \$15.23. The change from the FinCom estimate at the May 2008 Town Meeting resulted from a 2.8% reduction in the total Town real estate assessed value. The breakdown of the estimated tax rate was:

Budgeted Item	Tax Rate Portion
Town Net Budget	\$3.22
HW Regional School	9.29
North Shore Regional Vocational School	0.08
Town and School Debt	1.18
Town Override	0.12
HW Regional School Override	0.87
10.3% Increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate to a Total of	\$14.76

Special Town Meeting-October 2008:

The purpose of the meeting and most of the discussion was focused on the Citizen Petition to authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to allow the Town to adopt a property tax exemption for senior citizens. Although the proposed article did not pass, it was clear that the citizens wanted the Selectmen to find a way to give real estate tax relief to our senior citizens. FinCom plans to have a senior tax exemption proposal presented at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Financial challenges:

In addition to continued effort to control expenses, financial challenges facing the Town include financing future capital costs to maintain our buildings, rebuilding our unallocated reserves, ever increasing health insurance costs, and negative cash flow around the time of large expense payments, which required the Town to utilize short term borrowing of \$1,000,000. And last but not least, the required implementation of GASB Statement No. 45 in FY09. GASB 45 establishes the standards for the measurement, recognition, and display in our financial statements of Other Post-employment Benefits such as health insurance for which the Town is currently paying 55% of employee and family coverage, potentially for the lifetimes of retirees.

New initiatives:

- The formation of a Public Employee Committee consisting of representatives from Town Management, Town Officials, and Town Unions to examine the potential benefits of joining the State Medical Insurance Program ("GIC") and vote if possible, to join GIC as of July 1,2009. Due to employee concerns regarding the need to change health insurance carriers and higher deductibles the Union representatives decided not to take a vote on GIC this year.
- Increase fees to cover the cost of delivering the service. The fees increased during the year were building permit, inspectional fees, burn permit and water use fees. Water fees were increased to provide the capital necessary to maintain the water treatment plant, and rebuild reserves used to replace the water meters.
- FinCom recommended and the Selectmen approved elimination of the income qualification for the senior work program. This program assists seniors to reduce their real estate tax by up to \$750 by working in the Town. The income qualification was replaced with a budget for the program with the goal of finding citizens that can help reduce Town expenses by performing necessary Town work.
- Members of FinCom are on the Capital Management Committee, the Budget Process Committee, the Public Employee Committee, the EMS Committee to determine the future of Hamilton's ambulance service and the Blue Ribbon Committee.
- To improve cash flow FinCom initiated the twice monthly payment of Town Bills and have recommended a bi-weekly payroll for Town employees.

Audit:

As in the past, the Town's accounting firm, Sullivan, Rogers and Company, LLC, gave the Town a clean certificate for FY08.

Fincom wants to thank the Finance Department staff members for their hard work during the year.

(1) The above budget information is from the May 5, 2008 Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

Submitted by the following Finance Committee Members:

Daniel J. Bukkhegyi

Robert M. Bullivant

John McWane (joined 6/30/08)

Arthur J. Oberheim, Chairman

Jane Prince (completed term 6/30/08)

Alexander A. Shaw

Finance and Advisory Committee Annual Report - 2009

Financial Highlights:

2009 should be characterized as the year of transitions. The Finance and Advisory Committee ("FinCom") worked intensely to balance the economic pressures being felt by all the towns and cities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The state announced in mid-year that the local aid to cities and town would be reduced due to the revenue shortfalls that the state was experiencing across all sources of funds. This same experience was mirrored in the Town's local receipts such as reduction in building permits, motor vehicle excise tax and the loss of the ambulance service. The Finance and Advisory Committee working with the Board of Selectman (BOS) instituted both a budgetary freeze and a review of all expenses.

The approach towards Fiscal Year 2010 budgeting included no cost of living raises for all employees, zero based budgeting for all services, a negotiated 1% increase in the cost of health insurance, and a level expense budget. The increases in the unfunded retirement liability due to the financial market downturn in 2008 will not impact the budgeting process until 2012. Simultaneously the Town citizens decided it was time to consider a change in leadership and the local government structure, leading to a Home Rule petition to the state legislature to establish a Town Manager form of government. Transitional costs became a critical area in the funding process. The efforts of FinCom, BOS and the Finance Director allowed the Town to balance a budget with a 12% reduction in local receipts and state funding and produce a budget within the Proposition 2 ½ levy limit. The ongoing challenge will be whether new revenue sources can be generated to overcome the need for override votes or whether to continue the curtailing and/or elimination of specific local services.

The Town and FinCom continue to explore ways to drive efficiencies in the operating costs construct. These include increased cooperation with Wenham and the HWRSD to increase efficiency and lower costs. Examples are: explore regionalization of the Emergency Dispatch Center, buildings and grounds maintenance and pooled purchasing arrangements. Lastly the town passed a revised property tax exemption for senior citizens and submitted a Home Rule petition to the legislature. This petition was in response to a clear message from the citizens that they wanted the Selectmen to find a way to give real estate tax relief to our senior citizens. The cost of this petition if approved by that State Legislature will be borne in Fiscal 2012.

FinCom continues to both receive and encourage citizen input into the budget process.

At the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting, the Town approved for FY10:

- A total (School and Town) General Fund budget of \$ 24,436,264 an increase of \$110,480 or .5% over the prior year compared to an increase of \$1,292,587 or 5.7% in FY09. This excludes allowance for abatements and deficit spending for snow and ice removal.
- A Town Operating Budget of \$7,420,113 a decrease of \$30,079 or .4% over the prior year. This compared to an increase of \$197,409 or 2.72% in FY09.
- A Hamilton Wenham Regional School District Budget of \$15,323,686, an increase of \$207,667 or 1.37% compared to an increase of \$1,416,418 or 10.34% in FY09.

- A North Shore Regional Vocational School Budget of \$118,700, a decrease of 18.62% compared to \$145,850 in FY09.
- School and Town debt (P&I) payments decreased \$75,958 or 4.71%.
- A Water Enterprise Budget of \$1,025,328.
- A Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget of \$315,920 is supported by \$276,870 of tax dollars from the General Fund Budget.

Special Town Meeting-October 2009:

The purpose of the meeting was to consider both budgetary and government structure articles.

- The Town passed an additional borrowing of \$1,531,720 as a condition of the Massachusetts School Building Authority remodeling, reconstructing and repairs to the Cutler School HVAC. This had zero impact on taxes due to the refunding of existing debt at a lower rate.
- The Town approved a borrowing of \$ 310,000 to replace the water filtration process.
- The Town considered several articles on regionalizing additional departments that potentially will stabilize cost and will increase efficiencies. The town approved moving forward on the analysis to enter a contract for 10 years on the regionalization of Emergency Response Center.
- The Town voted to support and continue participation in the merger of the North Shore Vocational Technical High School and Essex County Agricultural High School. This will increase the funding costs in Fiscal 2012 for debt financing for the building of the new campus environment.
- The Town voted to continue on the reorganization of the local government structure by passing a petition to the state legislature to increase the size of the BOS from three to five members. The financial impact for this transition will be borne in the Fiscal 2011 budget.

Impact on the FY10 tax rate:

The Fiscal Year 2010 Certified Tax rate was \$16.29 an increase of \$1.37 from Fiscal 2009. The change from the FinCom estimate at the May 2009 Town Meeting resulted from a 4.12% reduction in the total assessed value of Town property. The devaluation increased the tax rate by \$.67; the reduction in funding sources increased the tax rate by \$.25

Budgeted Item	Tax Rate Portion
Town Net Budget	\$3.88
HW Regional School	11.12
North Shore Regional Vocational School	0.09
Town and School Debt	1.20
10.3% Increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate to a Total of	\$16.29

Financial challenges:

In addition to continued effort to control expenses, financial challenges facing the Town include financing future capital costs to maintain our buildings, rebuilding our unallocated reserves, ever increasing health insurance costs, augment cash reserves for cash flow, planning and budgeting for the unfunded liabilities for both retirement and Other Post-Employment Benefits such as health insurance for which the Town is currently paying 55% of employee and family coverage, for the lifetimes of retirees.

New initiatives:

- The continuation of a Public Employee Committee consisting of representatives from Town Management, Town Officials, and Town Unions to examine the potential benefits of joining the State Medical Insurance Program ("GIC") and explore different insurance plans offered by Municipal Inter-local Insurance Association.
- Increase fees to cover the cost of delivering services. The fees increased during the year were building permit, inspectional fees, burn permit and water use fees. Water fees were increased to provide the capital necessary to maintain the water treatment plant, and rebuild reserves used to replace the water meters.
- FinCom recommended and the Selectmen approved elimination of the income qualification for the senior work program. This program assists seniors to reduce their real estate tax by up to \$750 by working in the Town. The income qualification was replaced with a budget for the program with the goal of finding citizens that can help reduce Town expenses by performing necessary Town work.
- Members of FinCom are on the Capital Management Committee, the Budget Process Committee, the Public Employee Committee, and the EMS Committee to determine the future of Hamilton's ambulance service.
- The establishment of the Blue Ribbon Committee to benchmark the HWRSD functional and operational cost structures.

Audit:

As in the past, the Town's accounting firm, Sullivan, Rogers and Company, LLC, gave the Town a clean certificate for FY09.

FinCom wants to thank the Finance Department staff members for their hard work during the year.

The above information is provided from the May 14, 2009, Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting and the October 17, 2009, Warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

Submitted by the following Finance Committee Members:

Daniel J. Bukkhegyi
Robert M. Bullivant
John McWane (joined 6/30/08)
Arthur J. Oberheim, Chairman
Alexander A. Shaw

HAMILTON BOARD OF ASSESSORS - 2008

For 2008, the total assessed taxable valuation of Hamilton is \$1,437,246, with a property tax levy of \$21,889,262. The fiscal year 2009 tax rate as certified by the Department of Revenue is \$15.23 up 1.84 from the previous year. Building permits issued in 2008 resulted in an additional \$245,257 in tax levy growth.

In 2008, the Board of Assessors completed their mandatory 3 year recertification year adjustment on all property in the town of Hamilton as required by the Department of Revenue. Under Massachusetts's law, this Board is required to value all of Hamilton's 2793 properties at 100 percent of their full and fair cash valuation, thereby insuring an equitable distribution of the property tax levy. The town's average single-family valuation is \$515,400. More importantly, we believe that we have met our statutory obligation to re-establish proper assessment level and uniformity throughout the town of Hamilton. Final Department of Revenue certification of assessed valuations was granted in December and property tax bills were subsequently mailed at the end of December. The current valuation and levy percentages based upon property class are as follows:

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>TAXES PAID</u>	<u>LEVY %</u>
Residential	1,363,501,400	95%	\$20,766,126	95%
Commercial	57,758,600	4%	\$879,663	4%
Industrial	823,600	0%	\$12,543	0%
Personal	<u>15,162,801</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>\$230,929</u>	<u>1%</u>
TOTALS	1,437,246,401	100%	\$21,889,261	100%

In 2008, the Assessing Department completed the fifth, and final, year of a state-mandated data re-collection program. This process is an important component of maintaining the integrity of Hamilton's real property information database.

Also in 2008, the Assessors office processed over 700 applications for excise abatements, Elderly and Veteran Exemptions, and CPA Exemption.

We would like to assure all property owners that the Board of Assessors will continue its effort to meet the challenge of maintaining equitable assessments in this current real estate market.

Respectfully submitted,
Gelean M. Campbell, Chairman
Steven Ozahowski, Member
Peter J. Kane, Member

HAMILTON BOARD OF ASSESSORS - 2009

For Fiscal Year 2010, the total assessed taxable valuation of Hamilton is \$1,377,977,858 with a property tax levy of \$22,447,259. The fiscal year 2010 tax rate as certified by the Department of Revenue is \$16.29 up \$1.06 from the previous year. Building permits issued in 2009 resulted in an additional \$176,033 in tax levy growth.

In 2009, the Board of Assessors completed their mandatory Interim Year adjustment on all property in the town of Hamilton as required by the Department of Revenue. Under Massachusetts's law, this Board is required to value all of Hamilton's 2783 properties at 100 percent of their full and fair cash valuation, thereby insuring an equitable distribution of the property tax levy. The town's average single-family valuation is \$493,000. More importantly, we believe that we have met our statutory obligation to re-establish proper assessment level and uniformity throughout the town of Hamilton. Final Department of Revenue certification of assessed valuations was granted in December and property tax bills were subsequently mailed at the end of December. The current valuation and levy percentages based upon property class are as follows:

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>TAXES PAID</u>	<u>LEVY %</u>
Residential	1,304,500,000	95%	\$21,250,305	95%
Commercial	56,885,000	4%	\$926,657	4%
Industrial	823,600	0%	\$13,416	0%
Personal	<u>15,769,258</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>\$256,881</u>	<u>1%</u>
TOTALS	1,377,977,858	100%	\$22,447,259	100%

Also in 2009, the Assessors office processed over 800 applications for excise abatements, Elderly and Veteran Exemptions, and CPA Exemptions.

We would like to assure all property owners that the Board of Assessors will continue its effort to meet the challenge of maintaining equitable assessments in this current real estate market.

Respectfully submitted,
Gelean M. Campbell, Chairman
Steven Ozahowski, Member
Peter J. Kane, Member

TREASURER COLLECTOR- 2008

I hereby submit my Annual Report as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Hamilton for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008.

July 1, 2007	\$4,604,129
Receipts	\$26,421,447
Disbursements	(\$26,684,267)
June 30, 2008	<u><u>\$4,341,309</u></u>

Segregated Cash Accounts - June 30, 2008

Stabilization Fund	\$ 619,778
Clark Property Fund	\$ 229,508
Conservation Commission	\$ 93,640
Cultural Council	\$ 6,436
CPA	\$ 1,398,223
Junction	\$ 183
MMDT - Public Safety Building	\$ 18,667
Merrill Lynch - Trust Funds	\$ 443,765
	<u>\$ 2,810,200</u>

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl J. Booth, CMMT, CMMC
Treasurer/Collector

TREASURER COLLECTOR- 2008

<u>COLLECTIONS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>July - December</u>	<u>January - June</u>	<u>Total</u>
REAL ESTATE	2008	\$		\$
		9,146,981	\$ 10,174,659	19,321,640
	2007	\$		\$
		161,550	\$ -	161,550
		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
		9,308,531	\$ 10,174,659	19,483,190
PERSONAL PROPERTY	2008	\$		\$
		58,170	\$ 78,361	136,531
	2007	\$		\$
		276	\$ -	276
		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
		58,446	\$ 78,361	136,807
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	2008	\$ -	\$ 803,327	\$ 803,327
		\$		\$
	2007	119,241	\$ 38,965	158,206
		\$		\$
	2006	8,257	\$ 3,363	11,620
		\$		\$
	2005	2,866	\$ 580	3,446
		\$		\$
Prior to	2004	971	\$ 778	1,749
		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
		131,335	\$ 847,013	978,348
BOAT EXCISE	2007	\$		\$
		2,481	\$ 261	2,742
	2006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$		\$
		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
		2,481	\$ 261	2,742
WATER		\$		\$
	Rates	444,269	\$ 334,910	779,179
		\$		\$
	General Billing	9,956	\$ 5,661	15,617
		\$		\$
	Liens	2,297	\$ 22,803	25,100
	Penalties & Interest	\$		\$
		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
		213	\$ 209	422
		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
			\$ 363,583	

		<u>456,735</u>		<u>820,318</u>
CPA	2008	\$ 153,089	\$ 167,202	\$ 320,291
	2007	\$ 1,825	\$ -	\$ 1,825
Interest		\$ 259	\$ 215	\$ 474
		<u>\$ 155,173</u>	<u>\$ 167,417</u>	<u>\$ 322,590</u>
TAX TITLES		<u>\$ 66,962</u>	<u>\$ 115,139</u>	<u>\$ 182,101</u>
BETTERMENTS		<u>\$ 50</u>	<u>\$ 3,686</u>	<u>\$ 3,736</u>
PENALTIES & INTEREST		<u>\$ 36,206</u>	<u>\$ 58,354</u>	<u>\$ 94,560</u>
MUNICIPAL LIEN CERTIFICATES		<u>\$ 2,325</u>	<u>\$ 3,450</u>	<u>\$ 5,775</u>
TOTAL		<u><u>\$10,218,244</u></u>	<u><u>\$11,811,923</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 22,030,167</u></u>

TREASURER COLLECTOR- 2009

I hereby submit my Annual Report as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Hamilton for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009.

July 1, 2008	\$4,341,309
Receipts	\$27,337,768
Disbursements	(\$27,158,999)
June 30, 2009	<u>\$4,520,078</u>

Segregated Cash Accounts - June 30, 2009

Stabilization Fund	\$ 626,136
Clark Property Fund	\$ 222,153
Conservation Commission	\$ 103,322
Cultural Council	\$ 11,986
CPA	\$ 1,684,845
Junction	\$ 186
Public Safety Building	\$ 4,041
Trust Funds	\$ 468,636
	<u>\$ 3,121,305</u>

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl J. Booth, CMMT, CMMC
Treasurer/Collector

*FY 2009 is based on unaudited balances.

TREASURER COLLECTOR- 2009

<u>COLLECTIONS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>July - December</u>	<u>January - June</u>	<u>Total</u>
		\$		\$
REAL ESTATE	2009	9,580,651	\$ 11,475,008	21,055,659
		\$		\$
	2008	226,731	\$ (4,421)	222,310
		\$		\$
Prior to	2007	5,162	\$ -	5,162
		\$		\$
		9,812,544	\$ 11,470,587	21,283,131
		\$		\$
PERSONAL PROPERTY	2009	68,579	\$ 163,877	232,456
		\$		\$
	2008	2,237	\$ -	2,237
		\$		\$
		70,816	\$ 163,877	234,693
		\$		\$
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	2009	\$ -	\$ 758,403	758,403
		\$		\$
	2008	137,617	\$ 12,875	150,492
		\$		\$
	2007	1,778	\$ 1,371	3,149
		\$		\$
	2006	1,095	\$ 294	1,389
		\$		\$
Prior to	2005	\$ -	\$ 816	816
		\$		\$
		140,490	\$ 773,759	914,249
		\$		\$
BOAT EXCISE	2008	2,421	\$ 154	2,575
		\$		\$
	2007	\$ 49	\$ -	49
		\$		\$
		2,470	\$ 154	2,624
WATER		\$		\$
Rates		407,340	\$ 476,634	883,974
		\$		\$
General Billing		5,701	\$ 4,154	9,855
		\$		\$
Liens		2,133	\$ 29,037	31,170
Penalties & Interest		\$ 198	\$ 192	\$ 390

		\$ 415,372	\$ 510,017	\$ 925,389
CPA	2009	\$ 153,973	\$ 185,949	\$ 344,922
Prior to	2008	\$ 2,541	\$ (270)	\$ 2,271
Interest		\$ 344	\$ 216	\$ 560
		\$ 161,858	\$ 185,895	\$ 347,753
TAX TITLES		\$ 60,636	\$ 12,073	\$ 72,709
BETTERMENTS		\$ -	\$ 3,050	\$ 3,050
PENALTIES & INTEREST		\$ 49,323	\$ 27,245	\$ 76,568
MUNICIPAL LIEN CERTIFICATES		\$ 2,425	\$ 5,150	\$ 7,575
TOTAL		\$10,715,934	\$13,151,807	\$ 23,867,741

BOARD OF HEALTH - 2008

The Board of Health is responsible for the overall stewardship of the public health and environmental protection of the town. Responsibilities are defined both by local bylaws and state law. The Board promotes, enacts, and enforces all health and environmental laws, rules and regulations. Additionally the Board of Health conducts health clinics, participates in education programs wherever possible and administers the contracts for a food inspection program, a public health nurse and communicable disease follow-up program, and animal inspection services.

The Board consists of three members serving three-year terms in rotation. Stephen Druschel served as Chair, JoAnne Ainsworth and Rodd Stockwell, M.D. served as members. Leslie Whelan became Health Agent for the town in June of 2008. Gail Messelaar continued as Administrative Assistant. Dyan Katz was reappointed as Animal Inspector and Anne Jackman was reappointed as Assistant Animal Inspector.

In 2008 the Hamilton Board of Health continued to be pro-active in the review and formulation of a disaster plan in concert with the Department of Public Health and the Office of Domestic Preparedness.

The Board continues to work in conjunction with Walter Montgomery of the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control, the Board of Selectmen, and town residents to establish a Mosquito Control Monitoring program for the town.

The Health Agent enforced Massachusetts Title V regulations for sewage disposal. This included many site visits to existing and proposed home sites, review and approval of plans, and the issuing of treatment and disposal system permits. Our role also includes the inspection of construction of the sewage systems and involvement in the permit process for work on existing and new homes.

Semi-annual food inspections were performed by Frank Giacalone at all permanent, limited and temporary establishments that sell and/or prepare food including the school cafeterias in the Hamilton-Wenham School District.

The Board provided public health, preventative health and health promotion services to the residents of Hamilton. These included: tuberculosis screening; immunization against other communicable diseases; communicable disease follow-up by telephone and/or home; visits with completion of epidemiological survey; one time home visits to high risk mothers and their newborns; occasional home visits to assess an individual's health and safety and grief visits. Increases in both Lyme disease and other tick borne diseases continue to make up the majority of all reportable disease in Hamilton.

Influenza/pneumonia vaccination clinics were held by the Board of Health and with assistance of private nurse services. The Board plans to hire a public health nurse in 2009 to provide essential services to the town. This would replace the contracted services currently in place.

The Board cannot over emphasize the absolute need for dog and cat owners to obtain rabies vaccinations for their pets and revaccinations on the required schedule. Please have your cats and dogs vaccinated not only to protect their health but also to prevent rabies in humans, as pets are the bridge between ground animals and humans. Pets must be revaccinated within one (1) year of their initial vaccination and revaccinated as recommended by the Veterinarian or vaccine manufacturer thereafter.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Animal Health and Dairying requires all horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and flocks

of poultry numbering twenty-five (25) or more to be inspected and an annual census completed. The Inspector of Animals conducted inspections of the animals and their housing conditions throughout Hamilton.

Numerous environmental and housing complaints were also investigated and properly handled in accordance with State regulations.

The Board also distributed vaccines and biologics from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to physicians in Hamilton.

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Lindle Willnow, Chair
JoAnne Ainsworth
Susan Wilfahrt

BOARD OF HEALTH - 2009

The Board consists of three members serving three-year terms in rotation. Lindle Willnow serves as Chair, Susan Wilfahrt and Karen Zagorski serves as members. Leslie Whelan is the Health Agent. Nancy Stevens (Administrative Assistant), Roberta Codi (Camp and Pool Inspector) and Sheryl Knutsen (Public Health Nurse) are new additions to the Board of Health. Frank Giacalone (Food Inspector) continues to perform semi-annual food inspections. Dyan Katz was reappointed as Animal Inspector and Anne Jackman was reappointed as Assistant Animal Inspector.

The Board of Health is responsible for implementing and overseeing the laws, policies and regulations of the Town, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Responsibilities of the Board of Health include emergency planning, inspections, issuing of permits and licenses for septic installers, septic haulers, retail food establishments, retail tobacco, public and semi-public swimming pools, children recreational camps and keeping of animals/stables. In addition, the Board of Health conducts health clinics, addresses concerns of public nuisance, air quality, noise control, insect control, beaver and mosquito management, food protection, housing complaints, Title 5 compliance and communicable disease reporting.

The Board of Health received many calls this year regarding the H1N1 Virus. Our Public Health Nurse was utilized for her expertise to field any questions and concerns that residents might have had. When the flu season was upon us, the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Health collectively joined together and held numerous H1N1, Influenza/Pneumonia vaccination clinics vaccinating over 1,000 residents. Partner's Home Care provided assistance with the Influenza/Pneumonia Flu Clinics and Lauri McKechnie, RN and many volunteers from the North Shore-Cape Ann Emergency Preparedness Coalition, Medical Reserve Corps provided assistance with the H1N1 Flu Clinics.

The Hamilton Board of Health continues to work at the local and regional level on emergency response planning relative to infectious disease emergencies, bioterrorist events and natural disasters. Hamilton participates in a coalition of 14 surrounding cities and towns working closely together to develop emergency plans and mutual aid.

The Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District continued to monitor and treat targeted affected areas throughout the town.

The following is a yearly report of permits/licenses issued:

Septic Disposal System Construction (New)	9
Septic Disposal System Construction (Repair)	58
Septic Disposal System Installer	36
Septic Disposal System Hauler	10
Food/Retail Service	29
Temporary Food/Retail Service	4
Keeping of Animals	61
Stables	61
Wells	1
Swimming Pools	4
Recreational Camps	6
Tobacco Sales	8

Total fees collected in calendar year 2009 were \$50,360.00.

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

Lindle Willnow, Chair

Karen Zagorski

Susan Wilfahrt

CHEBACCO WOODS LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE- 2008-2009

The Chebacco Woods Land Management Committee received a \$25,000.00 grant in 2008 from the Manchester Community Preservation Committee to do trail work in the eastern half of The Woods. Stendahl Tree Service cleared trees and limbs from the main trails. R.B. Strong built a ramp and bridge to enable easier entrance into the eastern half and laid wood chips to mark main trails more clearly. Committee member Sue McLaughlin continued to conduct quarterly walks, but the committee has voted to discontinue these walks due to lack of interest. Most visitors now know the trail network quite well. Ms. McLaughlin also supplied the Kiosk at the main entrance with maps and dog bags, and regularly emptied the garbage can there. Final work was completed in the western half of The Woods, and this work was made possible by a \$25,000.00 last year from the Hamilton Community Preservation Committee. The Land Management Committee seeded various sections of the renovated trails with grass used by the Commonwealth to discourage erosion along state highways. The Committee deposited \$4,000.00 with each town paid by the producers of the motion picture "The Proposal". The Committee spent many hours obtaining approval of legal documents used to permit the filming in The Woods as well as additional hours supervising set-up and clean-up of the area used for filming. Finally, Town Meetings in both towns again approved the proposed land swaps stemming from two large encroachments in The Woods. The second approvals were made necessary by a technicality in the swap approval process at the state level.

2009 was not a particularly big year for Chebacco Woods. Trail improvements were not done due to very wet conditions. The Committee did complete a few notable accomplishments. Charlie Kellogg led an effort to update the trail map. Using GPS data provided by the Essex County Trail Association, Charlie ordered 5,000 new and improved maps from The Cricket Press. These maps should last for several years. Sue McLaughlin made sure that the Kiosk at the Main Entrance was supplied with trail maps and dog bags and that the trash barrel was emptied regularly. On Oct. 31, the Committee joined the Chebacco Lake and Watershed Association to conduct a clean up along Chebacco Road. Another cleanup will be organized

soon as there is considerable additional debris to be removed. The Hamilton DPW removed the two truck loads which the cleanup crew collected in October. Both towns were later notified that Chebacco Road is regularly used as a dumping ground for all kinds of rubbish. Following the lead of various concerned citizens, the Committee reiterated in the local press that Hamilton's leash law applies to dog owners exercising their animals on the property. The encroachments on the property have yet to be resolved, but the Committee, Hancock Engineering, and Town Officials are working closely with the offenders to bring a close to these matters. Finally, as a gesture of good neighborliness, the Committee voted to send small checks to two abutters to help defray their expense for removing a culvert and replacing it with a free flowing swale.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph C. Smith, Chair

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – 2008

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) continued to meet at least monthly in 2008. The Committee has been working to advance the goals of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) by advancing high priority community housing, historic preservation, and open space projects in Hamilton. CPA continues to fund projects with significant matching dollars from the Commonwealth's Community Preservation Trust Fund.

Several notable CPA projects were completed in 2008 including the Chebacco Woods Trail Restoration, replacement of the floor at the old Library, and renovation to the historic bell at the First Congregation Church of Hamilton. A number of other significant CPA projects were begun including the restoration of the Hamilton-Wenham Community House portico and the Woodbury Street Path. The CPC also completed its first Community Preservation Plan in 2008. The CPC also supported legislative efforts to stabilize the state CPA trust fund to ensure significant match in the future and to expand CPA allowable uses to fund some projects that are currently ineligible, such as restoration to our open space or recreation land.

The Committee recently completed its review and recommendation of project funding applications for this spring's 2009 Annual Town Meeting. The CPC works with citizens and other town boards to solicit and review new applications each year. The CPC also works closely with each of the proponents and managers of CPA projects approved at Town Meetings to advance and monitor the progress of their projects.

The following CPA projects and expenditures were approved at Annual Town Meeting in May 2008:

1. Replacement of the flooring at the Senior Center/Old Library - \$9,000
2. Renovations of the historic bell at the First Congregational Church of Hamilton to allow the bell to ring at time intervals synchronized with the Town Clock - \$11,000
3. Renovation of the Hamilton Wenham Community House portico, a prime feature of this architecturally significant building - \$60,000
4. Preservation and restoration of Weaver Pond at Patton Park as a public recreational resource - \$2,500
5. Set-aside for future Open Space projects - \$70,000
6. Set-aside for future Community Housing projects - \$70,000

7. Administration costs including, but not limited to, Annual Community Preservation Coalition membership fees and salary for part-time Community Preservation Committee Coordinator position – up to \$35,000

The CPC has the following nine members; Tom Catalano (Chair, Historic District Commission), Leigh Keyser (Housing Authority), Lindle Willnow (Recreation Board), Chris Davis (At-Large), Dave Carey (Board of Selectmen), Peter Britton (Housing Partnership), Peter Clark (Planning Board), Peter Dana (Conservation Commission), Ray Whipple (At Large). Christine Berry serves as the Coordinator for the CPC.

As of close of fiscal year 2008, \$155,000 has been appropriated for Community Housing projects, \$298,200, has been appropriated for Open Space and Recreation projects, and \$292,946 has been appropriated for Historic Preservation projects since the adoption of CPA in Hamilton. In addition, as of close of 2008, there is \$752,025 in the fund balance unreserved, \$88,870 in the community housing reserves, \$60,682 in the open space reserves, and \$30,500 in the historic preservation reserves.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – 2009

Meeting monthly in 2009, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) continues working to advance the goals of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) by advancing high priority community housing, historic preservation, and open space projects in Hamilton. CPA continues to fund projects with significant matching dollars from the Commonwealth's Community Preservation Trust Fund.

Several notable CPA projects were completed in 2009 including the renovation of the portico at the Community House of Hamilton and Wenham, restoration of the historic Asbury Grove Tabernacle which is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, placement of a new plaque at the burial site of Chief Masconomet, and renovation of half the kitchenettes at the Railroad Avenue Hamilton Housing Authority.

The CPC also supported legislative efforts to stabilize the state CPA trust fund to ensure significant match in the future and to expand CPA allowable uses to fund some projects that are currently ineligible, such as restoration to our open space or recreation land. The Committee is currently completing its review and recommendations of project funding applications for this spring's 2010 Annual Town Meeting. The CPC works closely with each of the proponents and managers of CPA projects approved at Town Meetings to advance and monitor the progress of their projects.

The following CPA projects and expenditures were approved at Annual Town Meeting in May 2009:

1. Restoration of the 114-year old Tabernacle in Asbury Grove - \$26,000
2. Restoration of the historic fence and improve landscaping of Hamilton Town Cemetery which was established in 1705 - \$7,444
3. Creation of four affordable housing units at the site of the Acord Food Pantry - \$180,000
4. Partial funding of the lead removal associated with the Portico Restoration Project at the Community House - \$25,500

5. Completion of half the kitchenettes at the Hamilton Housing Authority - \$10,000
6. Set-aside for future Open Space projects - \$50,000
7. Set-aside for future Historic Preservation projects - \$16,556
8. Administration costs including, but not limited to, Annual Community Preservation Coalition membership fees and salary for part-time Community Preservation Committee Coordinator position – up to \$25,000

The following CPA projects and expenditures were approved at the Special Town Meeting in October 2009:

1. Renovations to the cemetery building in Hamilton's historic Town Cemetery - \$13,000
2. Painting of Hamilton's historic Town Hall - \$33,000
3. An ADA elevator study, environmental assessment, and space needs study at Hamilton's historic Town Hall - \$38,000
4. New signs for Hamilton's Historic District- \$1,000
5. Replacement of the front steps at Hamilton's historic Town Hall - \$28,000
6. Weaver Pond Nuisance Vegetation Control project - \$9,400

The CPC has the following nine members; Tom Catalano (Chair, Historic District Commission), Leigh Keyser (Housing Authority), Jay Butler (Recreation Board), Chris Davis (At-Large), Dave Carey (Board of Selectmen), Peter Britton (Housing Partnership), Edwin Howard (Planning Board), Peter Dana (Conservation Commission), Ray Whipple (At Large). Christine Berry serves as the Coordinator for the CPC.

As of close of 2009, there is \$1,105,265.07 in the fund balance unreserved, \$158,870.75 in the community housing reserves and \$132,710.75 in the open space reserves.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION - 2008

The Hamilton Conservation Commission's primary task is the administration and Enforcement of the state Wetlands Protection Act (Ch. 131 §40) and the Town's Conservation By-Law, Chapter 17. The Commission also seeks to fulfill its mandate by funding environmental education programs in the regional school system and by organizing and publicizing various conferences and events that seek to protect open space and inform residents of the value of preservation of woodlands and scenic areas as well as trail access and management.

Conservation Commission jurisdiction and procedure:

The Commission's jurisdiction includes all proposed changes in land use which will occur within defined wetlands or within 100 feet of the defined edge of wetlands, or within 200 feet of the perennial streams and rivers within the borders of the Town. The Commission considers applications (known as "Requests for Determination" and also "Notices of Intent") for work in these areas and holds site walks to evaluate the conditions at the work area. The Commission then conducts public hearings or public meetings to decide if a permit (either a "Negative Determination" or an "Order of Conditions") shall issue. Once a project is completed, the Commission holds another site walk to establish that the project was finished in the same manner as it was originally proposed and that no damage to resource areas has occurred. A Certificate of Compliance is then issued and the process is complete. The Commission also investigates violations of the Wetlands Act and local Conservation By-Law and the Commission issues Enforcement Orders or Violation Notices if appropriate.

2008 Special Projects and Issues:

Aside from their usual wetlands permitting work:

- The Commission discussed development issues at various Commission meetings in 2008. Among these were ideas related to Chapter 40R developments and some general discussion of initiatives that may be undertaken at the Town-owned landfill.
- In early 2008, the Commission reviewed and approved a state funded project to re-grade and re-pave the boat ramp at Chebacco Lake.
- Two transfers of land to the Chebacco Woods parcel, which had been designed as a remedy for unintentional encroachments on Chebacco Woods, were finally approved by the Massachusetts state legislature, at literally the final hour before the close of the legislative session. The staff, the Commissions and the Chebacco Woods Land Management Committee, in both Manchester and Hamilton, worked hard to bring this matter to a successful conclusion.
- Additionally, the Commission drafted and approved an informational brochure on the benefits of wetlands in general and regulatory requirements specifically, which will be mailed to all Hamilton households, and others in the local area who are involved in land use projects.
- In summer 2008, the Commission had a productive and wide ranging discussion with the Hamilton Government Study Committee.
- Finally, the Commission reviewed and approved the final work phases of the ongoing re-construction project at Highland Street bridge. The bridge should be ready for use in mid 2009.

Education Program

The Commission funded an Environmental Education program for the students in almost many grade levels in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. The program is designed and run by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and it is subject to in-depth review and amendment by the Commission annually. The Commission continues to enthusiastically support and promote this program.

2008 Filings and Other Regulatory Decisions

15 Requests for Determination
11 Orders of Conditions and Orders of Resource Area Delineation
4 Modifications or Amendments of Orders of Conditions
2 Enforcement Orders and Violation Notices
4 Extensions
5 Certificates of Compliance
1 Conservation Restrictions Approved

Members and Staff (Term Expiration)

Sarah Getchell, Co-Chair (2011)
John Hamilton, Co-Chair (2009)
Virginia Cookson (2010)
Robert Cronin (2010)
Peter Dana (2009)
Camilla Rich (2011)
Nancy Baker (2011)
John Rhoads (associate member)
John Hendrickson (associate member)
Mark Carleo (associate member)
James Hankin, Coordinator

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – 2009

The Hamilton Conservation Commission's primary task is the administration and enforcement of the state Wetlands Protection Act (Ch. 131 §40) and the Town's Conservation By-Law, Chapter 17. The Commission also seeks to fulfill its mandate by funding environmental education programs in the regional school system and by organizing and publicizing various conferences and events that seek to protect open space and inform residents of the value of preservation of woodlands and scenic areas as well as trail access and management.

Conservation Commission jurisdiction and procedure:

The Commission's jurisdiction includes all proposed changes in land use which will occur within defined wetlands or within 100 feet of the defined edge of wetlands, or within 200 feet of the perennial streams and rivers within the borders of the Town. The Commission considers applications (known as "Requests for Determination" and also "Notices of Intent") for work in these areas and holds site walks to evaluate the conditions at the work area. The Commission then conducts public hearings or public meetings to decide if a permit (either a "Negative Determination" or an "Order of Conditions") shall issue. Once a project is completed, the Commission holds another site walk to establish that the project was finished in the same manner as it was originally proposed and that no damage to resource areas has occurred. A Certificate of Compliance is then issued and the process is complete. The Commission also investigates violations of the Wetlands Act and local Conservation By-Law and the Commission issues Enforcement Orders or Violation Notices if appropriate.

Aside from conducting public hearings and open public meetings to review and analyze all the various applications for permits, the Commission, through their Coordinator, may on any given day do any or all of the following:

- Respond to residents' questions and concerns about wetlands permitting,
- Conduct preliminary site evaluations to determine applicability of jurisdiction,
- Perform various compliance inspections,
- Reply to building contractor and wetlands consultant questions and concerns,
- Interact with various state agencies most notably the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection and;
- Work with the other Town departments to address issues of common concern.

2009 Special Projects and Issues:

Aside from their usual wetlands permitting work:

- Formally appointed seven Hamilton residents as members to the Open Space Committee
- Oversaw the Myopia Hunt Club's emergency repair and remediation of a major flooding problem next to Bay Rd.
- Approved the successful application of herbicide to Weaver Pond in Patton Park resulting in a substantial improvement to that municipal open water body.
- Continuously updated Commission agendas, regulations, by laws, and informational materials on Commission page on Town website.
- Adopted a new policy regarding the filing of supplemental materials after the commencement of a public hearing or formal Commission discussion of any matter before them.

- Richard Luongo of Berry Circle, a longtime Hamilton resident and retired public school teacher joined the Commission after being formally appointed by the Board of Selectmen in fall 2009

Education Program

The Commission funded an Environmental Education program for the students in almost many grade levels in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. The program is designed and run by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and it is subject to in-depth review and amendment by the Commission annually. The Commission continues to enthusiastically support and promote this program.

Fees Collected

The Commission collects two types of application filing fees seeking permits for work within their jurisdiction. The first type of fee is charged pursuant to the regulations issued under the Town's Conservation By Law. These fees are deposited in the Town's General Fund. The second fee is instituted by the Wetlands Protection Act for projects which require the filing of a Notice of Intent with the Commission. The fees collected for these applications are deposited into a revolving account known as the Wetlands Fee or Wetlands Fund account. These accounts are created by the express terms of the Wetlands Protection Act and cannot be used for any municipal purpose other than to defray some of the costs incurred by the Commission associated with the administration of the Act.

In calendar year 2009 the Commission collected \$3,275.00 in fees under the By Law and this sum was deposited in the General Fund. In addition, the Commission collected \$3,780.50 in fees under the Wetlands Protection Act and that amount was deposited into the Wetlands Account.

2009 Filings and Other Regulatory Decisions

- 17 Requests for Determination
- 11 Orders of Conditions and Orders of Resource Area Delineation
- 1 Amendment of Orders of Conditions
- 4 Enforcement Orders and Violation Notices
- 3 Extensions
- 6 Certificates of Compliance

Members and Staff (Term Expiration)

Sarah Getchell, Co-Chair (2011)
Nancy Baker, Co-Chair (2011)
 Virginia Cookson (2010)
 Robert Cronin (2010)
 Peter Dana (2012)
 Richard Luongo (2012)

Camilla Rich (2011)
 John Rhoads (Assoc. Member)
 John Hendrickson (Assoc. Member)
 Mark Carleo (Assoc. Member)
 James Hankin, Coordinator

HAMILTON COUNCIL ON AGING - 2008

The Hamilton Council on Aging had a busy and successful year serving the senior community. Council members along with dedicated volunteers worked very hard to create a wide variety of program offerings. Special events and programs were well attended and included; Ice Cream Social, Winnepesaukee Railroad/Hart's Turkey Farm, Senior Cookout, Antiques Appraisal Day, December Holiday Party, the play "Love Letters", Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club floral workshops, Book Review Club, Spring Fling Luncheon /music by "Occasional Seven", New Year's Show at Danversport Yacht Club, lunch at JR's Restaurant with the Essex COA, Salem Ferry to Boston/Faneuil Hall, Hamilton-Wenham Senior Breakfast, and the popular student run buffet luncheon at the North Shore Technical Vocational School.

Presently the Council on Aging shares usage of the former Hamilton Library. During this past year a "building study" was conducted by an architectural firm. The Hamilton COA was engaged in planning sessions with other organizations regarding the future of this shared space. We continue to focus on developing and expanding our weekly Wednesday Open House Program (10 am – 12 noon) that now averages 35 – 45 seniors in attendance every week. This is a casual get together time where seniors can socialize, play cards and games (regularly scheduled BINGO, BUNCO, Crazy Rummy, Crossword Puzzle game), enjoy a cup of coffee, obtain elder resource information and register for upcoming activities. Educational forums scheduled on Wednesdays which included; Acupuncture, Selectmen Update, Bees/Beekeeping, Alzheimer/ Memory Loss Program, and speaker Mrs. Joanne Patton were well attended. Many Hamilton Seniors have commented that they look forward to attending every week and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere that Council members have created in this shared space. Our "Stay Healthy" series is very popular and continues to grow. A free Blood Pressure Clinic is held at the Senior center on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of month from 10 am – 12 noon. Barbara Rigol continues to volunteer her time and offer a Low Impact Exercise Class with a focus on balance; Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 – 10 am. HATS OFF to these wonderful volunteers who help keep our Hamilton seniors healthy!!

Each December, the Council on Aging honors our resident senior citizens over the age of 90 by delivering holiday fruit baskets to their homes. For the third year, Hamilton Boy Scout Troop # 235 happily agreed to assist in the delivery of 35 baskets and we were very grateful. What a wonderful way to make a difference in the lives of others with a "special delivery" from a young person.

We continue to focus on communication to our senior community by publishing and mailing a bi-monthly newsletter to over 800 head of household residents. The Council on Aging maintains an office at the former Hamilton Library with a 24 hours answering service. Telephone calls that we receive range from transportation needs, program requests, health insurance issues, meals on wheels referrals, home health services, medical equipment loans, flu shot clinics, tax preparation assistance and housing information.

During these challenging economic times, the Hamilton COA is committed to offering a variety of low or no cost programs in addition to other choices that will serve the needs of our senior residents. As our program continues to grow we welcome the ideas, suggestions and active participation of all Hamilton seniors.

Lindsey D. Snavelly, Senior Services Coordinator

Hamilton-Wenham Council on Aging Van Service - 2008

The Hamilton-Wenham Council on Aging Van Service Program went into operation February 2004. The van is a 7-9 passenger van that is handicap-accessible. Ridership has significantly increased with impressive usage being reported each month.

During the year 2008, we provided over 3,000 rides to Hamilton and Wenham seniors, and signed up 16 new riders. Many seniors use the service to go to their medical appointments, which may include rides to Beverly Hospital, Beverly Hospital in Danvers; Cummings Center and Ipswich. Other rides include non-medical trips to the hairdressers, grocery shopping, church, crafts at Enon Village, banks and train stations.

The van operates 5 days a week from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Reservations can be made up to one month in advance or if the schedule permits, the van can accommodate last minute calls. The van service is considered curb to curb service. This transportation is free to all Hamilton and Wenham residents age 60 or older, and to any resident that is handicapped. Voluntary donations are accepted which are deposited into a "van gift account" set up through the Town of Wenham. These monies are used for van expenses not covered by the budget. The van program continues to employ one supervisor, one part-time dispatcher, and three part-time drivers.

As the van continues to age, a special thanks to the Wenham Highway Department for all the repairs and maintenance they do to keep the van on the road.

The following Mission Statement is deeply rooted in a philosophy common among and shared by the staff at the COA: "The purpose of the Hamilton-Wenham Van program is to provide transportation services that will not only enrich the lives of our senior population but allow them to maintain a sense of independence as well."

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Reid
H-W COA Van Supervisor

HAMILTON COUNCIL ON AGING - 2009

The Hamilton Council on Aging had another successful year serving the senior community. A wide variety of programs were offered with the help of the Council members and the many dedicated volunteers. Barbara Rigol's exercise/balance class continues to be very popular and appreciated by those attending. We thank Barbara for the many hours she donates to this program.

The Council on Aging continues to use the former Hamilton Library for its many activities and we are slowly improving the looks of the interior. We first had a new floor and carpet installed, and this year we had the walls painted. It is so refreshing to see the new updates which make it feel welcoming.

Our Open House Program, which meets on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon, is continuing to grow and has become a place for Seniors to come enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and meet old and new friends. We are hoping next year to open an additional day.

The Hamilton Boy Scout Troop #235 continues to assist us every December with the delivery of baskets to honor our resident senior citizens over the age of 90. We get many letters thanking us for making these residents feel special. We are very grateful for these wonderful boys to take the time to make a difference in the lives of these special people.

We continue to focus on communication to our senior community by publishing and mailing a bi-monthly newsletter. The Council on Aging maintains a 24 hour answering service with which to help seniors with a wide range of services (ie: transportation needs, program requests, meals on wheels referrals, medical equipment loans, flu shot clinics, and housing information, to name a few).

During these challenging economic times, the Hamilton COA is committed to offering a variety of low or no cost programs that will serve the needs of our senior residents. As our program continues to grow, we welcome the ideas, suggestions, and especially the active participation of ALL of Hamilton seniors. Please come join us.

Theresa M. "Mimi" Fanning, Chairman

Hamilton-Wenham Council on Aging Van Service - 2009

The Hamilton-Wenham Council on Aging Van Service Program went into operation February 2004. The van is a 7-9 passenger van that is handicap-accessible. Ridership has significantly increased with impressive usage being reported each month.

During the year 2009 we provided over 3,000 rides to Hamilton and Wenham seniors, and signed up 20 new riders. The current van has over 114,000 miles. Many seniors use the service to go to their medical appointments, which may include rides to Beverly Hospital, Beverly Hospital in Danvers; Cummings Center and Ipswich. Other rides include non-medical trips to adult day care, hairdressers, grocery shopping, church, crafts at Enon Village, banks and train stations.

The van operates 5 days a week from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Reservations can be made up to one month in advance or if the schedule permits, the van can accommodate last minute calls. The van service is considered curb to curb service. This transportation is free to all Hamilton and Wenham residents age 60 or older, and to any resident that is handicapped. Voluntary donations are accepted which are deposited into a "van gift account" set up through the Town of Wenham. These monies are used for van expenses not covered by the budget. The van program continues to employ one supervisor, one part-time dispatcher, and three part-time drivers.

As the current van continues to age, a special thanks to Sean Reed of the Wenham Highway Department for all the repairs and maintenance he does to keep the van on the road.

In 2007, Wenham COA submitted a grant request to the Commonwealth of MA, Executive Office of Transportation on behalf of the joint Hamilton-Wenham COA Van Program for funding for a new van. In May of 2009, we received notice of the grant award, which covers 80% of the cost of a new state of the art 8 passenger vehicle, including wheelchair access. Additionally, as approved by the Boards of Selectmen of Hamilton and Wenham, the remaining 20% of the cost will be funded from the Van Gift Account, which was established to handle donations to the van program from riders and citizens over the past several years. The vehicle award has been confirmed by the state, and is scheduled for delivery in the first calendar quarter of 2010. As I write this report, we are still waiting for the delivery of the vehicle, but by the time you are reading this report, the new van should be in operation – look for it on the roads of Hamilton and Wenham!

The following Mission Statement is deeply rooted in a philosophy common among and shared by the staff at the COA: “The purpose of the Hamilton-Wenham Van program is to provide transportation services that will not only enrich the lives of our senior population but allow them to maintain a sense of independence as well.”

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Reid, H-W COA Van Supervisor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - 2008

In March 2008, John Tomasz began his role as Director of Public Works for the Town of Hamilton. He had previously been DPW Director in Rockport and replaced Steve Kenny who assumed a similar position in Manchester.

Department of Public Works employees continue to assist many other Town departments showing their commitment, experience and ability to perform many functions beyond their normal job description. This has resulted in a savings to the Town and their efforts are truly appreciated by many of the Town officials along with the residents.

HIGHWAY DIVISION

- The Town continues to work with various agencies in trying to replace the Bridge Street culvert. Completion of this project should reduce upstream flooding of the Miles River.
- The DPW has been working with the Conservation Commission to address stormwater issues throughout Town and in particular, the Linden and Howard Street area.
- The gabion wall for the Woodbury Street path was completed last fall. The entire path should be completed by early summer of 2009.
- MA Highway completed repair of the Mill – Highland Street Bridge in December with a formal dedication occurring in May 2009.
- In January 2009 the Town submitted a report to the Federal Railroad Administration which would allow the Town to maintain its quiet zone status thus preventing the trains from blowing their horns.
- Roadside clearing and drain maintenance continue to be two of the larger functions performed by the highway department. Snow removal required almost 3,140 manhours this season with many overtime hours due to the timing of the events.
- In April the Town was informed that it could expect \$191,360 in Chapter 90 local aid funding to be used for transportation projects.
- Numerous residents continue to deposit brush and organic materials at the old landfill which is open on Wednesday’s once a month during the spring through fall seasons.

- The application of ‘Mulchseal’ occurred on Sagamore Street last fall in an effort to prevent deterioration of the roadway. No other significant roadway projects occurred last year.

PARK DIVISION

- Patton Park continues to be the primary location within this division with various sports teams of all ages and residents taking full advantage of the well maintained fields and pool.
- In cooperation with the Recreation Department, the volleyball site was upgraded.
- Employees continue to maintain their certification which allows them to safely operate the pool.
- Grass cutting and grounds maintenance continue to be the two primary work operations at the Town’s parks. This division has also been performing work at the Cutler and Winthrop Schools

CEMETERY DIVISION

- Grass cutting and grounds maintenance continue to be the two primary work operations. The cemetery continues to be exceptionally well maintained under Joe Shea and is certainly a source of pride for many of the Town’s residents.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE DIVISION

- Maintenance of public works and other Town owned vehicles continues at the DPW facility. Due to budget constraints, only one new vehicle was purchased last year and increasing maintenance work on the fleet reflects the age of the vehicles and the increasing cost to keep them operational.

SANITATION DIVISION

- In March 2008 the Town implemented a partial pay as you throw (PAYT) program with the goal being to reduce the amount of household waste being disposed and thus reducing the cost to the Town. Through the end of 2008 the Town has reduced its solid waste tonnage by approximately 815 tons which represents a cost savings of \$60,844. Recycling tonnage increased by 226 tons at no additional cost to the Town.
- The Town continues to provide for leaf pick-ups in the fall and spring and allows for residents to leave many products: monitors, televisions, computers, white goods, etc. for a small fee at Town Hall during office hours.

WATER DIVISION

- The water department continues to implement our radio read program which will save the Town many manhours and provide more accurate water usage readings.
- An evaluation continues at the Gordon Thompson Water Filtration Plant by the Town’s consultant, Stantec, to determine what changes are needed to optimize performance and reliability of the facility. A preliminary evaluation identified capital improvements which will need to be made at the plant in 2009. These improvements will be paid from the water rates which were adjusted in 2008 to reflect these capital improvements along with other escalating costs. This was the first rate increase since 2001.
- The DEP continues to require additional unfunded mandates

Having completed my first year in Hamilton as the Director of Public Works, I would like to thank the public works employees for their help, cooperation and commitment with

particular thanks to the office staff – Nancy & Gail. With an ever increasing work load, a reduced staff and additional requests for work, the next few years will be a challenge which will require the Department to evaluate operations to define how best to utilize staff and resources to complete our tasks.

John Tomasz, Director of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - 2009

The Department of Public Works continues to work on many projects with a decreasing budget utilizing its diverse workforce. In April 2008, John Tomasz was appointed Director of Public Works after spending ten years in Rockport in that capacity. John replaced Steve Kenny who accepted the director's position in Manchester. In 2009, Hamilton and Wenham hired David Preen as facilities manager for both Towns buildings. David brings considerable experience to the position and has proven to be a valuable asset in the maintenance and operation of the many facilities in each Town. In August 2009, Allison Jenkins began working as the DPW's administrative assistant. Previously, Allison had worked with the Board of Selectmen.

During the past two years, the DPW completed or began work on many projects. A few of those projects were:

- Utilizing Chapter 90 Project monies for crack sealing on Moulton, Sagamore, Milles River and Chebacco Roads.
- Began engineering studies for replacing the Bridge Street culvert.
- Received CPA funding for schematic drawings and cost for an ADA elevator, replacing the front steps, and painting Town Hall.
- Completed 98% of the Woodbury Street footpath; the remaining work which includes access to the footbridge will be done in the spring of 2010.
- Completed repair of the Winthrop Street Bridge which had been damaged during the Mothers Day storm of 2007.
- Completed the Pilot Study and received funding for replacement of the media at the Water Treatment Plant. This \$310,000 project will be completed by June 2010 and will improve the quality of the water produced at the plant.
- Completed an Emergency Response Plan which is required of all water systems by the Massachusetts DEP. This plan provides the procedures to be followed during most water emergency situations.
- In February 2009 the Town submitted a report which justified the reasons for maintaining "Quiet Zone" status with the railroads.

In September 2008, the Town was required by the DEP to issue a "Do Not Drink" water order based upon test results which indicated an unacceptable level of perchlorate in our drinking water. Further tests and retests of the original samples proved that the testing lab had made procedural errors and that the water had been safe. In August 2009, the Town was required to issue a Tier 2 Notification based upon coliform being detected in two of our water samples. Subsequent samples eventually showed no coliform.

Solid waste tonnage continues to decrease since implementation of the Pay as You Throw program began in March 2008. Since the program began, the Town has saved approximately

\$132,000. The DPW continues to provide residents the ability to dispose of many items behind Town Hall including TV's, monitors, cardboard, metals and many other items which can be listed on the DPW's website.

The DPW continues to take great pride in the work that it performs as is evident by the condition of the cemetery and Patton Park and the considerable effort in snow plowing and highway maintenance. The Town's mechanic continues to provide excellent service and a cost savings while maintaining the DPW and police vehicles.

John Tomasz
Director of Public Works

HAMILTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 2008

The Hamilton Selectmen established the Economic Development Committee (EDC) in 2004 in accordance with the recommendations of the Master Plan update completed in that year and at the request of the Hamilton Planning Board. Among its charges, the EDC was to initiate work on ways that Hamilton could modify its land use policies so as to permit non-single family residential projects (like age-restricted and commercial development) and thus expand its tax base and increase its property tax revenues without adding school-age children to the regional school district.

In response the EDC undertook three initiatives: (1) the development of a planned alternative development (PAD) zoning bylaw; (2) study and review of impediments to further downtown development; and (3) consideration of the re-development of the Hamilton landfill off of Chebacco Road.

Planned Alternative Development Bylaw: During the winter and spring of 2005 the proposed multi-use bylaw (known as "PAD"-Planned Alternative Development) was created and discussed at length with all town committees and boards, as well as interested town residents. In accordance with the motion at the May 2005 Annual Town Meeting, the EDC forwarded the bylaw to the Planning Board for revisions so as to address the objections. At a Hamilton All Board meeting in December 2007, the EDC was directed to bring back the proposed mixed use bylaw. The mixed use bylaw came back in the form of the Commercial Overlay District Bylaw for the Hamilton Landfill. The EDC worked with the Planning Board to define, refine and promote the Commercial Overlay District Bylaw for development of the landfill, which passed at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Enhanced Downtown Development: The review of further development to the downtown area has led to the conclusion that adequate septage disposal and parking remain as impediments in the Bay Road and Railroad Avenue blocks. With the support and direction of the Selectmen, a brief study was completed for small scale localized septage disposal system along Railroad Avenue but the system was deemed too expensive. The committee also met with local businesses along Railroad Avenue to assess the interest in more density, a combined local septage system and acquisition of land for additional parking. Further work is ongoing on these matters at this time including the consideration of a downtown planning charrette, meetings with potential developers, assessing sites and studying the concepts of an Economic Development Investment Corporation (EDIC) or a Community Development Corporation (CDC) as independent entities in Hamilton.

Re-development of the Hamilton Landfill: Study and review of the possible re-development of the Hamilton landfill is underway by the ten-member Hamilton Landfill Steering Committee appointed by the Selectmen in the summer of 2005. Two members of the EDC are on the committee and the EDC is actively researching opportunities. The annual report for the Landfill Steering Committee is filed separately by the Landfill Steering Committee.

The EDC assisted in financing and assembling data for the Self Assessment Tool for commercial development readiness conducted by the Center for Urban and Regional Policy (CURP) of Northeastern University Study for Hamilton. The EDC is currently working on a summary of the CURP Study.

The EDC has also actively participated in ongoing discussions regarding the re-use of the (old) Hamilton Public Library and the future of the Winthrop School along with reviewing other land use Committees and Boards proposals.

Thanks go to Peter Gourdeau, Carl Swanson, David Lemons and Bob Bullivant for their capable work and tireless contributions to the EDC during 2008

Respectively submitted,
Bill Gisness, Chair

HAMILTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 2009

During the 2009 calendar year, the EDC undertook the following initiatives and activities.

1. The EDC worked with the Planning Board to define, refine and promote the Commercial Overlay District Bylaw for development of the landfill, which passed at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.
2. The initiation of the Downtown Planning Charrette with the guidance of the Cecil Group. The results of the planning session involving a wide spectrum of stake-holders are on the Town website.
3. The concept study of an Economic Development Investment Corporation (EDIC) or a Community Development Corporation (CDC) as an independent entity in Hamilton to pursue commercial development opportunities.
4. Ongoing study and review of the possible re-development of the Hamilton landfill is underway by the ten-member Hamilton Landfill Steering Committee appointed by the Selectmen in the summer of 2005. Two members of the EDC are on the committee, and the EDC is actively researching opportunities. The annual report for the Landfill Steering Committee is filed separately.
5. Meeting with Tim Berry, Real Estate Broker for the McRae property, regarding the sale of the McRae property in Downtown Hamilton and Hamilton's potential interest in the land.
6. Meetings with Andrew Defranza from Haborlights regarding the development of the Accord Food Pantry site into affordable housing
7. The ongoing discussions regarding the re-use of the (old) Hamilton Public Library.
8. An ongoing discussion with the Hamilton Wenham School Committee on the future of the Winthrop School. The EDC put together a financial analysis for renovating the elementary schools and consolidating the three elementary schools to two schools. A

market study is planned for the Winthrop School site along with the physical plant school building assessment study by the School Committee, with completion expected this summer, will result in a more thorough financial option analysis for the BoS and the School Committee.

9. Reviewing proposals of other land use Committees and Boards with a priority interest in bylaw changes affecting parking, septic systems and signage which are currently seen as impediments to commercial development, especially in the Downtown Business District.

Thanks go to Peter Gourdeau, Carl Swanson, David Lemons and Bob Bullivant for their capable work and tireless contributions to the EDC during 2009.

Respectively submitted,
Bill Gisness, Chair

EMERGENCY CENTER – 2008

The Hamilton-Wenham Emergency Center continues, after forty-nine years, to proudly serve the citizens of the two towns.

Training is always an important part of our job. Thanks to a training grant from State 9-1-1, dispatchers have been able to attend classes in Advanced Law Enforcement, Advanced Fire, Active Shooter, Suicide intervention, Domestic Intervention as well as APCO classes on line.

Another grant allowed us to purchase an Emergency Medical Dispatch computer program. This replaces the flip cards which have been in use for some time.

Burglar, fire and medical alarms continue to be allowed to terminate at the Emergency Center. I feel this is an important service we continue to provide to the citizens of the towns. Informational packets are available at the Emergency Center.

We logged 25,269 calls during 2008. This is a sample of the types and numbers of calls received.

Animals	Assistance Rendered
692	747
Ambulance	Calls for Hamilton and Wenham Police
590	3422
Burning Permits	General Info.
1432	670
Motor Vehicle Stops	Bail
1939	2659
Police/Fire alarms	Motor Vehicle Accidents
820	261

We are proud of our accomplishments and invite the citizens to visit their communications center.

Thank you to the town employees for their continued co-operation, to the citizens for their support and assistance, and to the dispatchers for their dedication.

Anne Marie Cullen

EMERGENCY CENTER – 2009

The Hamilton-Wenham Emergency Center completed another busy year. Our numbers were up in almost every category.

Through two State 9-1-1 grants, we have been able to upgrade our radio system to state of the art, upgrade our computer aided dispatch system and pay for some personnel costs, as well as continued education for the dispatchers.

Burglar, fire and medical alarms continue to be allowed to terminate at the Emergency Center. I feel this is an important service we continue to provide to the citizens of the towns. Informational packets are available at the Emergency Center.

We logged 35,397 calls during 2009. This is a sample of the types and numbers of calls received.

Animals	Assistance Rendered
767	1095
Ambulance	Calls for Hamilton and Wenham Police
574	3541
Burning Permits	General Info.
1870	924
Motor Vehicle Stops	Bail
2454	3013
Police/Fire alarms	Motor Vehicle Accidents
678	238

Once again the police officers, firefighters and dispatchers volunteered their time and vehicles to conduct the 16th annual Public Safety Food Drive for Acord. We are able to supply several months of food, thanks to the generosity of the residents of our towns.

The dispatchers, who man the Emergency Center 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, are a nameless group to the public. The people who serve you so well and are very familiar with the communities are Keith Holloran, Joe Achadinha, Brian Pratt, Richard Sherrick, Kenneth Brand and Andrew Neill.

Thanks to the support of the two towns, your communications center is second to none. We continue to strive to serve the citizens of Hamilton and Wenham in the best way possible.

As always, we are happy to conduct tours of the center, by appointment.

The cooperation of town employees, officials and citizens of Hamilton and Wenham help immeasurably in the performance of this department and is deeply appreciated.

Anne Marie Cullen

FIRE DEPARTMENT – 2008

The Hamilton Fire Department has the following apparatus available for service:

ENGINE 1	1996 Pierce Saber 1250 gpm pumper w/Boat
ENGINE 2	1985 International S-1800/Ranger 1000 gpm pumper
ENGINE 3	2004 Pierce Saber 1500 gpm pumper
LADDER 4	1980 American LaFrance 100' Aerial Ladder
SQUAD 5	2006 Ford F-550 (4X4)/Greenwood Forestry Truck 100 gpm MOBILE
AIR UNIT 6	1994 Ford E-350 Mobile Air Supply Van
SQUAD 7	2008 Ford F-250 Pick-up (4X4)
UTILITY 8	1998 Ford F-150 Pick up

INCIDENTS

Fire	33
Explosion	0
Rescue Call & EMS	154
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	76
Service Call	116
Good Intent Call	37
False Call	153
Severe weather	2
Special Incidents (Complaints)	3
TOTAL FIRE CALLS	511

Fire Prevention did 443 inspections and issued 528 permits, not counting Open Burning Permits.

We have (1) Firefighter certified to do car seat installations. He did 268 installations last year. There is no charge for the installation.

The Fire Department has 4 fulltime and 29 call firefighters. Call Firefighters save the town a considerable amount of money. It would cost the town about \$2 million per year to man one Engine Company, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. It is getting more difficult to recruit call firefighters, because of the time commitment. The Call Firefighters leave work and their families at a moments notice, in all kinds of weather to assist in any kind of emergency.

Seven firefighters started the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Firefighter I/II Recruit Program for Call Firefighters. They will complete the 168 hour course in February. This course teaches him all the basics of firefighting. It is a combination of lecture and hands on fire training. They also have many hours of homework. They have to pass a written test and a practical test.

Utility 8 was acquired by the Town from the Department of Defense at no charge. The Department's employees have restored the truck with the help of gift money. The truck will be painted in the spring.

I would like to thank Herb Ryan for all the help he has given us.

The Fire Department is always there to help the citizens of Hamilton in any kind of emergency at anytime.

PHILIP W. STEVENS, JR. - FIRE CHIEF

FIRE DEPARTMENT – 2009

The Hamilton Fire Department had the following apparatus available for service:

ENGINE 1	1996 Pierce Saber 1250 gpm pumper w/Boat
ENGINE 2	1985 International S-1800/Ranger 1000 gpm pumper
ENGINE 3	2004 Pierce Saber 1500 gpm pumper
LADDER 4	1980 American LaFrance 100' Aerial Ladder
SQUAD 5	2006 Ford F-550 (4X4)/Greenwood Forestry Truck 100 gpm MOBILE
AIR UNIT 6	1994 Ford E-350 Mobile Air Supply Van
SQUAD 7	2008 Ford F-250 Pick-up (4X4)
UTILITY 8	1998 Ford F-150 Pick up
TRT-A	1994 Ford F-700 (Essex County Tech Rescue Team)

INCIDENTS

Fire	21
Explosion	0
Rescue Calls & EMS	198
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	58
Service Calls	62
Good Intent Calls	49
False Calls	131
Severe weather calls	1
TOTAL FIRE CALLS	520

FIRE PREVENTION

- 264 permits issued
- 73 renewed
- 421 inspections were conducted at 374 sites,
- 127 plans reviewed
- 35 Violations (1 ticket)
- 19 School visits
- 448 Open Burning Permits
- 11 Agricultural Permits

Permit revenue was \$6995 and Open Burning Permit revenue was \$8110 for a total of \$15,105.

CAR SEATS

Firefighter Edmund Mullin is certified to do car seat installations. He did 151 installations in 2009. There is no charge for the installation.

STAFFING

The Fire Department has (1) fulltime Fire Chief, (3) fulltime firefighters, and (29) call firefighters. We have the station staffed with the Fire Chief and 2 or 3 firefighters on weekdays during the day and 3 on weekends from 10-5. The station is not staffed at night. We have a

part-time mechanic, who is also a firefighter, who works one day per week. He saves the town a lot of money on maintenance of the fleet. Call Firefighters save the town a considerable amount of money. It would cost the town about \$2 million per year to man one Engine Company (3 firefighters), 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. It is getting more difficult to recruit call firefighters, because of the time commitment. The Call Firefighters leave work and their families at a moments notice, in all kinds of weather to assist in any kind of emergency.

VEHICLES

Utility 8 was acquired by the Town from the Department of Defense at no charge. The pick up truck had less than 40,000 miles on it. The Department's employees have restored the truck with the help of gift money. The truck was put in service last spring. The truck is used for inspections and as a utility vehicle. It cuts down on the wear and tear of the larger trucks.

TRT-A was received in September. This truck also came from the Department of Defense. It had 12,800 miles on it. The town owns the truck, but it is part of the Essex County Tech Rescue Team. There are three trucks and trailers in the County fully equipped. The Tech Rescue Team is made up of 45 rescue personnel from across the County. They can be called out for trench rescues, confined space rescues, and high angle rescues. The Essex County Chiefs Association paid to have it painted and lettered.

We purchased a used ladder truck from the City of Beverly in December for \$10,000 to replace Ladder 4. It is a 1988 Emergency One 110' Aerial Ladder and should serve us for 10 years. The aerial ladder we have now, was purchased used from the City as well, 15 years ago and is 30 years old. A new aerial ladder is over \$800,000. It needs some work, such as tires, brakes, and some bodywork. The work is being done by department personnel. They will transfer the equipment from the old truck. It should be in service in early 2010, at which time the old ladder will be sold. We have applied for grant money to have the truck painted.

We are lucky that we have talented personnel to upgrade these vehicles. They save us a lot of money.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL

The Fire Department has expanded its roll in emergency medical services, since the Town no longer runs an ambulance. We currently send to firefighters with Squad 5 to medical emergencies. There are two firefighters on call at night, so we do not have to tone out the whole department. There is always at least (1) EMT on call. They do not get paid unless they go out on a call.

TRAINING

Training is a large part of the firefighters' duties. We received a grant from the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Program for Emergency Vehicle Operation to supplement our program. Operators took 4 hours of classroom training and 4 hours of hands on driving fire apparatus through the obstacle course. We plan on running this safety program annually.

Firefighters Lukas Painchaud and Jared Dolan started the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Firefighter I/II Recruit Program for Call Firefighters in September. They will complete the 236-hour course in February. This course teaches him all the basics of firefighting. It is a combination of lecture and hands on fire training. They also have many hours of homework. They have to pass a written test and a practical test. We had seven firefighters, Steven McInnis, Ben Tuneburg, Sidney Jenkins, Ryan Goodwin, Peter Cobb, Dan

Hill, and Stephen Collins that completed the training last February. Stephen Collins and Peter Cobb became certified Firefighter I/II.

Firefighters also received training in Emergency Medical, CPR, Hazardous Materials, Pump Operation, Ventilation, Auto Extrication, and firefighting techniques.

Captain Mark Goodwin and Firefighter Ryan Goodwin completed their Emergency Medical Technician course.

I would like to thank Herb Ryan for all the help he has given us through the Senior Assistance Program.

The Fire Department is always there to help the citizens of Hamilton in any kind of emergency at anytime.

PHILIP W. STEVENS, JR. - FIRE CHIEF

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - 2009

We made it through 2009 with out any natural disasters. This saved a lot of paperwork.

Emergency Management is utilized during natural and man-made disasters. We have generators, cots, blankets, first aid kits, and other equipment that may be needed. We would work with the Red Cross to set up shelters when needed. We also do the paperwork to receive Federal funds when a State of Emergency or Disaster Area is declared. Emergency Management also works on Emergency Management and Hazard Mitigation Plans.

We received a \$2500 grant for wages to upgrade the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. A lot of work was done on the plan, but it is constantly being upgraded.

The NIMSCAST Report was completed in September. This report shows where we are compliant with the National Incident Management System. We need to be compliant to receive Federal Grants.

I took over Emergency Management last January. Since then all the generators have been maintained. They are on a regular maintenance schedule and are maintained by the Fire Department Mechanic.

This year we hope to put on some volunteers to be better prepared in case of an emergency.

Philip W. Stevens, Jr.
Director of Emergency Management

Government Study Committee - 2008

The Hamilton Board of Selectmen appointed the Government Study Committee in February 2008 to study, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning the question “Can the operation of the government of the Town be improved in effectiveness and efficiency through restructuring, reorganization or other elemental change?”

After research to understand how Hamilton’s government currently works, how neighboring town governments operate, and what state experts have learned about best practices for local government, the committee concluded that the answer was clearly yes. The committee found that Hamilton’s government has not adjusted to work well under the current, complex conditions: there is no strong central management to make day-to-day decisions, assign tasks, evaluate performance and progress, and ensure that employees are able to do their best work for the Town. In addition, the Board of Selectmen has taken increasing responsibility for operations and has little time for policy setting, strategic planning, and revenue generation.

As a consequence of these findings the committee took the following actions:

1. Drafted “An Act Establishing a Town Manager in the Town of Hamilton” and placed an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant requesting that the Town vote to petition the Legislature to enact it. The article passed unanimously and the Act is now awaiting action by the Legislature. The Town Manager, to be appointed by the Selectmen, will assume responsibility for running the routine affairs of government with the authority to make decisions within a policy framework set out by the Selectmen and Town Meeting. Removing responsibility for conducting line operations from the Board of Selectmen will let them concentrate on establishing policies to guide the Town Manager, long range planning, enhancing revenue, coordinating volunteer boards, and evaluating the conduct of the Town Manager.
2. In addition, the GSC placed an article on the Warrant increasing the number of Selectmen from 3 to 5. That article also passed and will come into effect after the 2010 Town Meeting with the election of additional Selectmen. Reducing the burden on Selectmen by adding two members to the Board and refocusing its work should increase the pool of candidates to include commuters and others who could not otherwise devote the time demanded of the 3 member board. This enlarged Board would represent a broader spectrum of the Town’s population and bring a wider range of skills and experience. Such has been the outcome in neighboring towns which have made the switch including Danvers, Manchester, Topsfield, Boxford, Ipswich and Middleton.

Members of the GSC appreciate the cooperation we received from Town officials and employees, the generous gifts of time and information given to us by officials of neighboring towns, and, most especially, the support of the citizens of Hamilton. Our current task is to assist the Selectmen in the transition to a strong Town Manager form of government and a 5-member, policy oriented Board of Selectmen.

Jack Lawrence and Susan Wiltshire, Co-Chairs
Will Friend, Carin Kale, Barbara Lawrence, Ann Minois,
Bob Nyland, Susan Rothschild, and Bill Shields

The Hamilton Foundation - 2008

The Hamilton Foundation (THF) was established as a municipal trust by the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting vote. THF was created to help meet the unexpected, urgent, short term needs of Hamilton residents due to job loss, death, divorce or illness. The inspiration came from concerned citizens who have personally seen the need for economic support experienced by fellow townspeople. It is a common misconception that Hamilton is a universally affluent community. Severe economic and personal distress does exist here.

THF was not intended to replace traditional governmental welfare programs or social service organizations. Indeed, it directs people to those programs when appropriate. THF does not rely on public funds or tax dollars.

The work of The Hamilton Foundation is carried out by a 5 member board and a coordinator. The coordinator receives calls from residents in need and, in a confidential manner, shares necessary information with the board in order for the latter to make a decision about how to help the resident. Particular assistance might include full or partial payment of a bill or the provision of a scholarship or gift certificate.

The board meets regularly and is in contact by phone and email in between meetings. If the payment of a bill is agreed upon by the board for a resident, that resident is asked to delete his/her name from the bill and is given a number for purposes of confidentiality. That resident then sends the bill to our P.O. Box at Town Hall and the bill is paid directly to the vendor.

THF was initially funded by the 2005 transfer of \$6,331.71 from the Maxwell Norman Trust to The Hamilton Foundation. Subsequent donations and grants have continued to provide the resources needed to carry out THF's mission.

During 2008, THF focused its attention on making sure that Hamilton residents were aware of the services offered by THF. A donation from EBSCO Publishing, Inc. funded the printing of a revised THF brochure. Board members met with representatives from Hamilton-Wenham schools, churches, town government, and service organizations to ensure that they were familiar with THF and provided them with the new brochures.

In 2008, THF began a scholarship program for graduating seniors at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School. The \$500 THF Scholarship will be given each year to a Hamilton resident on the basis of need and academic, employment, extracurricular and service achievements. The 2008 scholarship was awarded to Jaelyn DiChiara.

THF 2008 fundraising activities included a Christmas Fair, organized by a group of caring Hamilton residents. Sales of the spectacular assortment of donated holiday-themed items raised nearly \$1500 for THF. It is hoped that this fund-raising fair will be an annual event. THF also received more than \$2000 in donations from local residents and organizations.

Since November, 2005, we have received requests for assistance from more than 60 local residents. During 2008, THF provided more than \$6000 for the payment of rent, electric, and heating bills.

As of March, 2009, the current balance of The Hamilton Foundation was \$18,652.69.

The Hamilton Foundation – 2009

The Hamilton Foundation (THF) was established as a municipal board in 2005 by the Board of Selectmen and a Town Meeting vote. THF was created to help meet the unexpected, urgent short term needs of Hamilton residents due to job loss, death, divorce or illness. The inspiration came from concerned citizens who have personally seen the need for economic support experienced by fellow townspeople. It is a common misperception that Hamilton is a universally affluent community. Severe economic and personal distress does exist here.

THF was not intended to replace traditional governmental welfare programs or social service organizations. Indeed, it directs people to those programs when appropriate. THF does not rely on public funds or tax dollars. Private donations and grants have continued to provide the resources needed to carry out THF's mission.

The work of THF is carried out by a five member board and a coordinator. The coordinator receives calls from residents in need and, in a confidential manner, shares necessary information with the board in order for the latter to make a decision about how to help the resident. Particular assistance might include full or partial payment of a bill or the provision of a scholarship or gift certificate.

THF meets regularly and is in contact by phone and email between meetings. If the payment of a bill is agreed upon by the board for a resident, that resident is asked to delete his/her name from the bill and is given a number for purposes of confidentiality. That resident then sends the bill to our P.O. Box at Town Hall and the bill is paid directly to the vendor.

During 2009, THF fundraising activities included a direct mail solicitation sent to all Hamilton residents in their Town water bills. In December, caring Hamilton residents once again organized a holiday sale of gently used Christmas decorations and gifts to raise money jointly for THF and the Hamilton Council on Aging. Both of these fund raising activities increased public awareness of The Hamilton Foundation and its mission and, as of February 1, 2010, they had raised more \$5000.

Since November, 2005, THF has received nearly 80 requests for assistance from local residents. During 2009, THF provided more than \$5000 for the payment of electric, heating, rent, and water bills. For the second year in a row, THF gave a \$500 scholarship to a graduating Hamilton senior, based on need and academic, employment, extracurricular and service achievements.

As February 6, 2010, the current balance of THF was \$20,929.82.

Housing Partnership Committee - 2008-2009

The Hamilton Housing Partnership Committee (HPC) met infrequently throughout the year as we have very few projects underway. In general our development opportunities have been limited by lack of funds and land. Communities have historically committed approximately \$70k per affordable unit and we have not been able to create units even at that rate.

The following is a description of our initiatives:

1. Firehouse Place. Harborlight Community Partners has submitted a proposal to DHCD requesting funding for a four unit affordable project on Willow Ave. The project will include a permanent home for the Acord Food Pantry. The town has committed to provide approximately \$45k per unit in funding.
2. The Old Library. HPC has been promoting the concept of converting the Old Library into 20 units of senior affordable housing and a new senior center but the local seniors do not want the building to be modified as it is currently operating as their senior center.
3. Hatfield Road. The town owns a lot that has been determine to be buildable. We intend to offer it to affordable developers. Prior to issuing this offer, we intend to seek bids on the land to determine if we could sell the land for an amount that would allow us to use the proceeds elsewhere and build more than one unit.

Respectfully submitted,
David Carey

INPECTIONS DEPARTMENT – 2008

Building Inspector

I herewith submit the report of the Building Inspector for the year ending December 31, 2008.

There were a total of 289 permits issued for 2008.

Among these permits were: **1 house demolished and re-built, and 1 new single family dwelling.** This department also issued permits for the construction of the third building of 5 units for the Carriage House Junction 40B development. The rest of the permits issued include: additions, renovations, garages/barns, sheds, non-residential renovations, in-ground and above ground pools, porches/decks, siding/windows/roofing, demolitions, signs and tents.

**Charles Brett
Inspector of Buildings**

Electrical Inspector

I herewith submit my report as Electrical Inspector for the year ending December 31, 2008.

200 total permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions and renovations, garages/barns plus new/upgraded services, pools, alarms, boilers, septic pumps and miscellaneous permits.

**Robert B. Brown, Jr.
Electrical Inspector**

Plumbing Inspector

I herewith submit my report as Plumbing Inspector for the year ending December 31, 2008.

132 total plumbing permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions, garages/barns plus hot water tanks, backflow preventers, floor drains, water piping and other miscellaneous fixtures.

**William C. Thomas, Jr.
Plumbing Inspector**

Gas Inspector

I herewith submit my report as Gas Inspector for the year ending December 31, 2008.

113 total gas permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions, garages/barns plus fireplace inserts, ranges, heating boilers, furnaces, water heaters, dryers, direct vent heaters, pool heaters, and other miscellaneous fixtures.

I wish to express my appreciation to all I have come in contact with for their cooperation during the performance of my duties.

William C. Thomas, Jr.
Gas Inspector

Debra Paskowski
Administrative Assistant

INPSECTIONS DEPARTMENT – 2009

Building Inspector

I herewith submit the report of the Building Inspector for the year ending December 31, 2009.

There were a total of 249 permits issued for 2009.

Among these permits were: **6 houses demolished and re-built, and 1 new single family dwelling.** The rest of the permits issued include: additions, renovations, garages/barns, sheds, non-residential renovations, in-ground and above ground pools, porches/decks, siding/windows/roofing, demolitions, signs and tents.

Charles Brett
Inspector of Buildings

Electrical Inspector

I herewith submit my report as Electrical Inspector for the year ending December 31, 2009.

158 total permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions and renovations, garages/barns plus new/upgraded services, pools, alarms, boilers, septic pumps and miscellaneous permits.

Robert B. Brown, Jr.
Electrical Inspector

Plumbing Inspector

I herewith submit my report as Plumbing Inspector for the year ending December 31, 2009.

113 total plumbing permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions, garages/barns plus hot water tanks, backflow preventers, floor drains, water piping and other miscellaneous fixtures.

William C. Thomas, Jr.
Plumbing Inspector

Gas Inspector

I herewith submit my report as Gas Inspector for the year ending December 31, 2009.

92 total gas permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions, garages/barns plus fireplace inserts, ranges, heating boilers, furnaces, water heaters, dryers, direct vent heaters, pool heaters, and other miscellaneous fixtures.

I wish to express my appreciation to all I have come in contact with for their cooperation during the performance of my duties.

William C. Thomas, Jr.
Gas Inspector

Debra Paskowski
Administrative Assistant

Landfill Steering Committee - 2008-2009

Over the last several years the LSC has been working with SEA, a consulting firm, to generate a Comprehensive Site Assessment plan for the state's Department of Environmental Protection. The SEA finished a full year of testing and has provided to the DEP a report on the adequacy of the closure of the landfill. The results were excellent and gave the LSC the confidence to continue to pursue development.

As part of the closure and as a link to the redevelopment, the LSC has worked with the Selectmen, the Economic Development Committee and the Community Preservation Committee to hire a consultant to conduct a wetlands survey on the site. The survey will allow the open spaces and wetlands to be defined while simultaneously identifying the sections of the site that are suitable for potential redevelopment. This survey was completed in 2009 and provided an excellent assessment of the developable areas.

On the redevelopment side the LSC has determined that the North Shore market has many undeveloped commercial properties and that our landfill property will only be marketable if it is rezoned to allow commercial uses. The landfill was zoned RA residential with a minimum lot size of 80,000 sf. The consultant who helped with the town's master plan has recommended that the town consider an overlay district rather than simply rezone the underlying property. An overlay district keeps existing zoning in place and simply adds additional rights that can only be granted via a Special Permit. Among the benefits of an overlay district structure is that very specific rights can be assigned to targeted zones to match the town's specific objectives and goals. By allowing the overlay district it increases the options available for development, but does not determine them. At last year's annual Town meeting the overlay district was passed.

With the overlay district and the environmental studies performed, the LSC to discuss various entities who may be interested in purchasing or leasing the site. This led to the beginning of the process to issue a formal Request for Proposals. This will allow all entities to bid and all projects discussed as long as they meet code requirements. The RFP will have all the bidding criteria as well as the studies done to date. The RFP will be done in 2010 and negotiation of a Special Permit will occur if a bidder is chosen.

PLANNING BOARD - 2009

Organization

The Planning Board extended their service into other committees and boards to ensure communication and coordination between the many entities of the Town. David Santomena resumed his position as Chairman. Peter Clark continued to serve as the Planning Board liaison to the Community Preservation Committee until he was appointed to the Town Manager Search Committee. Ed Howard was then appointed to the Community Preservation Committee and continued his service on the Historic District Committee. Rick Mitchell served on the Capital Management Committee. Marc Johnson continued his work on the Landfill Steering Committee. Evelyn Shuman was also a member of the League of Women Voters. Marcie Ricker was appointed Interim Planning Coordinator and Julie Einhorn was appointed to fill the vacant Planning Board seat.

The seven member Planning Board was enhanced with the appointment of two new Associate Members, Rob McKean and Brian Stein. While Planning Board members having voting privilege for Approval Not Required Plans, Definitive Subdivision Plans, Site Plan Approvals, Zoning By-law changes and changes to or adoption of Rules and Regulations, Associate Members are needed for the approval of special permits when a super-majority is required. The following comprises the work that the Planning Board and Associate Members completed during 2009.

Approval Not Required Plans

Approval Not Required Plans are plan applications which alter lot lines or create new lots when the new lot has sufficient lot size and adequate frontage on an existing or proposed street, according to the specific district as described in the Zoning By-law. These applications do not require a public hearing.

- 111 Chebacco Road and the Chebacco Woods parcel. Lot line change.
- 3 Partridgeberry Lane and the Chebacco Woods parcel. Lot line change.
- 9 Prides Park and 14 Farrington Lane. Lot line change.
- 315 Sagamore St. Creation of four new lots.
- 25 Sagamore Farm Road and 7 Northedge Road. Lot line change.
- 75 Arbor St in Wenham./Highland St. in Hamilton. Creation of one new lot on Highland St. and one new lot at the end of the proposed Settler's Way, which would be originated in Wenham and cross the town line into Hamilton.
- 44 Grant Ave. and 25 Arthur Ave. Lot line change.

Definitive Subdivision Plans

Definitive Subdivision Plans create new streets with lots that acquire their frontage from the new street. These applications require a public hearing and abutter notification.

- 150 Gardner St./Smithwood Terrace. The Planning voted to approve the Definitive Subdivision Plan

Site Plan Reviews

For Site Plan Review and Abbreviated Site Plan Review, the Planning Board reviews each application while considering the Zoning By-law and input from residents and other boards. The Board votes to write letters of recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals and in that letter specify any concerns, if any occurred. While the Planning Board offers its opinion to the

Zoning Board of Appeals, the Zoning Board of Appeals notifies all abutters holds the public hearing and issues its approval or approval with conditions.

- Family Medical Associates. The Board submitted a positive recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the interior renovations and additional 70 square feet of floor space.
- 453 Essex St. The Board submitted a positive recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals to make the temporary farmstand approval a permanent farmstand approval.
- 61 Railroad Ave. The Board submitted a positive recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow additional commercial space with suggested conditions.
- 69 Willow St. Comprehensive Permit Review. The Board submitted a positive recommendation with suggested conditions to the Zoning Board of Appeals to create four apartment units and one unit for the Accord Food Pantry.

Special Permit Applications

The Planning Board considers applications for a special permit after notifying abutters and holding a public hearing.

- 315 Sagamore St. to create a common driveway.
- Cullivan Lane for a Roadway Improvement Plan.

Zoning By-law Amendments

May Town Meeting approved the Commercial Overlay District By-law which allows development of the landfill parcels by special permit. The Planning Board held its public hearing for this overlying district in March 2009. The Zoning By-law and the Zoning District map were amended to indicate the change.

Rules and Regulations

In February, the Board held a public hearing to pass Rules and Regulations that pertain to the Senior Housing By-law and the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Development By-law. Rules and Regulations are outlines of application submittal requirements.

The Planning board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exception of an abbreviated schedule in the summer. All meetings are open, and the public is welcome to attend.

Marcie Ricker
Planning Coordinator

Police Department - 2009

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Hamilton:

I consider it both an honor and a privilege to serve the town of Hamilton as its new Police Chief. My time servicing the town citizens and department employees has been a positive and rewarding experience.

During my short tenure as Chief, we have made numerous personnel changes to include the Promotion of Scott Janes to Lieutenant and Steven Trepanier to Sergeant. We have also hired Andrew Neil and Joseph Achadinha as full time officers to fill vacancies due to retirements. These officers went through a rigorous assessment process that I believe produced the most qualified candidates for the job. Both Officer Neil and Officer Achadinha are welcome additions to the department.

The Hamilton Police Department is currently rewriting Policies and Procedures, Rules and Regulations to ensure compliance with the Massachusetts accreditation standards. We continue to strengthen our ability to work effectively and efficiently with other law enforcement agencies. The HPD will continue to strive for community and agency cohesiveness to maintain high standards of professionalism and work ethic. We are also working diligently with other town departments in an effort to maximize town resources while minimizing cost to our residents.

In 2009, we received \$24,887.68 in grant funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety. This money was utilized to fund our Community Policing programs and activities such as Melody Miles Road Race, Pan Mass Challenge for Kids, Essex County Trail Days, Senior Class all Night Party, July 4th Bike Parade, Firefighters 5K Road Race, Pumpkin Fest, Halloween patrols, Gabe's run, Bike and Walking patrols, youth educational programs and materials as well as specialized training seminars for Command and Patrol staff. Although there is no Community Policing Grant funding for 2010, we will strive to continue to provide those services that benefits our town. We also participated in specialized "enforcement periods" and events periodically during the year sponsored by the Governors Highway Safety Council. These enforcement campaigns target areas such as the use of seat belts, excessive speed and the detection of drunk or impaired drivers.

I would like to thank all the Departments and Department Heads for assisting the Hamilton Police Department with its primary mission of serving and protecting the citizens of Hamilton.

As I reflect on the positive changes that we have made in the past four months, I am looking forward to the challenges which lay ahead during these fiscal times. I would also like to take a moment to extend my sincere appreciation for the men and women of the Hamilton Police Department. Their continued support, dedication and willingness to change do not go unnoticed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Russell M. Stevens
Chief of Police

2009 Hamilton Police Department Annual Report

Hamilton Police Department Statistics

Arrests/ Summons	71
Crimes against Person	33
Breaking and Entering into A Building	04
Theft from a Building	06
All Other Larcenies	25
False Pretense, Swindle, Forgery, Credit Card Misuse, Impersonation, I.D. Theft charges	21
M/V Theft	02
Vandalism	24
Drunk Driving, Liquor Law Violations	19
Drug Violations	04
M/V Citations	857
M/V Accidents	123
Medical Assists	363
Animal Complaints	439
Marijuana Citations	10
Solicitor Permits Issued	22
Pistol Permits, Firearms I.D. Cards, Propellant Cards Issued	61

Hamilton-Wenham Public Library - 2008

The Hamilton-Wenham Public Library continues to be a welcoming destination and a source of information, leisure reading, meeting spaces and cultural programming for our two towns. The Library Trustees who served during 2008 were Wendy Daynes, Chair; Doris Gallant, Secretary; Annette Janes; Madelyn Liberti; Janice Pappas; Joanne Ridinger; and Elizabeth Stanton. Joanne Ridinger's term ended in May and Janice Pappas was elected. We thank Joanne for her dedication as a trustee and for giving her time as a volunteer. The trustees meet monthly and work hard to support the library and its important role to the community.

I always say that the Hamilton-Wenham library has the best staff; all members creatively and enthusiastically bring high quality service, programs and materials to our citizens as well as many patrons for neighboring towns. This year Diane Barrett, Head of Circulation retired. She and the circulation staff are to be commended because in 2008 we reached our highest circulation ever. A total of 239,928 items circulated during the year which is nearly 10,000 more than last year. Our meeting rooms were used by community groups and library programs a total of 877 times. The library offered 192 adult programs, 115 young adult programs, and 240 children's programs. Our reference department answered 15,755 reference questions and our study rooms were used a total of 1,631 times. We thank Jean Buckley for making it possible for us to host six excellent art exhibits during the year that attracted many visitors to our facility.

We had another successful summer reading program complete with special Wednesday night events including our always popular "Vehicle Night". The teens enjoyed many programs including "Guard Up," and "Cooking with Katie." We also worked with the schools to have the summer reading list books available. It has now become a tradition each summer to promote a book of local interest and take a field trip. This year, Hamilton-Wenham adults were encouraged to read Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling. We viewed the movie and visited the Cape Anne Historical Museum in Gloucester.

2008 was year two of a two-year LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) \$20,000 grant for "Tweens and Teens". In 2008 we continued the improvements to the Young Adult area and included a mural contest with a lovely mural being painted on one of the posts. The collection development funds will improve the nonfiction collection for youth from 11 to 18 years of age. The grant will improve resource sharing and communication with the Middle School and High School Library staff so that all students will be aware of and able to benefit from the public library's resources. Librarians, Kim Claire, Lorraine Der, and Dede McManus visited the schools to give book talks and to introduce the faculty to the resources available on our web site. A \$600 grant supplied new music CDs for our collection. We also received a \$5,000 EqualAccess Grant which has helped us purchase materials and provide programs that were specifically requested through a survey. A \$10,000 Readers' Advisory Grant provided training for the staff and materials for the public.

Adults enjoyed many special programs including the monthly Literary Luncheon, computer classes, a Genealogy Lock-in, and an Energy Efficiency Fair. Our senior citizens enjoyed a wide variety of speakers and fellowship at our monthly Koffee Klatch.

During 2008 we launched our second Community Read, "Two Books for Two Towns." We read A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson and Reading the Forested Landscape: a Natural

History of New England by Tom Wessels. It was a joy to again partner with Gordon College and invite Tom Wessels to speak about his book at the A.J. Gordon Memorial Chapel on April 8. In 2009 our third community read celebrates “Exploring the past...understanding the present.” We will offer a variety of programs and activities related to Bread and Roses, Too by Katherine Paterson and While in Darkness There is Light by Louella Bryant. Katherine Paterson will speak at Gordon College on April 7, 2009 and Louella Bryant will speak at our library on April 22, 2009. Patrons of all ages are invited and encouraged to read these books and participate in the related activities.

Many of our programs are funded by the generous support of the Friends of the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library who are a stellar group of dedicated volunteers. They held two very profitable book sales and a successful membership drive. The friends helped purchase a CD and DVD cleaner enabling us to restore damaged media. They continue to provide the following museum passes for the public to enjoy: Boston by Foot, Children’s Museum in Boston, Cape Ann Historical Museum in Gloucester, DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Department of Conservation and Recreation Parks, House of Seven Gables, JFK Library and Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Peabody Essex Museum, Roger Williams Park Zoo, and the Wenham Museum. Patrons can call to reserve passes or access the remote sign-up on our website.

We could not operate without our dedicated volunteers who cheerfully and faithfully help us in countless ways to keep the library running smoothly. We also work with volunteers who have school and diversion program community service requirements. We received some very generous donations from patrons which helped us add timely and important items to our collection.

We continue to list our programs and events on our website at www.hwlibrary.org. Patrons can order library materials from home and access many databases using their library cards. Besides the statewide and consortium databases, we offer our Hamilton-Wenham citizens access to Ancestry.com Library Edition, two geography databases, Magill’s Medical Guide, Booklist Online and others. We also offer the full Britannica.com which can be used remotely day and night. Most databases can be used remotely using the barcode on the back of your library card or using the user name and password of *hwplpatron*.

The library staff and trustees diligently work to constantly improve collections and services. We greatly appreciate the citizens of Hamilton and Wenham; they are tremendously supportive and value education, learning and reading. We look forward to working with you all in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Dempsey, Library Director

HAMILTON-WENHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES - 2008

Library Director Jan Dempsey has worked hard this year as always to make the Hamilton-Wenham Library the exceptional facility that it is. The Trustees wish to commend her for an outstanding effort. Our circulation figures for the year showed marked increase, and the December 2008 figures alone showed an increase of over 6000 more items than 2004. We have a remarkable Director and a dedicated professional library staff. Our library is the cultural center of Hamilton and Wenham.

Diane Barrett, who began her library career at the Wenham library and went on to serve at the new facility, is retiring in January 2009. We will miss her kind and smiling assistance and wish her many happy days to enjoy with her family. We thank Joanne Ridinger for her service as a Trustee and we welcomed a new Trustee, Janice Pappas.

In addition to making available several excellent and hugely successful book sales our hardworking Hamilton-Wenham Friends of the Library group provided nearly \$10,000 for many cultural programs and paid for all of the Museum passes that are offered free to the public. In addition they paid part of the fee for the CD/DVD repair machine that is so helpful in caring for and restoring library media.

The library received several memorial gifts this year, including endowments from the Susan D. Lilly Estate and the Helen F. Coughlin Estate. It is so gratifying when people remember the library in their wills. In December, the Trustees and Director sent out a request for charitable donations and were able to collect a little over \$3,700 dollars from generous patrons.

A **Teens and Tweens Grant** written by Director Jan Dempsey and Michel Augeri made available library materials, new poof chairs, a checkerboard table, cd's and a mural contest that provided a beautiful addition to the teen area of the library. The winner Emily Klobucher painted an outstanding mural. The programs provided for the library with an **Equal Access Grant** aimed at the baby boomer generation have been very successful. Thanks to a combination of grants, Gordon College and the Friends, the **Two Books for Two Towns** programs were outstanding. www.hwlibrary.org is a must add on to anyone's list of computer favorite sites. It continues to receive thousands of hits and is the door to information about the library and all it offers to the public.

In regards to the facility, a faulty backflow valve, HVAC problems and a few roof leaks have been corrected but have taxed patience and the Building Fund.

Respectfully submitted;
Annette V. Janes
Wendy Waller, Chair
Doris Gallant, Secretary
Elizabeth Stanton
Madelyn Liberti
Janice Pappas

Hamilton-Wenham Public Library - 2009

During 2009, the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library was a busy and vibrant destination for the citizens of our two towns. The Library Trustees who served during 2009 were Wendy Daynes, Chair; Doris Gallant, Secretary; Jean Buckley; Annette Janes; Madelyn Liberti; Janice Pappas; and Elizabeth Stanton. Elizabeth Stanton's term ended in May and Jean Buckley was elected to fill the position. Elizabeth Stanton gave countless hours of service and support to this library and we truly thank her. The trustees meet monthly and work hard to support and guide library services and oversee the facility.

Despite budget cutbacks, the Hamilton-Wenham Library staff continued to use their creativity and enthusiasm to provide stellar service and programming. We circulated 249,741 items which is nearly 10,000 items more than our record of 239,928 items circulated in 2008. Our meeting rooms were used by community groups and library programs a total of 835 times. The library offered 364 adult programs, 102 young adult programs, and 252 children's programs. Our reference department answered 17,256 reference questions and our study rooms were used a total of 1,626 times. In October we installed a Patron Counter which reports that an average of 450 patrons enter our library each day.

During the year we repaired the gym roof, improved the phone system and installed four new computers for patron use. Ian McGowan painted and repaired our three study rooms for his Eagle Scout project.

Notable events in 2009 include a community viewing of Barack Obama's Inauguration, our first Self-Published Author Fair, lectures by Sean Murphy and Crocker Snow, Jr., and numerous book groups. The Friday morning Koffee Klatch continued to draw seniors from all over the North Shore. During the summer, adults read March by Geraldine Brooks and the Friends sponsored a field trip to Orchard House in Concord. This project was in direct correlation with our *Reader's Advisory* Grant. The staff spent the year studying Historical Fiction and learning reader's advisory skills. Our children's summer reading theme was "Starship Adventure at Your Library." Our patrons eagerly spotted our mascot, *Ham the Space Chimp*, as he visited local businesses throughout Hamilton and Wenham. We had another successful summer reading program complete with special Wednesday night events including Bubblemania; Magician, Peter Boie; and our always popular Vehicle Night. The teens enjoyed many programs including a cooking program, a gaming program and an intergenerational pastel workshop with Greg Maichek. We also worked with the schools throughout the year to provide homework assistance. Librarians, Kim Claire, Lorraine Der, and Dede McManus visited the schools to give book talks and to introduce students and faculty to the resources available on our web site.

We completed three LSTA (Library Service and Technology Act) grants: *Teens and Tweens*, *Reader's Advisory*, and *Equal Access*. We also received a \$500 grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science to purchase new materials and provide programming on skin care, and a Center of Excellence grant. In October, we also received a \$7,500 LSTA *Mother Goose on the Loose* Grant to promote literacy skills for our youngest citizens. We will be working on this grant until September 2010.

During 2009 we launched our third Community Read, "Two Books for Two Towns: Exploring the Past...Understanding the Present." Katherine Paterson, author of Bread and Roses, Too

gave a wonderful presentation at Gordon College on April 7, 2009 and Louella Bryant, author of While in Darkness There is Light, visited our library on April 22, 2009.

We are currently working on our 2010 community read, "A Treasure of Books for Two Towns." Anita Silvey, editor of Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children's Book will be speaking at Gordon College on April 8, 2010. Gordon College continues to be an invaluable partner in these literary events.

Many of our programs are funded by the generous support of the Friends of the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library who work tirelessly to support our library. They held two very profitable book sales, a video sale, and a successful membership drive. The friends purchased a digital camera for the library and hosted the annual NMRLS Friends Meeting in January. They continue to provide the following museum passes for the public to enjoy: Boston by Foot, Children's Museum in Boston, Cape Ann Historical Museum in Gloucester, DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Department of Conservation and Recreation, House of Seven Gables, Institute of Contemporary Art, JFK Library and Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Orchard House, Peabody Essex Museum, Roger Williams Park Zoo, and the Wenham Museum. Patrons can call to reserve passes or access the remote sign-up on our website. In 2009 patrons reserved 1638 passes compared with 1495 in 2008.

We continue to owe a debt of gratitude to our dedicated volunteers who assist in all library departments. We also work with volunteers who have school and diversion program community service requirements, tax work-off hours, and those who want to give back to their library. We thank Jean Buckley for making it possible for us to host six excellent art exhibits during the year that attracted many visitors to our facility. We received some very generous donations from patrons which helped us add timely and important items to our collection.

We continue to list our programs and events on our website at www.hwlibrary.org. Sarah Lauderdale, our Head of Reference, recently launched a reconstructed website. Patrons can order library materials from home and access many databases using their library cards. Besides the statewide and consortium databases, we offer our Hamilton-Wenham citizens access to Ancestry.com Library Edition, two geography databases, Magill's Medical Guide, Booklist Online and others. We also offer the full Britannica.com which can be used remotely day and night. Most databases can be used remotely using the barcode on the back of your library card or using the user name and password of *hwplpatron*. We also have a collection of E-Books.

The library staff and trustees diligently work to constantly improve collections and services. We greatly appreciate the citizens of Hamilton and Wenham; they are tremendously supportive and value education, learning and reading. In 2010 a new long-range planning committee will launch an updated five year plan. We look forward to receiving input and advice from our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Dempsey, Library Director

HAMILTON-WENHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES- 2009

First and foremost for this report we wish to sincerely thank our enthusiastic Library Staff. Under the outstanding direction of Director Jan Dempsey the library has circulated more items than ever before; an incredible 239,928. We commend all for the exceptional dedication and hard work that has made the Hamilton-Wenham Library the outstanding cultural center that it is.

Through the efforts of the Director and some staff members, many grants were written providing wonderful adult programming, science materials, children's programming, an amazing Two-Town Community Read Program, staff training and other exciting projects.

Together with funding from grants, the Friends of the Library contributions, and a few other sources the library provided 716 programs for the public! Over 17,256 reference questions were answered and through the statistics generated from our new patron counter it is estimated that on average more than 450 people visit the library each day!

Our extraordinary and hardworking Hamilton-Wenham Friends of the Library group held several successful book sales, the proceeds of which helped to provide the rich and diverse calendar of programs and museum passes for the public.

Our outstanding group of volunteers provided many hours of service; shelving and locating needed items for the public and providing other needed services. Thank you all for your dedication.

We were very sorry to accept the resignation of Trustee Elizabeth Stanton who served so helpfully for several terms. We welcome our newest Trustee Jean Buckley.

The Library facility has been well cared for with the repair of the gym roof, needed repairs to the phone system, the addition of updated computers and other necessary upkeep. The children's room picture book shelving was expanded using interest money earned from the Katherine Duffy Trust Fund.

Though our exemplary Director Jan Dempsey makes our Trustee work easy, we serve you the public, so call us with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted by the Trustees of Hamilton-Wenham Library

Wendy Waller, Chair
Doris Gallant, Secretary
Annette V. Janes
Madelyn Liberti
Janice Pappas
Jean Buckley

HAMILTON – WENHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT - 2008

We continue our commitment to fund facility improvements, even though these hard economic times, have made it become more trying. We were pleased to help the Friends of Buker fundraise for a new gym floor. The Board continues to research field development projects.

On the program side of our mission, we continue to try new programs and participate in many special events for the community, including Pumpkins in the Park, Winterfest and Kite Day. We will continue to branch out to offer programs not traditionally associated with the Recreation Department. We look forward to many more collaborations in the future.

There were many changes this year in the Recreation Department. In the Summer of 2008, Robert Kerrigan, a long time member of the Board retired. Patrick Shea was appointed in his place. On October 1, 2009, Margaret Whitesell retired as Director of the Recreation Department. Maggie had been the Director for over 13 years and will be missed. In her absence, Diane Manter Brown, Administrative Assistant, took over the responsibilities as Interim Director, while the Search Committee reviewed the numerous applications and conducted interviews. The Recreation Board is pleased to announce that Melissa Roy has been hired as the new Director of the Recreation Department. Melissa was previously employed by the Town of Wellesley and will be joining us starting March 2, 2009. We look forward to working with Melissa.

Respectfully submitted:

Diane Manter Brown, Interim Director

Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Board

Jay Butler, Chairman

Denis Curran

Renee LaForce-MacDonald

Jane Lyman

Patrick Shea

Lindle Willnow

RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT

The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department provides a wide variety of programs designed to improve the quality of life for residents by meeting physical and recreational needs. We promote lifelong lesson through play, education, and community-wide events.

HAMILTON – WENHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT - 2009

The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Departments mission is to provide a wide variety of programs designed to improve the quality of life for residents by meeting physical and recreational needs. We promote life long lessons through play, education and community wide events. The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department is overseen by a Joint Hamilton and Wenham Recreation Board. The Board is comprised of three Hamilton residents and three Wenham residents.

Here are some highlights from the Recreation Department for the Calendar Year of 2009.

- ❖ We redesigned the seasonal brochure which is used to promote our seasonal recreation programs. The brochures now contain more information on all of our programs, our new policies and procedures and important Town contact information. This brochure can be downloaded at our website www.hamiltonma.gov
- ❖ The Town of Hamilton updated its website this year and the Recreation Department took full advantage by updating our webpage's to provide better customer service to the community. Currently you can download all of our registration forms, look at our newly updated seasonal brochures and find much more information regarding the Recreation Department all online.
- ❖ We offered 29 new recreation programs this year.
- ❖ Started a new recreation program called "Imagination Station" which is held twice a week for preschool children and their parents. We are averaging 25-30 children each day and the program has been a huge success.
- ❖ We worked with the Hamilton Council on Aging to fix up the old library building so that the Recreation Department could the space to run recreation programs.
- ❖ Created a Playing Fields Task Force, through the cooperation of the Town Sports leagues, local DPW's and the School Athletic Director, to help support the Recreation Department in the creation, acquisition and maintenance of the Town owned playing fields.
- ❖ Updated the Patton Park Summer Park program to reflect the changing needs to the community.
- ❖ Hosted the Boston Celtics Championship trophy at the Recreation Department for all residents to visit.
- ❖ Participated in the annual Pumpkin Fest 2009 by providing the pumpkins, the outdoor movie night equipment and setting up a craft, as well as, helping the Pumpkin Fest Committee.
- ❖ Offered extended hours for the Patton Park Pool.
- ❖ Held the first annual, "Outdoor Movie Night," in July by showing Shrek at Patton Park.

We continue to provide effective customer service to all of our participants and strive to reach outside the box looking for new programming ideas.

Respectfully Submitted
Melissa Roy
Recreation Director

RECYCLING COMMITTEE – 2008-2009

By town vote, in the fall of 2007, the Town of Hamilton put into place a “Household Waste Reduction” recycle program that began on March 2008. This program allowed residents to put out, weekly, one “free” 35 gallon barrel of solid waste. Residents were also allowed unlimited containers of recyclables including paper, cardboard, glass, plastics and metal. Any amount of solid waste exceeding the one allowed barrel had to go into a town stamped blue bag at a cost of \$1.75 each. The bags could be bought in rolls of five at two local stores.

During the first year, the solid waste tonnage dropped by 34% (1015 tons) with a savings to the town of \$70,000. Recycling produced 25 tons of material. Residents purchased less than 1 blue bag per month. As the project progressed, residents significantly reduced their need for blue bags as was reflected in the drop of blue bag sales.

To reduce further the amount of solid waste being sent to incinerators, the Recycling Committee proposed running a two month pilot program whereby volunteer residents would separate their organic waste into special 13 gallon bins, to be picked up weekly, free of charge, (for 8 weeks) by New England Solid Waste and hauled to Brick End's Farm, a local large scale composter. By early 2009, 74 Hamilton Households were enrolled in a two-month pilot. During this period, participating families diverted an average of 10-12 pounds/week of organic waste from the solid waste stream. From their previous studies of Hamilton’s “trashing” patterns, that showed the average family’s weekly solid waste poundage at 27 pounds, the Committee saw a potential reduction of another 33-45% in Hamilton’s solid waste tonnage. A survey of the pilot participants revealed a high level of enthusiasm for continuing the organic waste program. With three quarters of the participants responding, 92% said they would pay from \$50-\$120/year to continue the program, 56% of whom would pay \$120. Only 7% indicated that they would not be willing to pay to continue the program.

In July, 2009, after several months of investigating the financial implications to the town, the hauler, the composter and individual families, the Hamilton Recycling Committee, decided to try to recruit 500 families, the number they estimated that would be necessary to implement the program at a cost of \$75/family. This figure was reached after subtracting the amount the Committee hoped the Town would pay for the “avoided cost” equal to the tonnage eliminated from the Town’s solid waste tipping fees. Otherwise, the fee would have been more on the order of \$82.50/family.

Participants were offered free compost from the composting facility. They were also offered free bins for their organic waste, because the Recycling Committee expected to receive a grant from the State DEP to cover that cost.

By mid fall, 2009, Wenham joined the program when a Wenham resident volunteered to help recruit interested citizens and the Wenham Town Administrator gave positive support to the Committee’s efforts.

In order to minimize the hauler's carbon footprint, the program was structured on a neighborhood cluster basis utilizing the volunteer efforts of more than 60 Neighborhood Captains. Thus, a by-product of this effort was the building of community spirit.

Before the end of 2009, it became clear that the DEP would not be able to provide the anticipated grant monies to help fund the bins. With the severe downturn in the economy, the Town of Hamilton was also strapped for funds and unable to contribute to the payment of the "avoided costs" for the reduced tipping fees (\$8,000), or for the costs of the bins.

In the end, the DEP found \$7,000 left over from an EPA grant that it contributed toward the purchase of the bins; and a number of citizens stepped up to help pay the remainder of the bill (\$9,700). The remaining \$8,000 cost shortfall, after applying the participant payments of \$75/family, was accommodated by building into the contract with the hauler an adjustable end date, to be determined by the number of families participating during the 11 to 15 month term of the agreement.

The Town of Hamilton created an inter-municipal agreement that was signed by Wenham, making Hamilton the principal town negotiating contracts and grants for the program. Hamilton wrote and signed a contract with New England Solid Waste who would provide weekly curbside collection service as long as the funds lasted.

Beginning March 20, 2010, the volunteer recycle committees of Hamilton and Wenham received payment from participants and disseminated to them the 13 gallon bins and 2 quart counter top collectors. The program was launched on March 31, 2010 with the first weekly pick up by New England Solid Waste.

Without financial support from either community, the participants paying \$75 for weekly pick up and tipping, all new recruits to the program beyond the first 500 are paying an additional \$29 for their bins. The program will continue for a year with 614 families paying, and if recruited, for 15 months with 770 families paying — bringing the program into line with the two towns' fiscal year. The contract stipulates that the hauler and the towns will evaluate the implications of the program after 6 months to determine the possibility of the towns instituting town wide curbside composting for either Hamilton and/or Wenham

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE - 2008

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Laurie Wilson, Chair 17 Boardman Lane, Hamilton 01982 (468-2621)	2009
Lisa S. Gaquin, Vice Chair PO Box 241 - 45 Rock Maple Avenue, Hamilton 01936 (468-3412)	2010
Jack O'Keefe, Treasurer 5 Anthony Road, Hamilton 01982 (468-1494)	2009
Donald E. Gallant, Asst. Treasurer 28 Mayflower Drive, Wenham 01984 (468-2357)	2010
Denise A. Bisailon, Secretary 37 Beech Street, Extension, Hamilton 01982 (468-3991)	2010
Lauren S. Prior Asst. Secretary 65 Gardner Street, Hamilton 01982 (468-4315)	2011
Richard L. Boroff 40 Moynihan Road, Hamilton 01982 (468-3162)	2011
Alexa McCloughan 489 Bridge Street, Hamilton 01982 (468-1743)	2009
Dacia Rubel 12 Puritan Road, Wenham, MA 01984 (468-0058) <i>Appointed to fulfill vacancy of Catherine Harrison position until May 2009 at which time there will be an addition of a two-year vacancy during this election period.</i>	May 2009
Catherine A. Harrison (Resigned Oct. 2008 prior to end of term 2011)	October 2008

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT- 2008

Dr. Marinel D. McGrath, Superintendent of Schools

I am pleased to present the 2007-2008 Annual Report for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. As you read the school reports, you will note that the strength of our school district is in the quality of our students, staff and our two communities.

During the 2007-2008 school year, the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (HWRSD) had an enrollment totaling 2,097 students with 870 in the elementary grades pre-kindergarten through grade five, 512 in the middle school grades six through eight, and 715 in the high school grades nine through twelve. The school district goal is to provide an engaging and comprehensive curriculum that challenges all students and raises their achievement level. Our students must meet not only local learning standards, but also the learning standards of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and those of colleges across the country.

To realize the HWRSD goal, teams of teachers and principals provide an academic program for higher student achievement by embedding all state framework requirements within a strong district curriculum. Through state and federal grants and the generosity of the Hamilton and Wenham Ed Fund, teachers availed themselves of quality staff development programs to ensure successful implementation of programs. Through the dedication, commitment, and caring of our teachers and support staff, Hamilton and Wenham students were recognized for their achievements in the academics, arts, athletics, and activities during the 2007-2008 school year. Our elementary students participated in the artists-in-residence program; our middle school College Bowl students won the national competition for their division and our middle school math team earned first place in Essex County for their participation in the New England Mathematics League. Middle School students were also recognized for their achievements in band competitions and the *Boston Globe* Art Awards. Our high school students received awards at the local, state, and national level in history and science, the New England Drama Festival, *Boston Globe* Key Art Awards, District Band and Chorus, and Massachusetts All-State Band. One of our students, Katherine Hoffman, was named the Massachusetts State Representative to the International Science Fair where she was awarded third place internationally for her science project. In athletics, the boys' and girls' cross country teams won Cape Ann League and the Division IV Eastern Championships while the boys' basketball, girls' indoor track, boys' outdoor track and boys' tennis teams each were named Cape Ann League Champions. In addition, the golf, baseball, and girls' lacrosse teams received Cape Ann League Sportsmanship Awards. The cheering, field hockey, golf, volleyball, girls' soccer, boys' soccer, swimming, gymnastics, boys' and girls' lacrosse, and boys' and girls' tennis team all advanced to post-season tournament play with the cheering team participating in the national competition.

The May 2007 MCAS scores reveal that Hamilton-Wenham students continue to score above the state average in all four subject areas tested (*see Director of Curriculum's report for detail*). Every member of the Class of 2008 passed both the English and math sections of the MCAS which enabled all of them to graduate in June. In the area of college admission test scores, 92 % of HW Regional High School students took the SAT I with an average score of 1690 (Critical Reading – 560; Math – 568; Writing – 562). 116 students took 163 Advanced Placement examinations in Calculus AB, English Literature, European History, French, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, and U.S. History, and achieved an average score of 3.3 out of 5.0. The Class of 2008 had seven students recognized as National Merit Scholars; five

students received letters of commendation, one student was named a semi-finalist and one student was named a finalist.

The H-W Regional School District continued its collaboration with the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham through the Towns/School Budget Process Committee (T/S BPC). The FY 09 school budget for \$27,031,567 included a Proposition 2 ½ Override for \$1,889,589 which enabled the district to maintain “level services” for FY 09. As many know, the Chapter 70 state funding was decreased for the 9th consecutive year. In FY 01, the District received 19% of its budget from Chapter 70; in FY 09 the District received only 13% of its funding from Chapter 70 state aid. The School Committee and community members continue to work hard with our legislators to change this formula to relieve the burden on the taxpayers.

Specifically, the FY 09 override funds at the elementary level maintained 4 classroom teachers, 1.5 reading specialists, 6 teaching assistants for reading and funds for instructional materials and maintenance needs. At the middle school, the override funds maintained 1.8 math and 1.8 social studies teachers, and 1 integrated academic teacher in reading and drama, algebra and Spanish textbooks as well as funds for instructional materials and maintenance needs. The override maintained 9.2 high school teachers and 1 teaching assistant for the alternative program and instructional materials and maintenance needs. Lastly, the override also funded a part-time secretary for special education, a part-time data specialist for state reporting, technology infrastructure and hardware and funds for district-wide maintenance.

While this budget balanced the education needs of students with economic realities, the FY 09 budget, once again, did not have the full support of our constituents. We had many constituents who believed the budget should have been higher so we could maintain a greater number of our academic programs. We also had just as many constituents who believed the budget should have been lower so as to ease the tax burden.

At the June 5, 2008 School Committee meeting, the District bid farewell to three teachers at the sixth annual “We Honor You” reception. Honored retirees included: Cheryl Sweeney (35 years.) - Winthrop School Reading Specialist, Pamela Larchez (24 years) – Cutler School Library Media Specialist, and Ruth Cooper (12 years) – Buker School Nurse.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and thank the many people who supported our schools this past year. On behalf of the students, faculty, administration, and School Committee, I thank the Friends of Pre-School, Buker, Cutler, Winthrop, Miles River, and High Schools, Special Education Parent Advisory Board, HW Ed Fund, HW Rotary Club, HWRHS Sports and Activities Alliance, Support our Schools, Pro Musica II, and the many generous parents and community members who contributed time and money to support our schools.

I am also grateful to our faculty, staff, principals, assistant principals, and the District Leadership Team for their devotion to the students of Hamilton and Wenham. Finally, we are most appreciative to the townspeople of Hamilton and Wenham and the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees who have seen us through difficult times and who continue to support our efforts to make the Hamilton-Wenham Schools the very best they can be.

In closing, our initiatives continue to advance the coherence and quality of our educational program. There are many goals yet to realize which are dependent upon continued school funding. Our professional staff must have the resources if we are to continue to be competitive with peer school districts in developing, providing, and maintaining a high quality educational program for our students in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional Schools.

Department of Student Services

Allison Brown Collins, Director of Student Services

The Student Services Department of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District provides programming for students with disabilities, ages 3 to 22. During the 2007-2008 school year, 358 students in the District (16.9% of the general population) were identified as needing special education services. Special education is a required program for all school districts under both federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Act – IDEA) and state law (Chapter 766). Eligibility for special education services is based upon the presence of a diagnosed disability, the inability to make effective progress in the general curriculum due to the disability, and the need for specially-designed instruction or related services. A team of teachers, parents, and other professionals collaborate in making eligibility determinations for each student. Evaluation Teams, composed of trained professionals including school psychologists, special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, and other specialists utilize a full battery of diagnostic instruments to assess the individual needs of the students.

Professional special educators, trained paraprofessionals, and therapists support regular education classroom teachers in meeting the needs of students with learning disabilities, health and sensory disabilities, communication disorders, neurological impairments, cognitive deficits, and emotional and behavioral difficulties. In addition to assisting students with moderate special needs through specialized instruction and inclusion support, the Student Services Department provides a variety of intensive programs for children with complex needs, including the Integrated Preschool, Kindergarten, and Academic Opportunities Program for elementary students; a middle school classroom for students with language-based learning disabilities; middle and high school programs (ASPIRE) for severe special needs students, and the STAY alternative program for high school students. In 2007-08, the District implemented an Intensive Primary Program, which provides ABA-based instruction for students with autism and other significant developmental disabilities, launched the Learning Skills program at the high school, and expanded the STAY alternative program to include a second classroom for freshmen students.

As a joint initiative between the Curriculum and Instruction and Student Services departments, the District implemented the “Reaching All Learners” professional development initiative in 2007-08. These courses and trainings included Responsive Classroom, Differentiated Instruction, Curriculum Mapping, Positive Behavior Intervention Support, and Mental Health Issues in the Classroom. In addition, Student Services staff attended specialized workshops in Special Education Law and Regulations, Transition Planning, Applied Behavior Analysis, IEP Goal Development, Kurzweil Software Implementation, Lindamood Bell and Wilson Reading Programs, and Thinking Maps. The Student Services Parent Advisory Council offered several parent workshops, including a Parent Rights Presentation, Student Services Focus Group, and trainings on Attention Deficit Disorder and Understanding Neuropsychological Evaluations.

The Special Education Department is evaluated annually on a three-year rotation between elementary, middle school and high school programs. These evaluations are required by law of all public schools as a means of ensuring quality programs for students with disabilities. In 2007-08, the annual evaluation focused on literacy programs at the elementary level and supported the District's planning for an intensive reading and written language program in grades 4-6 for the 2008-2009 school year. The District also completed progress reports required by the 2006 Coordinated Program Review Site Visit, and received a positive response from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which stated that no further action was required at this time. The Coordinated Program Mid-Cycle Review will be conducted during the 2009-10 school year.

The Student Services Department is proud of its record of service within the District and recognizes that the high quality teaching practices of classroom teachers and the strong District curriculum have established the climate of educational excellence that allows students with disabilities to succeed. The support of the School Committee, the Superintendent, Leadership Team, families and townspeople has been essential in meeting the needs of all learners in the District.

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Educational Services

Dr. Maryellen Duffy, Director

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Hamilton- Wenham Regional School District continues to work with the Leadership Team and the staff to align the district's instructional and staff development program with the district's goals and strategic plan

The Hamilton- Wenham School District (HWRSD) continues to renew and revise curriculum according to the guidelines established and approved in 2004. Currently, curriculum and instruction task forces are established in each subject area (math, science, social studies/history, English, foreign language, physical education/health science and technology. The task force committees work to refine curriculum guides, develop curriculum maps and establish benchmark assessments. The Curriculum and Professional Development Committee oversees the task force committees, plans the in-service days, early release Wednesdays and related professional development.

The Curriculum Office and the Technology Committee oversees the implementation, review and revision of the district technology plan, which defines the goals for student learning and associated the hardware and software acquisitions needed to support the integration of technology into the curriculum.

The Curriculum Office supervises the programming for our 32 English Language Learner students, and the 50 students who qualify for Section 504 Individual Accommodation Plans. The Curriculum Office is responsible for reviewing and approving Home Education Plans for 26 students from 16 families residing in Hamilton and Wenham.

Competitive, state and federal grants provided the funds to offer quality professional development opportunities and support to our teachers. The HWRSD has been able to offer its staff numerous grant funded professional development opportunities which include, Thinkfinity, the Responsive Classroom, Universal Design for Learning, Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies, and the Collaborative Project for Mathematics, Science, and Interdisciplinary Education. The Beginning Teacher Orientation, Induction and Mentoring

Program and the curriculum coach positions have also been funded through grants. In addition, staff members are involved in 52 special project and 6 sessions of professional development focusing on differentiating instruction through the “Reaching All Learners” program offered during the early release Wednesdays.

During the 2007-2008 school year the HWRSD was awarded 7 state grants (6 entitlement and 1 competitive), 2 federal competitive grants and 3 private competitive grants totaling in the aggregate of \$348,916. These grants were targeted for MCAS remediation, staff professional development, curriculum support, curriculum development, physical education, health education, mental health services, and drug, alcohol and violence prevention programs. HWRSD teachers were also involved in professional development opportunities in science, mathematics, engineering and technology and American history through grant-supported programs in collaboration with Salem State College and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

The 2008 MCAS scores revealed that Hamilton-Wenham student scores are above the state average in all five subject areas tested: reading (99% passing at grade 3); English (average of 98% passing at grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10), mathematics (average 93% passing at grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10) and science (94% passing at grades 5, 8 and 10).

The HWRSD recognizes that student achievement, curriculum and professional development are interrelated and will continue to pursue and secure opportunities to support these connections.

Bessie Buker Elementary School

Brian F. O’Donoghue, Principal

The Buker School had an enrollment of 236 students in grades K-5 during the 2007-2008 school year. It was a busy and productive year for our students and the entire school community.

Our students were taught by 12 classroom teachers, 2.6 special education teachers, a combination of 11.5 special education and regular education teaching assistants, a part-time reading teacher and part-time adjustment counselor and school psychologist. Gina Putnam joined our staff as our integrated media specialist. Our other specialist subjects of art, music, and physical education were taught by staff shared by the three elementary schools.

Our half-day kindergarten class experienced a successful first year after being reorganized into a five-day program. The students experienced a consistent daily schedule and had the opportunity to eat lunch at school on Wednesdays. The Buker staff continued to work across grade levels to develop instructional strategies designed to improve student achievement in reading. Buker teachers joined the Winthrop and Cutler staff to work with Jerry Goldberg from Teachers 21 to learn more about differentiated instruction. Throughout the year, the Buker teaching staff used some of the Wednesday afternoon professional development time to collaborate and plan for differentiated instruction.

The Kids Care Club continued to serve as a means for our students to participate in community service for the Buker community, the local community and the community beyond Hamilton-Wenham. Under the direction of classroom teachers, Becky Oliveira and Patti Miller, the students maintained the Karen Woolf Insect Garden and coordinated a “Buker Bounce –a-

thon” to raise money for the gym floor replacement here at Buker. The students also collected food supplies for the ACORD food pantry and organized supplies that were sent to our troops in Iraq. Buker students benefited from some special programs including a visit from storyteller Valerie Tutson, as well as from an artist in residence, Steven Ratiner, who worked with our grades 3-5 students to develop their poetry writing skills.

The Buker School experience for students and staff members continues to be enhanced by the generous support of our parents, the Friends of Buker (FOB), the Hamilton-Wenham Ed Fund, and the Town of Wenham. Our parents provided valuable assistance through the volunteer program. The Friends of Buker supported all of our cultural enrichment programs and subsidized many of our grade level field trips. In addition, the FOB organized many social events for families which included the very popular auction. The Ed Fund generously funded a school grant so we could purchase a wireless laptop cart that is used extensively in our classrooms. The Town of Wenham in conjunction with the Friends of Buker and the Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department contributed funds to complete our gymnasium floor renovation project. We now have a beautiful new floor that will be used and enjoyed by the community. Thank you to all of the members of the Buker School community and the community members of Hamilton-Wenham for your past and continued support of our school.

Cutler Elementary School

Jennifer E. Clifford, Principal

There were 306 students enrolled in seventeen classrooms in kindergarten through fifth grade at Cutler School during the 2007-2008 school year. Students were supported by 28 classroom and specialist teachers as well as 14 teaching assistants. It was a productive and exciting year for our school community as a whole. The implementation of a new five, half-day kindergarten schedule provided more consistency and time on learning for our youngest students and was met with approval and support by both teachers and parents.

New faculty members included the appointment Maureen Dolphin to the first grade and Suzanne Clerkin as a new part-time special education liaison. Our library/media teacher, Pamela Larchez, retired from Cutler School after nearly a quarter of a century of service as both a classroom teacher and library/media specialist.

Professional development initiatives in 2008 included a focus on analyzing student achievement in mathematics. Teams of teachers worked together across the district to establish end-of-year math benchmarks for every grade level. A Cutler School Building Leadership Team was established to plan and implement professional development with a focus on differentiated instruction. Faculty members participated in monthly meetings to review the best practices for meeting the needs of every student. Teachers also continued their study of technology integration, using the latest research to enhance the use of technology in the classrooms. Staff members volunteered their time as student mentors, reaching out to students in need of extra adult connections and strengthening our commitment to the whole child.

We were fortunate to have varied after school activities for our students. The Cutler School Kids Care Club provided community service to several organizations throughout the year. Students organized a food drive for the Accord Food Pantry, volunteered at the Pan Mass Challenge for Kids, played bingo with senior citizens at Brooksby Village, raked leaves for elderly neighbors, and distributed thank you baskets for community workers. The fourth and fifth grade chorus and fifth grade ensemble band performed for the school as well as for parents

during three concerts throughout the year. Two new Cutler School activity clubs formed with volunteer leaders this year. Fifth grade teacher Melissa Graham led a lunchtime String Jam Session, allowing fifth graders to pursue their interests in stringed instruments while second grade teacher Nancy Duffy led student athletes in the newly formed Cutler Running Club, an activity that meets twice weekly before school hours, providing students an opportunity to exercise their bodies in order to focus their minds.

During 2007-2008, we were supported by several community organizations. The Friends of Cutler continued to provide extensive assistance to our school. The Friends purchased twelve new classroom computers and a Smartboard, and made safety upgrades to repair existing playground structures. We continued to benefit from community-building events coordinated by the Friends. Cutler School also benefited from the generosity of the Hamilton-Wenham Ed Fund, who provided a grant to purchase laptop computers, a Smartboard, and resources to enhance differentiated instruction. Pro-Musica brought Brown Bag concerts to the elementary schools and provided supplemental funding for our popular band and chorus programs. As principal, I thank you for your continued support of Cutler School and our young learners.

Winthrop Elementary School

Carrie Vaich, Principal

The Winthrop School opened in September 2007 with an enrollment of 328 students which included two integrated pre-kindergarten classrooms. One full day, tuition-based kindergarten class and two half-day kindergarten classes were also available to our youngest students along with classrooms for students in grades one through five.

Our staff was composed of 62 members including teachers, specialists, therapists, and teaching assistants providing instruction for our student population. After 32 years of service, Cheryl Sweeney, our Language Arts specialist retired in June 2008. Under Cheryl's leadership, students were provided with various levels of support in the areas of reading, spelling, and writing. We wish Cheryl Sweeney the very best in her retirement.

During the 2007-2008 school year, staff members participated in a variety of staff development courses focused on differentiated instruction practices. Working collaboratively, teachers designed lessons to match individual learning styles and levels of achievement. During the year, staff and school council members drafted school-wide vision and mission statements that align with the district goals and are posted in classrooms. Through individual and group meetings parents and staff members also determined key areas of focus and goals for our students to be included in Winthrop's School Improvement Plan.

With direction from staff and community members, Winthrop students participated in many community service projects. Winthrop School formed a Kids Care Club, an initiative of the Points of Light Foundation, designed to promote service and philanthropy in school and our local communities. Approximately 30 K-5 children participated in Kids Care during its inaugural year and completed two projects which included "Birthday Wishes", a school-wide drive for birthday party donations for families living in homeless shelters and a "Change Drive" for the "Kids Care for Kids in Asia" project which raised \$244.50 for UNICEF to help those affected by the earthquake in China last May. Our kindergarten classes coordinated a school-wide donation to benefit the Cape Ann Animal Shelter while our first grade teachers organized a school-wide food drive to benefit the Accord Food Pantry on our 100th day of school whereby

each grade level donated specific food items that were brought to Accord by the children. The children also participated in shelving the food with the assistance of parent volunteers.

We have been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated parent group organizing our Friends of Winthrop (FOW) events and fundraisers. This year, traditional events such as the Ice Cream Social, Halloween Happenings, Holiday Express, and Toy Bingo were enjoyed by all. Students were thrilled by a spectacular artist, Rob Surrette, who claims to be ‘the fastest portrait artist in the world’. Rob’s message to the students was to “Be Somebody”. With the funds raised, the FOW purchased additional Apple computers for our Library/ Media Center in accordance with the District technology plan. Students showcased their individual slide shows created on the new computers during the Spring Volunteer Appreciation Tea. Winthrop’s School Beautification Committee worked on weekends to paint the library/media center, the school gallery, and entire primary wing of the school. With support from the Hamilton-Wenham EdFund grant, technology and resource materials were purchased for staff and student use. We are most grateful to the EdFund for supporting our efforts in meeting the needs of each individual learner.

Miles River Middle School

Matthew J. Fox, Principal

Situated on a campus shared with the Hamilton Wenham Regional High School, Miles River Middle School opened in September 2007 with an enrollment of 512 students. At Miles River we offer a comprehensive core curriculum composed of mathematics, English, science, and social studies. In addition, we also offer “Integrated Academic” classes that expose students to the art, music, applied technology, life skills, and physical education and health.

Miles River Middle School has a regular education staff numbering 32 full-time teachers. Our special education teaching and support staff include reading specialists, speech and language pathologists, special education teachers/liaisons, and a special education department chair; totaling 12 positions. We also have 8 special education teaching assistants. Our support staff for the building includes a behavior specialist, a school psychologist, an adjustment counselor, a School Nurse, and two School Secretaries and we share a technology specialist, librarian, and library/tech teaching assistant with the high school. Miles River also has two full-time custodians and two half-time custodians, four building-based food service workers, a principal and assistant principal.

Miles River Middle School had three areas of focus for the 2007-2008 school year. The first area was the exploration and application of the concept of teaching the Whole Child. This was a district-wide initiative to ensure that our students are exposed to a comprehensive curriculum, differentiated instruction, expanded academic, social, and athletic offerings, and a supportive learning environment. The second initiative was to evaluate our written curriculum and its format. The third area of focus for Miles River was an evaluation of our student schedule. A committee of teachers, support personnel, and administrators examined the latest research on middle school scheduling, attended seminars and reviewed the best practices from North Shore middle schools and the rest of the country. Our goal was to develop a schedule that offered the greatest time amount of time for instruction while being age-level and curriculum appropriate.

Our student body at Miles River is composed of active, driven students who work hard in and out of the classroom as evidenced by their success in our classrooms and in our extracurricular offerings. The MRMS College Bowl team received accolades for its performance, and our

Math team has excelled at many of its competitions. Miles River also has an active performing arts program in band and chorus programs that bustled with over 250 students (half the student body). Our select performance groups, Chorale and Jazz Band performed to rave reviews. Miles River students had equally high participation rates in the intramural program that includes: field hockey, cross country, ping pong, wrestling, track, and volleyball. Through our health program, Life Skills, our students were actively involved in numerous service projects throughout the North Shore and were often recognized for their contributions to the towns, food banks, day care centers, and other service-based organizations. We are so proud of their efforts to become active, contributing citizens.

The support of the member towns within the district has always been high. The Hamilton Wenham Ed Fund graciously supported the school by awarding the school a grant to purchase numerous Smart Boards for our classrooms. The Friends of Miles River has also provided much assistance to the school. Their contributions ensured that curriculum-based field trips were not an economic burden to our families and the Friends supported enrichment programs and guest speakers, purchased Smart Boards for numerous classrooms, supplemented the school supplies budget by purchasing ancillary materials for the classroom so teachers had as many resources as possible within their reach. The contributions of these two organizations are immeasurable. The ability to expose students to advanced technology, cultural activities, and a rich, supported curriculum is paramount in today's global society. All the teachers, staff, and students of Miles River would like to formally, and warmly, thank these two organizations and the citizens of Hamilton and Wenham for their continued support of our school.

Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

Robert M. Krol, Principal

I wish to thank the quality educators serving the families of Hamilton-Wenham. They continue to provide our 715 students with a rich and meaningful learning experience. During the 2007-2008 school year, our faculty continued to work on the recommendations of both the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Coordinated Review. That work included developing a co-teaching model for our skills level classes, a 12th grade alternative physical education experience, and a comprehensive technology plan for the high school.

Our students continued to excel in their daily academic endeavors and in state and national testing programs. Our students' performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Testing, Advanced Placement, and MCAS are well above national and state averages and rate as "one of the best" in the Greater Boston area. 85% of the Class of 2008 graduates continued their education at 4-year colleges with one senior being selected as a National Merit Scholarship Program Finalist. An additional 10% of the graduates continued their education at two-year and post-secondary schools. We are also very proud of our students who decided to serve in the military and of those who are starting their careers in the workforce.

Students were active in co-curricular activities with well over 180 students taking part in the annual science and history fairs representing the high school in state, regional, national, and international competitions. Our students excelled at the National History Fair and International Science Fair during the spring. Eight students qualified for the National History Fair in Maryland and one student won acclaim at the International Science Fair held in Atlanta winning first place in her division.

Over 325 students were involved in various clubs and activities. Our art, music, and drama students continued to distinguish themselves winning *Boston Globe* Key Art Awards, Drama Guild ensemble and individual awards at the One-Act Festival, and students were selected to District and All-State Band and Chorus. Our athletic teams competed successfully in all three seasons highlighted by an outstanding undefeated season in cross-country. The participation rates in athletics continued to surpass previous participation rates with 288 students participating in fall sports, 249 students in winter season programs and 295 students enrolled in spring programs.

Our connection to the community continued to grow. Students involved in our *Diversified Learning Program* doubled during 2007-2008 year which resulted in placing more of our students in learning locations throughout the community. The highly successful “Seniors Helping Seniors” program included nearly every senior class student. Students participated in a “give-back day” to help senior citizens in both towns and assisted the Hamilton-Wenham Education with its Annual Golf Tournament at Myopia. Thanks to our High School Friends, the Hamilton-Wenham Education Fund, Support Our Schools, and New England Biolabs, the high school was able to purchase enough computers so every high school classroom has at least one computer for Internet access. The support of our various booster clubs, and the Sports and Activities Alliance also enriched our students’ lives.

MILES RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADE EIGHT GRADUATES

Jennifer Adamo
Kristen Adams
Chang-Joon An
Christopher Anderson
Kevin Anthony
Suzanne Balk
Ryan Beckett
Theodore Beckman
Skye Bellenis
Spencer Bergholtz
Luke Besse
Stephanie Biancucci
Zachary Bird
Jason Brooks
Nickolas Brown
Lauren Bukkhegyi
Elizabeth Callahan
Kristen Camuso
Christopher Carlson, Jr.
Isaac Carp
Benjamin Chansky
Esther Chisholm
David Chu
Kayla Ciampa
Haley Ciriello
Emma Clay
Cody Cohan
Robert Connery
Thomas Conville
Jesse Craig
Travis Crocker
Emily Cronan
Maxwell Crystal
Abby Curran
Jake Danforth
Julia Dolan
Robin Doroff
Christopher Dvletoglou
Sydney Drayton
Luke Drieze
Taylor Drinkwater
John Dubray
Nora Duncan
April Dupee
Melissa Eap

Alessandro Eramo
Andrew Evans
Vanessa Falasca
Stephanie Fales
Grace Farnan
Rachel Farnham
Ryan Foringer
Caroline Forsey
Brooke Fourgere
Jennifer Francis
Zachary Fredriksen
Samantha Gabrielli
Emma Gaquin
Andrew Gauthier
Abbey George
Daniel Getchell
Nicolas Gianelli
Eric Gisness
Kelsi Gowman
Thomas Grimshaw
Jane Grinnell
Stephen Haladyna
Dylan Harrigan
Sarah Henkels
Christian Hickey
Katelyn Hogan
Keaton Holappa
Charlotte Horton
Devon Hourican
Griffin Hoyle
Abigail Hughes
Elizabeth Hull
Sean Jarvis
Shane Jenkins
Adam Johnson
Alexander Johnson
Benjamin Johnson
Nicholas Johnson
Monica Keating
Jack Keegan
Ian Kelley
Kellie Kerrigan
Victoria Koch
Jennifer Kong
Heather Kuebel

Rachel Landis
Samantha Lane
Alix Lara
Jacob Lindland
Ava Lins
Ian MacLean
Allison Manzelli
Christopher Marks
Aoife McAdam
Adam McFarland
Kathryn McGlynn
Keira McGrath
Alexander McKenzie
David McLellan
Joseph Merrill
Rebecca Moffat
Maximilian Montanari
Jillian Morong
Conor Murdoch
Rebecca Murray
Max Musacchio
Robert Muschamp
Jake Namaroff
Peter Nawoichik
Steven Nickas
Hunter Obenschain
Tess Obenschain
Caroline O'Keefe
Thomas O'Neil, III
Natalya Ozahowski
James Parr
Caitlyn Passaretti
Sara Pauwels
Taylor Pendleton
Hannah Perkins
Julia Perkins
William Pfunder
Christopher Pingree
Sophie Prince
Matthew Putur
Samuel Quezada
Sean Reid
Jacob Rendall
Ryan Richard
Anna Roberts

Deklan Robinson
Brian Rodgers
Jared Rokowski
Stuart Rowe
Jacquelyn Roy
Kyler Ruane
Lily Sabatini
Joy Santarelli
Alexander Schlecht
Connor Schmidt
Tessa Schwartz
Emily Senning
Charles Serpa
John Sexton
Lindsey Shaktman
Coleen Shaughnessy
Christopher Shinopoulos
Sophie Southwick
Michael Spearing
Roberta Spinale
Nathan Sprenkle
Matthew St. Hilaire
Dakota Stevens
Rhiannon Stratton
Timothy Swierzewski
Stephen Tam
Taylor Thomas
Ian Thompson
Alyssandra Tobin
John Van Norman
Julian Vance
Ledyard Villa
Daniel von Staats
Erin Walker
Christopher Weld
Brenden Wetson
Shanna Whalen
Aaron Whitman
Ryan Willis
Isaac Willnow
Camilla Worsfold
Julia Zawacki

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
2008 GRADUATES

Jeffrey Forester Allsopp, Jr.	Ryan Lee Gendreau	Kelsey Elizabeth Norwood
Alexander Moore Arwater	Heather Mary Ginsberg	Adam Lundgren Ouanes
Jacqueline Marie Barthelmes	Lindsay Alyssa Gonsiorowski	Gabriel Louis Pacione
Niles Prescott Batchelder	Jeffrey Fox Goodrich	Anne Elizabeth Papacostas
Adrienne Moller Belleau	Brianna Lynn Govoni	Christien Parello-Hourican
Ana Vaccari Bisailon	Kelsey Elizabeth Grenert	Cassie Frances Penta
Daisy Elisabeth Blakney	Jordan Victor Grillo	Courtney Taylor Perkins
Eriu Rosemary Bogan	Nina Adelaide Gross	Devon Paul Pierro
Roland Brown Bradshaw	Crystal Virginia Hamel	Charles Andrew Pilkonis
Rebecca Minn Bridger	Marcus Russell Hanna	Mihika Pradhan
Christina Marie Brown	Ryan Joseph Hanna	Johanna Lee Purdy
Mark Andrew Buckler	Nicole Ann Hanson	Daniel George Quateman
Katelyn Maureen Campbell	Elizabeth Kate Hartley	Molly Rita Quigley
Matthew Charles Carozzi	Emily Margaret Helming	Joshua Michael Rice
Gregory Thomas Castle	Kelly Jean Hendrickson	Hilary Ryan Richard
Bryan Michael Cauley	John Joseph Hession	Brittany Lynn Richmond
Laura Van Dyke Cavanaugh	Collin Richard Hills	Alyssa Lorraine Roehr
Katharine Anna Chamberlin	Molly Elizabeth Horn	Jaclyn Marie Rosenberg
Brittany Clark	Joseph Kevin Hoyle	Isaiah Rotondi-Gray
Arielle Flora Clime	Louis Ryan Hughes	Morgan Christine Russell
Lindsey Carolyn Coleman	Zion Hwang	Hailey Anne Sawyer
Trillian Elan Conti	Arianna Susan Iapicca	Josette Ann Scarpa
Nathaniel Francis Corwin	Rebecca Elise Jack	Adrian Christopher Schaedle
Jake James Cotter	Joshua Luke Janssen	Devon Gray Scuteri
Samantha Lynne Crabb	Stephanie Katherine Jones	Benjamin Reed Senning
Julia Whalen Croyle	Zoe Ellen Julien	Ellen Jayne Sexton
Daniel Patrick Curran	Charlotte Elizabeth Karrisson-Willis	Sara Margaret Shea
Kenneth Patrick Curran	Daniel William Katz	Rebecca Christine Shedd
Elise Irene D'Ambrosio	Julia Adams Katz	Stephanie Kate Sheppard
Candice Catherine Dangora	Megan Wright Katz	Cindy Marie Sherman
Michael Ryan Davis	August Lee Kawski	Olivia Parsons Shiland
Lindsay Michelle Davis	Kathryn Ward Keegan	Ashley Taylor Spongberg
Samantha Jean Davis	Meghan Marie Kelley	Melissa Jane Stasiuk
Laura Anne Holton DeBlock	Michelle Lisette Ketcham	Nikko Salvatore Stevens
Caroline Ashley DeFelice	Jun Hyun Kim	Kathryn Marie Stewart
Suzanne Christian DeFelice	Thomas John Kinsman	Matthew Roger Stewart
Richard Alexander del Rio	Margaret Ann Knowles	Josiah Grady Stockwell
Derek Wayne Dempsey	Adam Leo Kulhavy	Samantha Lang Stokes
Matthew Brian DePiero	Jungsoo Lee	Aleigh Frances Sufferin-Hutchins
Jaclyn Elizabeth DiChiara	Keir Lee Barber	Paul Colby Sullivan
Julie Anne Dougherty	Ariane Alexis Leventis	Kevin Sun
Thomas Paul Drinkwater	Cooper Samuel Linn	Wesley Robert Surette
Margaret Wallace Druschel	Madeline Lily Lund	Deborah Lorey Tam
Kayleigh Anastacia Dunn	Meredith Jean Lyon	Derek Allen Tanch
Paige Yearley Durgin	Xiaonan Ma	Kate-Lynn Marie Tibbets
Honora Elizabeth Einhorn	Jared Haas Mattern	Joel Allen Trunfio
Carley Elise Elder	Juliana Ruth Martinez	Sean Martin Verrington
Jenny Elizabeth Esdale	Nathan Curtis Masterson	Vanessa Rose Vitale
Brittney Nicole Evans	Jesse Brett McElvain	Benjamin Charles vonStaats
Kristen Tiffany Fales	Andrew Lindsay McGrath	Michael Thomas Walton
Rosemary Anne Farrell	Dana Rebekah McGrath	Natalie Aisina Watson
Jackson Gamister Fields	David Michael Pierrepont Moffat	Matthew David Wilson
Julia Gamister Fields	Sherilyn Susan Moniz	James Jung Wolcott
Alison Elizabeth Flores	Helen Mary Monroe	Evan Yu
Teri Leigh Ford	Joseph Arthur Morency	Joanna Zachariadis
Timothy Patrick Ford	Alexa Danielle Mullin	Dawn Marie Zampell
Lucy Francis Frye	Kathryn Jane Murdoch	Weisi Zeng
Elizabeth Leary Gatti	Gillian Marie Murphy	Michael Zheng

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE - 2009

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Lisa S. Gaquin, Chair PO Box 241 - 45 Rock Maple Ave, Hamilton 01936 (468-3412)	2010
Alexa McCloughan, Vice Chair 489 Bridge Street, Hamilton 01982 (468-1743)	2012
Dacia Rubel, Asst. Treasurer 12 Puritan Road, Wenham, MA 01984 (468-0058)	2012
Lauren S. Prior, Secretary 65 Gardner Street, Hamilton 01982 (468-4315)	2011
Richard L. Boroff 40 Moynihan Road, Hamilton 01982 (468-3162)	2011
Donald E. Gallant 28 Mayflower Drive, Wenham 01984 (468-2357)	2010
Theresa F. Leary 209 Bay Road, Hamilton 01982 (468-6636)	2011
John Joseph (Jack) O'Keefe 5 Anthony Road, Hamilton 01982 (468-1494)	2012
Denise A. Bisailon (Resigned Oct. 2009 prior to end of term 2010)	October 2009

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - 2009

Dr. Marinel D. McGrath, Superintendent of Schools

I am pleased to present 2008-2009 Annual Report for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. As you read the school reports, you will note that the strength of our school district is in the quality of our students, teachers, support staff and our two communities.

During the 2008-2009 school year, the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (HWRSD) had an enrollment totaling 2086 students with 871 in the elementary grades pre-kindergarten through grade five, 483 in the middle school grades six through eight, and 732 in the high school grades nine through twelve. The school district goal is to provide an engaging and comprehensive curriculum that challenges all students and raises their achievement level. Our students must meet not only local learning standards, but also the learning standards of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and those of colleges across the country.

To realize the HWRSD learning goals, teams of teachers and principals provide an academic program for higher student achievement by embedding all state framework requirements within a strong district curriculum. Through state and federal grants and the generosity of the Hamilton and Wenham Ed Fund, teachers availed themselves of quality staff development programs to ensure successful implementation of programs. Through the dedication, commitment, and caring of our teachers and support staff, Hamilton and Wenham students were recognized for their achievements in the academics, arts, athletics, and activities during the 2008-2009 school year. Our elementary students participated in artists-in-residence program; our middle school College Bowl students won the national competition for their division and our middle school math team excelled in their New England Mathematics League meets. Middle School students were also recognized for their achievements in band competitions and the *Boston Globe* Art Awards. Our high school students received awards at the local, state, and national level in history, science, drama and art. Our student-written and produced play "Wake Up Jack" won the state Massachusetts Drama Guild One-Act Festival Title. Ten students were selected to District and All-State Band and Chorus while seven students earned *Boston Globe* Key Art Awards. Our students excelled at both the National History Fair and International Science Fair. Four projects qualified for the National History Fair in Maryland and six students qualified for the state Science Fair where two students were selected to compete at the International Science Fair held in Reno, Nevada. This year marks the third consecutive year our students have been invited to compete at the International Science Fair. HW athletic teams were very successful in all three seasons. Sixteen teams out of 24 qualified for state tourney action; six were Cape Ann League Champions, four East Regional Champions, one State Finalist, and three were crowned State Champions in Girls Cross Country, Boys Indoor Track, and Boys Tennis. Further, seven of our coaches earned "Coach of the Year" honors in their sport.

The May 2009 MCAS scores reveal that Hamilton-Wenham students continue to score above the state average in all four subject areas tested (*see Director of Educational Services' report for detail*). Every member of the Class of 2009 has passed both the English and math sections of the MCAS which enabled all of them to graduate in June. The Class of 2009 had combined SAT scores of 1731 and scored better than the state average in Math (572), Critical Reading (581), and Writing (578). In 2009, 113 students took 177 Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 13 subjects (Calculus AB-4.28, Statistics – 3.0, Computer Science – 5.0, English Literature – 4.39, European History – 2.96, French Language – 2.33, Japanese Language- 5.0, Spanish

Language -3.81, Spanish Literature – 3.37, Microeconomics – 5.0, Macroeconomics - 5.0, U.S. History - 4.0, U.S. Government & Politics-4.0). The average AP score for HW students was 4.01 on a scale of 0-5. Scores of 3-5 qualify the student to be considered for advanced placement in college. Twenty-seven of our students were recognized as AP scholars, receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. The National Merit Scholarship Program recognized sixteen (16) members of the Class of 2009 as Commended Students (13), Semi-Finalists (3) and one was named a Finalist. Other indicators of district quality and achievement include: (a) 96.2% of our PK-12 students attend school daily, (b) 1.1% high school student dropout rate, and (c) 94% student matriculation to post-secondary education.

The H-W Regional School District continued its collaboration with the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham through the Towns/School Budget Process Committee (T/S BPC). The FY 09 school budget for \$27,031,567 included a Proposition 2 ½ Override for \$1,889,589 which enabled the district to maintain “level services” for FY 09. As many know, the Chapter 70 state funding was decreased for the 9th consecutive year. In FY 01, the District received 19% of its budget from Chapter 70; in FY 09 the District received only 13% of its funding from Chapter 70 state aid. The School Committee and community members continue to work hard with our legislators to change this formula to relieve the burden on the taxpayers.

Specifically, the FY 09 override funds at the elementary level maintained 4 classroom teachers, 1.5 reading specialists, 6 teaching assistants for reading and funds for instructional materials and maintenance needs. At the middle school, the override funds maintained 1.8 math and 1.8 social studies teachers, and 1 integrated academic teacher in reading and drama, algebra and Spanish textbooks as well as funds for instructional materials and maintenance needs. The override maintained 9.2 high school teachers and 1 teaching assistant for the alternative program and instructional materials and maintenance needs. Lastly, the override also funded a part-time secretary for special education, a part-time data specialist for state reporting, technology infrastructure and hardware and funds for district-wide maintenance.

While this budget balanced the education needs of students with economic realities, the FY 09 budget, once again, did not have the full support of our constituents. We had many constituents who believed the budget should have been higher so we could maintain a greater number of our academic programs. We also had just as many constituents who believed the budget should have been lower so as to ease the tax burden.

At the June 11, 2009 School Committee meeting, the District bid farewell to three teachers at the 7th annual “We Honor You” reception. Honored retirees included: Kathleen Brumby (30 years) - Buker School Food and Custodial services; Karen Godfrey, (24 years) Middle School Life Skills, Ken Portnoy (21 years) High School Social Studies, Lyn LeGendre (8 years) High School English, Claudia Frost (16 years) High School Music, Robert Krol (5 years) High School Principal, and Lois MacIntyre (20 years) District Bookkeeper.

I would like to recognize and thank the many people who supported our schools this past year. On behalf of the students, faculty, administration, and School Committee, I thank the Friends of Pre-School, Buker, Cutler, Winthrop, Miles River, and High Schools, Special Education Parent Advisory Board, HW Ed Fund, HW Rotary Club, HWRHS Sports and Activities Alliance, Support our Schools, Friends of the Arts, Pro Musica II, and the many generous parents and community members who contributed time and money to support our schools.

I am also grateful to our faculty, staff, principals, assistant principals, and the District Leadership Team for their devotion to the students of Hamilton and Wenham. Finally, we are

most appreciative to the townspeople of Hamilton and Wenham and the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees who have seen us through difficult times and who continue to support our efforts to make the Hamilton-Wenham Schools the very best they can be.

In closing, our initiatives continue to advance the coherence and quality of our educational program. There are many goals yet to realize which are dependent upon continued school funding. Our professional staff must have the resources if we are to continue to be competitive with peer school districts in developing, providing, and maintaining a high quality educational program for our students in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional Schools.

Department of Student Services

Allison Brown Collins, Director of Student Services

The Student Services Department of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District provides a wide range of programs for students with disabilities, ages 3 to 22. During the 2008-2009 school year, 352 students in the District (16.9% of the general population) are identified as needing special education services.

Special Education is a required program for all public school districts under both federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Act – IDEA) and state law (Chapter 766). Eligibility for special education services is based upon the presence of (a) a diagnosed disability, (b) the inability to make effective progress in the general curriculum due to the disability, and (c) the need for specially designed instruction or related services. A team of teachers, parents and other professionals collaborates in making eligibility determinations for each student. Evaluation teams, composed of trained professionals including school psychologists, special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, and other specialists utilize a full battery of diagnostic testing instruments to assess the individual needs of the students.

Professional special educators, trained paraprofessionals, and therapists support regular education classroom teachers in meeting the needs of students with learning disabilities, health and sensory disabilities, communication disorders, neurological impairments, cognitive deficits, and emotional and behavioral difficulties. In addition to assisting students with moderate special needs through specialized instruction and inclusion support, the Student Services Department provides a variety of intensive programs for children with complex needs, including the Integrated Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and Elementary Intensive Learning Program, middle and high school ASPIRE programs, high school Learning Skills, and the STAY alternative program for high school students. In 2008-2009, the District implemented an Intensive Reading and Written Language Program (IRWL), which provides comprehensive academic and reading instruction for students with significant reading disabilities in grades 4-8, and implemented a language-based co-teaching model at the high school.

The Special Education Department is evaluated annually on a three-year rotation between elementary, middle school and high school programs. These evaluations are required by law of all public schools as a means of ensuring quality programs for students with disabilities. In 2008-2009, the annual evaluation focused on special education programming at the middle school level.

The Student Services Department is proud of its record of service within the District and recognizes that the high quality teaching practices of classroom teachers and the strong District curriculum have established the climate of educational excellence that allows students with disabilities to succeed. The support of the School Committee, the Superintendent, School Administrators, families and townspeople has been essential in meeting the needs of all learners in the District.

Office of Educational Services

Dr. Maryellen Duffy, Director of Educational Services

As the Director of Educational Services for the Hamilton- Wenham Regional School District (HWRSD) I work with and support the staff and Leadership Team to focus the curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development work on the District's goals and strategic plan and ensure compliance with the policies of the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

HWRSD continues to update its instructional program, according to the guidelines established and approved in 2004. There are curriculum and instruction task forces established in every subject areas and technology. During 2008-2009, the task force committees refined and developed curriculum maps using "TechPaths" a web-based software program and established benchmark assessments. The Professional Development Committee monitored the task force committees, planned the two all day professional days, early release Wednesday program, and other related after school professional development.

The Office of Educational Services and the Technology Committee continues to oversee the implementation and updating of the five-year technology plan. The plan defines our vision and direction for our staff, specifies the needs in our schools, and outlines the learning goals for our students.

The Office of Educational Services also supervises the programming for our 32 English Language Learner (ELL) students and the 47 students who qualify for Section 504 Individual Accommodation Plans. As the director, I also review, approve and monitor the Home Education Plans for 37 students from 23 families residing in Hamilton and Wenham.

During the 2008-2009 school year the HWRSD was awarded 6 state entitlement grants and 1 private competitive grant totaling \$213,055. The receipt of these grants allowed us to offer quality staff development programs and support to our teachers. The grants provided funding for MCAS remediation at the high school level, curriculum development for physical education and health education, drug, alcohol and violence prevention programs and mental health services for students. The grants also provided funding for staff development programs in science, math,, engineering and technology, the Responsive Classroom, instructional strategies (differentiated instruction, thinking maps and classroom management), American History and Verizon's "Thinkfinity" technology integration course. The Beginning Teacher Orientation, Induction, and Mentoring Program and the curriculum coach positions also continue to be grant funded.

Student achievement as measured by HW learning standards and 2009 MCAS scores reveal that HW student scores are above the state average in all five subject areas tested: Gr. 3 reading (97% passing), English (average of 97% passing at Gr. 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8), mathematics (average 93% passing at Gr. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8) and science (95% passing at Gr. 5, 8 & 10). We recognize

that student achievement, curriculum and staff development are interrelated and will continue to pursue and secure opportunities to support these connections. I acknowledge and thank the teaching staff, Leadership Team, Superintendent, School Committee, families, and our member towns for their support which is essential in meeting the needs of all learners in the District.

Bessie Buker Elementary School

Brian F. O'Donoghue, Principal

The Buker School had an enrollment of 237 students in grades K-5 during the 2008-2009 school year. It was an exciting and productive year for our school community.

Student instruction was supported by 12 classroom teachers, 4.4 special education teachers which included a full-time teacher and part-time reading specialist assigned to our new intensive reading and written language program, 11.5 special education and regular education teaching assistants, a part-time literacy specialist, a part-time school adjustment counselor and school psychologist. We had a part-time, building based media specialist to support instruction in the library and technology lab while our other specialist areas of art, physical education, and music were taught by sharing staff with the Cutler and Winthrop Schools. Our new staff included special education teachers Geri Kelley and Melissa Fleet, Amy Varay – reading specialist, Jackie Johnson - art, and Tammi Smith – registered nurse.

The intensive reading and written language program completed a successful first year under the direction of special education teacher Karen Birner. This program met the significant reading and written language needs of students in grades 4 and 5 from across the district. Students received their core academic instruction in this classroom, while continuing to be members of a homeroom for many other academic and school-related activities.

Teachers focused their professional development in support of our school goal of raising student achievement in reading and mathematics. Professional days and release time was devoted to developing curriculum maps to ensure curriculum alignment across the elementary level. Teachers also worked in collaboration to improve student performance with math open response questions.

The Kids Care Club supported our local as well as world-wide community service efforts. The students collected food supplies for the ACORD food pantry throughout the year. We held a book drive to support literacy for the children of Zimbabwe and successfully shipped many cases of new and gently-used books to them. These activities were part of many throughout the year that support our theme of *citizenship*.

The Buker School once again received generous support from our parents, the Friends of Buker (FOB), the Hamilton-Wenham Ed Fund, and the Towns of Wenham and Hamilton. The Friends of Buker supported dynamic cultural enrichment experiences for our students, including author visits from Steven Ratiner and Giles Laroche and performances by storyteller Antonio Rocha and the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers. The Hamilton-Wenham Ed Fund grant monies supported the updating of our technology lab with new desktop computers for our students. Thank you to all of the members of the Buker School and Hamilton-Wenham communities for your continued support.

Cutler Elementary School
Jennifer E. Clifford, Principal

There were 302 students enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade in fifteen classrooms at Cutler School during the 2008-2009 school year. We celebrated learning throughout the year, highlighted regularly as the entire school body joined to share writing, music, and drama during our monthly “All School Meeting”. It was a productive and exciting year for our entire school community.

New faculty members included the appointment Liana Hanson to the third grade and Jenna DeMauro to the fifth grade. Cerissa Schartner became a special education liaison and Heidi Hebert became the library/media specialist. Students were supported by 28 classroom and specialist teachers as well as 12 teaching assistants this year.

Professional development initiatives in 2009 included a focus on mapping the social studies and science curricula. Teams of teachers worked across the district to establish core curriculum maps, outlining the essential content and skills at each grade level. The Cutler School Building Leadership Team continued to design and implement professional development at the building level which focused on common expectations and language for student behavior. Faculty members participated in monthly meetings, creating expectations for students as they work to be responsible, respectful, and complete their best work throughout the school day. Teachers also continued their study of technology integration, using the latest research to increase the use of technology in the classrooms. Three math programs were piloted by teachers at every grade level, leading to the recommendation of a new program for implementation in Fall 2009. Staff members continued to volunteer their time as student mentors, reaching out to students in need of extra adult connections.

We are fortunate to have a variety of school activities for our students. The fourth and fifth grade chorus and fifth grade ensemble band performed for the school as well as for parents during three concerts this year. Cutler School activity clubs met with volunteer teacher leaders again this year. Fifth grade teacher Melissa Graham led a lunchtime String Jam Session, allowing fifth graders to pursue their interests in stringed instruments. Second grade teacher Nancy Duffy led student athletes in the Cutler Running Club, meeting twice weekly before school hours, providing students an opportunity to exercise their bodies in order to focus their minds. Fourth grade students knit carefully during their lunchtime under the guidance of fourth grade Dede Johnson and teaching assistant Janie Bellenis while fifth graders learned sign language during the midday break under the tutelage of fifth grade teacher Jenna DeMauro.

We are supported by several community organizations. The Friends of Cutler (FOC) continue to provide extensive assistance to our school. The Friends brought numerous cultural enrichment activities and assemblies to our students, while also supporting several field trips. Funds have been set aside to improve the school playgrounds and several books were donated to the classroom and school libraries. Families provided many classroom wish list items which allowed new curricular projects and activities to take place in classrooms. Cutler School also benefited from the generosity of the Hamilton-Wenham Education Fund, receiving computers and streaming video subscriptions for student classroom use. Everyone at Cutler School thanks Hamilton and Wenham for its continued support of Cutler School and our young learners.

Winthrop Elementary School

Carrie Vaich, Principal

During the 2008-2009 school year, the Winthrop School had an enrollment of 332 students including two district-wide pre-kindergarten classrooms which had two morning and two afternoon sessions each. Our kindergarten students were served by either a full-day tuition based class or a half-day kindergarten class. These young learners joined the remainder of our school in grades one through five. Our staff included 66 staff members which included teachers, specialists, therapists, and teaching assistants who provided instruction for our students.

Throughout the year, staff members met collaboratively to improve teaching strategies and to align curriculum standards through curriculum mapping. Utilizing technology, teachers worked with grade level teams across the district to outline both the science and social studies curricula. Grade level representatives on the District Mathematics Committee reviewed, analyzed and evaluated various mathematics programs resulting in a twelve week pilot of each program. Teachers gathered data and discussed programs philosophies ultimately making recommendation to implement the *ThinkMath!* program in Grades K-5 beginning September 2009.

The staff at Winthrop School participated in a two-week author study under the lead of Kimberly Ubaldo, our new Reading Specialist. Ms. Ubaldo and the Literacy Team developed a number of whole school activities, read alouds, and interactive reading sessions based on the work of children's book author and illustrator Patricia Polacco. These activities guided students with shared reading discussions between and within grade levels. Under the direction of Heidi Caccivio and Janet Lee, the Kids Care Club worked on community service projects. The initiative to support "Birthday Wishes", a school-wide drive for birthday party donations for families living in homeless shelters continued successfully. Our Friends of Winthrop also assisted us with a weekly food drive to support the Acord Food Pantry.

We have been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents organizing our Friends of Winthrop events and fundraisers. This year the students were fortunate to engage in a week long visit from the dance group "Phunk Phenomenon". Various dance group members instructed students on the history of hip hop dancing and basic moves as part of the physical education classes. Students thoroughly enjoyed the culminating performance by the dance group at the end of the week. The Friends of Winthrop conducted many building beautification projects including the front entrance revitalization and center courtyard overhaul designed by teaching assistant Marcie Ricker. Both areas were fully reconstructed with parents donating plans to complete the project. Parents also conducted a weekend painting project completing four classrooms and every hallway bulletin board in the school. Additional funds raised were used to complete the three-year plan of updating technology for the Media Center. With support from the Hamilton-Wenham EdFund grant, technology components and resource materials were available for staff and student use. We are most grateful to the EdFund for supporting our efforts in meeting the needs of each individual learner.

All of us a Winthrop School had a wonderful year. We thank our parents and communities for their continued support of our school and its programs.

Miles River Middle School

Matthew J. Fox, Principal

Christy A. Reynolds, Ed.D., Assistant Principal

This year we celebrated our 10th year of educating Hamilton and Wenham's middle school students. The MRMS provides a comprehensive curriculum composed of math, English, science and social studies. In support of the community's desire to expand the foreign language curriculum, we now offer Spanish as an academic class five days a week. Our academic program is complemented with "Integrated Academic" (IA) classes which include the arts (music, art, drama), reading, applied technology, physical education, and health. Our 483 students come primarily from Hamilton and Wenham, with 321 and 148 students from each town, respectively. We enrolled 11 school choice students from other North Shore towns which include Beverly, Salem, Essex, and Gloucester.

Miles River Middle School has a regular education staff of 34 full-time teachers, a 14 member special education staff, and 6 special education teaching assistants to support individual education plans. Our support staff includes a behavior specialist, a school psychologist, an adjustment counselor, a part-time technology specialist and aide, a part-time librarian and 1.5 aides, a registered school nurse, 1.5 school secretaries, two full-time custodians and two half-time custodians and four food service employees.

Miles River Middle School focused on a two staff development initiatives for the 2008 – 2009 school year. First, we were excited to begin the process of unifying our curriculum into one integrated format. Using a district-wide software program, the staff used Wednesday staff development time to coordinate and articulate the curriculum with the entire district. A second initiative focused on the educational concept of "differentiated instruction" whereby teachers learned teaching strategies to reach and teach students of differing abilities in the same class.

The student body at Miles River is composed of active students who work hard in and out of the classroom as evidenced by their success in classroom learning and in extracurricular offerings. The MRMS College Bowl team finished first in the nation for its division and one student competed at the state finals for the Geography Bee. Our Math team excelled in its competitions and shared practice time with the high school math team. This year the History Fair was introduced to middle school students. MRMS students did very well, taking most of the awards in the regional competition and continued a strong showing in the state finals. Our excellent performing and visual arts groups provided memorable concerts, plays, and Arts Nights for all to enjoy. Our students continued their involvement in service projects and are often recognized for their contributions to the towns, food banks, day care centers, and other service-based organizations. We are so proud of their efforts to become active, contributing citizens.

The support of our two towns continues to be appreciated by all at MRMS. The Hamilton Wenham Ed Fund supported the school by partnering with the Friends of Miles River (FOMR) to purchase a mobile wireless laptop lab. The FOMR contributed greatly to our students by providing funds for field trips, enrichment programs and guest speakers, classroom Smart Boards, ancillary school supplies and materials for our teachers. The ability to expose students to advanced technology, cultural activities, and a rich, supported curriculum is paramount in

today's global society. All the teachers, staff, and students of Miles River warmly thank the Friends, the HW Edfund and our towns for their continued support of the school.

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Robert M. Krol, Principal

Philip T. Conrad, Assistant Principal

I wish to express my thanks to our quality educators and staff serving the families of Hamilton and Wenham who daily provide our 732 students with a diverse and relevant learning experience. Of special note this year is the faculty's work in curriculum development, continued work on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) recommendations, efforts to create a successful alternative physical education experience for seniors, and work to develop the Writing Center, the final step necessary for students to complete their portfolios.

Our students continue to excel in their daily academic endeavors and in national and state testing. Our students' performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, Advanced Placement, and MCAS are well above national and state averages and rate as one of the best in the Greater Boston area. 87% of the graduating class continued their education at 4-year colleges, with an additional 8% continuing at two-year and post-secondary schools. The National Merit Scholarship Program identified thirteen students as "Commended Students" and three were named as Semi-Finalists. We are also very proud of our students serving in the military and those starting their careers in the workforce.

Students continue to be active in co-curricular activities with over 190 students participating in the annual science and history fairs representing the high school in regional, state, and national competitions. Our students continue to excel at both the National History Fair and International Science Fair. Four projects qualified for the National History Fair in Maryland and six students qualified for the state Science Fair where two students were selected to compete at the International Science Fair held in Reno, Nevada. This year marks the third consecutive year our students have been invited to compete at the International Science Fair.

Over 350 students were involved in clubs and activities. Our art, music, and drama students continue to distinguish themselves. Our student-written and produced play "Wake Up Jack" won the state Massachusetts Drama Guild One-Act Festival Title. Ten students were selected to District and All-State Band and Chorus. Participation in athletics remained high. Our athletic teams were very successful in all three seasons. Sixteen teams out of 24 qualified for state tourney action; six were Cape Ann League Champions, four East Regional Champions, one State Finalist, and three were crowned State Champions in Girls Cross Country, Boys Indoor Track, and Boys Tennis. Further, seven of our coaches earned "Coach of the Year" honors in their sport.

Our connection to the community continues to grow. Students participation increased in our Diversified Learning Program, placing more students in learning locations in our communities. Our "Seniors Helping Seniors" program included 150 seniors participating in a give-back day to help senior citizens in both towns while our junior class volunteered at the annual Hamilton Wenham Edfund Golf Tournament. Thanks to our High School Friends, student club fees were reduced and thanks to the Hamilton Wenham Edfund, *Smartboard* technology was purchased for our high school classrooms. The support of our various booster clubs also enriched our students' lives and reduced their user fees.

As I will be retiring this year after forty-one years as an educator, I wish to express my gratitude to the Hamilton-Wenham community for their efforts to support a quality experience for their children. It was an honor and privilege to serve our communities.

MILES RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADE 8 GRADUATES

Margaret Abbot
Emily Acciavatti
Francesca Ambrose
Olivia Ambrose
Matthew Andre
Alice Anthony
Caylie Ascolillo
Jonathan Askwyth
Ashor Azeni
Hadley Barlow
Bryanna Beveridge
Ethan Black
Keegan Blute
Daniel Brennick
Emily Bresnahan
Justin Brown
Bertina Bucco
Jamin Buchanan
Tyler Bussone
Cailin Campbell
Zachary Campbell
Kasey Cannister
Sean Carr
Kerrienne Cauley
Adam Celata
Juliette Chagnon
Rebecca Chagnon
Melanie Clough
Hannah Collins
Jennifer Cook
Oliver Cook
Cheyenne Corrado
Maxwell Coumihan
Adam Cox
Cassidy Culbertson
Nora Curran
Rebecca Daff
Ryan Daff
Samantha Davis
Eva Der
Jason Diskin
Cassidy Doggett
Lyndsay Domoracki
Elizabeth Donnellan
Liam Donovan
Sarah Duffy
Cara Durgin
Peter Durgin
Emily Everett
Caroline Fallon
Christina Fallon
Julia Ferreira
Lucas Fersan
Cassandra Fibbe

Justin Finkensaur
Geoffrey Fischer
Kendall Fitzpatrick
Caroline Flores
Patrick Fontaine
Colleen Ford
Reed Forsey
Cody Franz
Edward Frick
Nicholas Fusco
Emily Gaucher
Caroline Goodrich
Kelly Goodwin
Vladislava Grayton
Mikayla Guarino
Abigail Hammerl
Aaron Haskell
Arthur Hayden
Daniel Heck
Caroline Heppner
Marissa Hershberg
Emma Hughen
Joshua Hunt
Eleanor Irish
Nicholas Jenkins
Dennis Kane
Andrew Kane
Brad Kimball
Morgan Kimball
Andrew Klobucher
Benjamin Kozlowski
Joanna Kwon
Madeline Lanois
Nicole Leonard
Margaret Lidrbauch
Nora Lombard
Adelaide Loomis
Danielle Lorizio
Mathew Lorizio
Trevor Lyons
Taylor MacDonald
Darby Mackintosh
Devon Mackintosh
Ryan Marci
George Makin
Shane Malatzky
Lesh Markland
Alexander Martin
Catherine Martin
Kathleen Mastrianni
Francis McCarthy
Logan McCulloch
Siobhan McDonough
Adelaide McInnis

Allison McLane
James McLellan
Graham Melick
Taylor Morong
Tyler Mulley
Megan Murphy
Brian Nicoll
Jessica Nims
Nolan O'Brien
Lauren Obrist
Caitlin O'Donnell
Scott Oro
Claire Pacione
Hannah Parker
Alexander Pecoraro
Adam Penner
Sara Peppler
Lexus Phaneuf
Rudolph Pizzano IV
Susan Pomilla
Emma Quateman
Emily Reardon
Emily Ribet
Kayla Roberts
Joshua Ross
Tyler Rostad
Drew Schimmel
Andrew Schlecht
Jack Schreuer
Hannah Schwartz
Meghan Sedgwick
Christina Serpa
Rebecca Shailor
Lily Shiland
Megan Smith
Hannah Spellman
Adam Stelling
Jeremy Stelling
Meredith Surette
Abigail Symes
Emily Tanch
Christopher Toner
Caroline Trustey
Steven Turpin
Samantha Tuscano
Devan Tyack
Matthew Vogus
Shannon Wallace
Sarah Walsh
Allison Whelan
Mackenzie Wilson
Patrick Xu
Emmeline Zhu

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
2009 GRADUATES

Lauren Michelle Adams
Quinn Gordon Allen-Wardell
Anthony William Ardon
Mariah Frances Astulfi
Daniel John Anwood
Dylan Albert Teague Baker
Miranda Moon Barwell
Emily Katherine Bartlett
Courtney Somer Bateman
Cody James Beckett
Jeanise Adrianna Bertrand
Kayla Paige Besse
Jason Ryan Bial
Harrison MacIntyre Black
Megan Marie Black
Laura Ross Blume
Craig Kenneth Brand
Kristen Judith Brao
Dorothy Ellen Brennick
Jonathan Whitfield Britton
Clayton Douglas Brockenbrough
Laurel Margaret Brooks
Andrew Scott Brown
Molly Moriarty Brown
Conor Nicholas Burke
Hannah Elizabeth Bynum
Kayla Elizabeth Capozzi
Calandra Jean Mason Carnevale
Katherine Anne Cassidy
Daniel Mark Castro
Jacqueline Jean Celata
Christopher Patrick Chandler
Rebekah Jeanne Charek
Dayeon Cho
Marc Harrison Ciulla
Shane James Collette
Casey Lee Colyer
Daniel Miller Congdon
Alyssa Margaret Conville
Victoria Lynn Corbin
Kathryn Mae Craig
Zachary Edward Crane
Eleanor Oakman Crossan
Caroline Behrens Croyle
Joshua Edward Cummins
Charles Fowler Curtis, III
Corey Joseph Daff
Stephen Mark Dangora
Emily Francesca DeHority
Gina Louise DeNapoli
James Warren Denton, III
Eric Richard Der
Corey Shawn Dodge
Jared William Dolan
Sean Patrick Doonan
Natalee Patricia Renee Drougas
Gwendolyn Iris Edwards
Antonio Gaspare Eramo
Alana Victoria Figurido
Madison Ann Finley
Lauren Adele Fischer

Margaret Alice Frederiksen
Samantha Jean Gallagher
Brendan Allias Gauthier
Steven Barry Gonsiorowski
Kayla Elizabeth Goodwin
Marlena Kyminas Grasso
Charles Minot Graves
Matthew Scott Greeke
Elizabeth Theresa Hackett
Adam Joseph Hammdorff
Ryan Zackary Hansen
Douglas Bailey Hardy
Kerry Anne Harrington
Hannah Lee Hebert
Michael Bernard Hershberg
Kayla Marie Hill
Christopher Dickinson Hinchey
Catherine Anna Hoffman
Kaja Pederson Hopps
Christine Michele Ingemi
Finley Christine James
Claire Lorraine Johnson
Katie Lyn Johnson
Kelly Christine Johnson
Derek Christopher Keith
Michael Julian Kerr
Jessica Barbara Kildahl
Kelsey Elizabeth King
Jonathan David Kinney
Timothy Hull Kinsman
Sean Keegan Kirtman
Michael Allen Klobucher
Christina Marie Kvistad
Emily Louise Lamois
Kassandra Rose Lapointe
Andrés Felipe Laverde
Matthew James Lavin
Jillian Annie Leikauskas
Annie Snowden Lindland
David Robert Littlefield
Oliver Bracken Locke
Mckenzie Elise Love
Martin Keach Lussier
Natalie Jordan Maes
Kjerstyn Laura Maggiacomo
Conor Michael Maginn
Brendan Anthony Maione-Downing
Brianna West Manzelli
Christian Phelps Martyn
Amanda Virginia McCarthy
Robyn Mary McCarthy
Ian Paul McCracken
Christi Alexandra McCulloch
Kevin John McGlynn
Austin John McInnis
Jeffrey Joseph McLean
Davis Joy Meader
Joseph Anthony Mercurio
Katharine Frances Moroney
Justin Owen Mullen

Daniel James Mulley
Alexandra Grace Nawoschik
Tyler Andrew Nekoroski
Aimee Leigh Nelson
James Frederick Nichols
C. Joshua Ernest Nims
Brittany Noel Noyes
Kelsey Hope O'Connor
Meghan Elizabeth O'Neil
Ailene Mary Orr
Molly Ann O'Shea
Stephanie Claire Ozahowski
Lukas Michael Painchaud
Alisa Hope Juhes Parrett
Emily Sannis Patroia
Benjamin David Pederson
Nicholas Walker Petrou
Michael Joseph Pettinati
Brianna Menghan Pomeroy
Christopher Michael Poole
Philip Rocco Posillico
Jenna Leigh Puzio
Amanda Doris Ray
Lauren McGrath Reid
Thomas Slattery Roberts
Peter Matthew Rokowski
Kimberly Cathryn Row
Christopher Francis Roy
Anthony Michael Sanchez
Robert Sten Sandell
Joseph Paul Savasta
Michael Jon Selden
Alexandra Claire Shailor
Kelsey Lauren Shuka
Julie Ann Skerry
Maxfield Scott Sklar
Andrew Charles Smith
Emily Mary Smith
Michael Gavin Sousa
Tabitha Rae St. Pierre
Jessica Lyn Stephens
Meredith Grueby Swanson
Katelyn Helen Thibault
Lovell James Thompson
Shawn Lawrence Tucker
Celina Ingrid Vallietti
Luke Alan Vance
Olivia Ann McDermott Vanni
Bianca Adele Vecchiarello
Jeremy Alan Walton
Michael Christopher Watson
Christine Clay Webber
Andrew Whalen Weld
Devin Alexandra Welenc
Devin Flint Whear
Dana Elizabeth Wilfahrt
Colin James Winrow
Eric Harrison Winslow
Sarah Kendrick Young

Sealer of Weights and Measures - 2009

I herewith submit the report of the Sealer of Weights and Measures for the year ending December 31, 2009.

Business Name:

Devices:

Crosby's Market

Scales

CVS

Scales/Weight Set

Family Medical

Scales

Meadowbrook Farms

Scales

Oliver's Gulf

Gas Pumps

US Gas

Gas Pumps

Welch & Lamson

Fuel Oil Trucks/Rack Test

Diesel Oil Dispensers

Robert Rose

Sealer of Weights & Measures

Town Clerk- 2008

The Town Clerk's Office serves as a general information center to the public, including posting of all board meetings according to the Open Meeting Law. Numerous requests are filled for certified copies of vital records, general information about the Town and its activities, genealogical information, business and legal decisions by Town boards.

This office is responsible for local and state elections, recording and certification of all official actions from town meetings, census maintenance, voter registration, maintenance and issuance of vital records. We also process and issue various licenses including dogs, fishing, hunting, sporting and marriage licenses, raffle permits and business certificates throughout the year.

I would like to thank Administrative Assistant Christine Larcom for her dedication and effort in performing the many and varied duties which make it possible for this office to run smoothly. Marissa Frerk has done an outstanding job with updates to the Hamilton Web page keeping the residents well informed. We are very fortunate to have dedicated senior volunteers who assist us with our special projects, Edward Haraden, Aileen Bianco, Carol Kirby, Ruth Flumerflet, Betty Gray, Herb Ryan and Doris Cooper for their help stuffing census envelopes, indexing our maps and town meeting minutes. We sincerely appreciate their efforts.

	2006	2007	2008
Marriage Licenses Issued	33	23	28
Births Recorded	92	97	89
Deaths Recorded	35	36	37
Fish and Game Licenses Issued			
Fishing Licenses	56		
Hunting Licenses	21		
Sporting Licenses	14		
Trapping	3		
Waterfowl Stamps	14		
Archery Stamps		20	
Primitive Firearms	18		
Dog Licenses Issued			
Dog Total	1,070		
Kennels	18		

We extend a special thanks to our dedicated Dog Officer, Dyan Katz for her outstanding work and the love she gives to Hamilton's furry friends.

Elections and Registrations

Board of Registrars -Mary Anne Burrige, Edward Seaver, Arthur “Butch” Crosbie and Jane M. Wetson, Clerk Officio.

This was a very busy year with four elections, two town meetings and a recount.

The Annual and Special Town Meetings were held at the H-W Regional High School Auditorium under the direction of Christopher Shailor, Bill Melville and their staff of dedicated and talented young adults that keep our meetings running smoothly. We thank you for all your help.

Our elections were held at the Winthrop School and I sincerely thank the dedication and hard work of Greg Stevens, Paul Rigol, and Jeff Mazzetta in setting up the elections, the Board of Registrars, the Election Officials, and the Hamilton Police for their support and professionalism. I would also like to thank the custodians and kitchen staff at Winthrop School for helping our day to run smoothly and keeping us well fed.

The Presidential Primary, Annual Town Election, State Primary and State Election were held at the Winthrop School. We had the privilege of using the new AUTOMARK Handicap Accessible Voting Machine at all of the Elections. Several voters used this new machine and thought it to be very user friendly. Dean Avellis marked his ballot from a wheelchair and enjoyed the experience. John Sanders, who is a blind resident, was able to vote by himself by listening to the ballot being read through ear phones and voting using a key pad. He was very happy to be able to vote himself, using this new voting machine.

Summary of Elections & Town Meeting for 2008

February 5, 2008	Presidential Primary Election had 2,881 ballots cast, which was 51% of the 5,682 registered voters.
May 5, 2008 <i>(Quorum of 75)</i>	Annual Town Meeting had 915 registered voters in attendance which was 16% of the 5,686 registered voters in Hamilton.
May 6, 2008 Adj.	Annual Town Meeting Adjourned had 459 registered voters in attendance 8% of the 5,686 registered voters in Hamilton.
May 15, 2008	Annual Town Election had 2,809 ballots cast, which was 49% of the 5,686 registered voters in Hamilton.
June 6, 2008	Recount of Ballot Question- see Recount Minutes
September 16, 2008	State Primary Election had 526 ballots cast, which was 9% of the 5,785 registered voters in Hamilton.
October 27, 2008 <i>(Quorum of 75)</i>	Special Town Meeting had 198 registered voters in attendance which was 3% of the 5,885 registered voters in Hamilton.
November 4, 2008	State Election had 4,728 ballots cast, which was 80% of the 5,885 registered voters in Hamilton.

The Summary of all Town Meetings and Town Elections may be found following this report.

The annual census forms were mailed out, and again we are urging residents to complete and return as soon as possible. Massachusetts State and Federal representation and funding depend on the population. Also, the listing of every resident and household is very important to our Police and Fire Departments for safety reasons.

I thank you for all your support throughout the year and for allowing me to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane M. Wetson, CMMC

Town Clerk

Town Clerk- 2009

The Town Clerk's Office serves as a general information center to the public, including posting of all board meetings according to the Open Meeting Law. Numerous requests are filled for certified copies of vital records, general information about the Town and its activities, genealogical information, business and legal decisions by Town boards.

The Town Clerk is responsible for local and state elections, recording and certification of all official actions from town meetings, census maintenance, voter registration, maintenance and issuance of vital records and swearing into office all board and committee appointments as well as elected officials. We also process and issue various licenses including dogs, fishing, hunting, sporting and marriage licenses, raffle permits and business certificates throughout the year.

I would like to thank Administrative Assistant Christine Larcom for her dedication and effort in performing the many and varied duties which make it possible for this office to run smoothly, Marissa Frerk returned to the Clerk's Office to help with our Special Local and Special State Elections. I sincerely appreciate her help during a very busy time. We are very fortunate to have dedicated senior volunteers who assist us with our special projects: Edward Haraden, Carol Kirby, Aileen Bianco, Ruth Flumerflet, Betty Gray, Herb Ryan and Doris Cooper for their help stuffing census envelopes, indexing our maps and town meeting minutes. We sincerely appreciate their efforts.

	2007	2008	2009
Marriage Licenses Issued	23	28	14
Births Recorded	97	89	86
Deaths Recorded	36	37	44
Fish and Game Licenses Issued			
Fishing Licenses	48		
Hunting Licenses	16		
Sporting Licenses	14		
Trapping	3		
Waterfowl Stamps	13		
Archery Stamps		12	
Primitive Firearms	14		
Dog Licenses Issued			
Dog Total	1,081		
Kennels	11		

Dyan Katz, our dedicated Dog Officer has once again done an outstanding job taking care of Hamilton's furry friends.

Elections and Registrations

Board of Registrars -Mary Anne Burridge, Constance Cobb, Sidney Jenkins and Jane M. Wetson, Clerk Officio.

This was an unusually busy year with three Town Meetings and three Elections.

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the H-W Regional High School Auditorium under the direction of Christopher Shailor, Bill Melville and their staff of dedicated and talented young adults that keep our meetings running smoothly. Our Special Fall Town Meeting for the first time was held on a Saturday at the Winthrop School. It was a process setting up but Bruce Ramsey, Bill Melville and the School Custodians along with our DPW did a great job. We thank you for all your help.

Our elections were held at the Winthrop School and I sincerely thank the dedication and hard work of Greg Stevens, Paul Rigol, and Ivan Muise in setting up the elections, the Board of Registrars, the Election Officials, and the Hamilton Police for their support and professionalism. I would also like to thank the custodians and kitchen staff at Winthrop School for helping our days to run smoothly and keeping us well fed.

The Annual Town Election, Special Local Election and Special State Primary were held at the Winthrop School. We had the privilege of using the new AUTOMARK Handicap Accessible Voting Machine at all of the Elections, and John Sanders, who is a blind resident, was able to vote by himself by listening to the ballot being read through ear phones and voted using a key pad, marking his ballot. He was very happy to be able to vote himself, using this new voting machine.

Summary of Elections & Town Meeting for 2009

May 4, 2009	Annual Town Meeting had 532 registered voters in attendance which was 9% of the 5,892 registered voters in Hamilton.
May 5, 2009 Adj.	Annual Town Meeting Adj. had 291 registered voters in attendance which was 5% of the 5,892 registered voters in Hamilton.
May 14, 2009	Annual Town Election had 1,844 ballots cast, which was 31% of the 5,892 registered voters in Hamilton.
November 17, 2009	Special Town Meeting #1 had 517 registered voters in attendance which was 9% of the 5,697 registered voters in Hamilton.
November 17, 2009	Special Town Meeting #2 had 517 registered voters in attendance which was 9% of the 5,697 registered voters in Hamilton.
November 24, 2009	Special Town Election had 554 ballots cast, which was 10% of the 5,698 registered voters in Hamilton.
December 8, 2009	Special State Primary Election had 1,248 ballots cast, which was 22% of the 5,704 registered voters in Hamilton.

The Summary of all Town Meetings and Town Elections may be found following this report.

The annual census forms were mailed out, and again we are urging residents to complete and return as soon as possible. Massachusetts State and Federal representation and funding depend on the population. Also, the listing of every resident and household is very important to our Police and Fire Departments for safety reasons.

I thank you for all your support throughout the year and for allowing me to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

EASTERN ESSEX DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES - 2008

This department is charged under Chapter 115 Massachusetts General Laws with providing services to veterans, their survivors and dependents. Principal workload under state law includes the administration of aid to veterans and dependents. Communities fund this program, which is subsequently 75% reimbursed the following fiscal year by the Commonwealth. This is a need based program and the department is required to conduct periodic comprehensive review of the cases to insure no substantive facts have changed, while working with the veteran to identify alternative or long-term solutions to individual circumstances. During the calendar year one Hamilton veteran was on this program. Under state law the department also assists qualified veterans to obtain bonuses, and qualified veterans, widows and parents to obtain state annuities, property tax abatements, and other benefits.

The Veterans' Services program also mandates extensive interaction within the federal community, principally with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) assists veterans and their dependents in filing for pensions, service connected injury/illness compensation, dependency indemnity compensation for survivors, VA healthcare enrollment, insurance claims, decedent claims, and many other issues. Federal benefits processed by this department are paid directly to those eligible to receive the assistance or entitlement. The VA sent approximately \$591,000 to eligible recipients in Hamilton, of which the current staff is responsible for approximately \$224,000 dollars paid to or saved by those assisted in Hamilton.

Additionally, the department interacts within the federal community to correct military records, obtain needed documentation and insure veterans/dependents receive awards and recognition to which entitled. The VSO provided information, advice or assistance to 34 of the town's 500 *identified* veterans and 4 of the 86 *identified* veterans' widows during 2008. We also provide support and information assistance for National Guard and Reserves called up for service in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families.

The Director and the Assistant to the Director, Georgia Gadbois, advocate for veterans on issues at the local, state and federal level, interact with elected and appointed officials on issues, and work with local organizations in serving the community. We also assisted the Hamilton Korean War and Vietnam War Monument committees in developing their portion of the memorial.

The Eastern Essex District is composed of the Towns of Essex, Georgetown, Hamilton, Ipswich, Rowley, West Newbury and Wenham. A Board of Directors consisting of one selectman (or designee) from each town maintains oversight. Mr. William Bowler is the Hamilton member of the Board of Directors. Ms. Cheryl Booth, Treasurer for the Town of Hamilton, is also the District Treasurer.

Terrance P. Hart
District Director

EASTERN ESSEX DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES - 2009

This department is charged under Chapter 115 Massachusetts General Laws with providing services to veterans, their survivors and dependents. Principal workload under state law includes the administration of aid to veterans and dependents. Communities fund this program, which is subsequently 75% reimbursed the following fiscal year by the Commonwealth. This is a need based program and the department is required to conduct periodic comprehensive review of the cases to insure no substantive facts have changed, while working with the veteran to identify alternative or long-term solutions to individual circumstances. During the calendar year five Hamilton veterans were on this program. Under state law the department also assists qualified veterans to obtain bonuses, and qualified veterans, widows and parents to obtain state annuities, property tax abatements, and other benefits.

The Veterans' Services program also mandates extensive interaction within the federal community, principally with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) assists veterans and their dependents in filing for pensions, service connected injury/illness compensation, dependency indemnity compensation for survivors, VA healthcare enrollment, insurance claims, decedent claims, and many other issues. Federal benefits processed by this department are paid directly to those eligible to receive the assistance or entitlement. The VA sent approximately \$562,000 to eligible recipients in Hamilton in 2009, of which the current staff is responsible for approximately \$232,000 dollars paid to or saved by those assisted.

Additionally, the department interacts within the federal community to correct military records, obtain needed documentation and insure veterans/dependents receive awards and recognition to which entitled. The VSO provided information, advice or assistance to 30 of the town's 489 *identified* veterans and 9 of the 102 *identified* veterans' widows during 2009. We also provide support and information assistance for National Guard and Reserves called up for service in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. During 2009 the District also provided veterans' services assistance to the City of Gloucester and the Town of Topsfield as requested/authorized by the Board of Directors and the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services.

The Director and the Assistant to the Director, Georgia Gadbois, advocate for veterans on issues at the local, state and federal level, interact with elected and appointed officials on issues, and work with local organizations in serving the community.

The Eastern Essex District is composed of the Towns of Essex, Georgetown, Hamilton, Ipswich, Rowley, West Newbury and Wenham. A Board of Directors consisting of one selectman (or designee) from each town maintains oversight. Mr. William Bowler is the Hamilton member of the Board of Directors. Ms. Cheryl Booth, Treasurer for the Town of Hamilton, is also the District Treasurer.

Terrance P. Hart
District Director

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 2008

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a total of Ten (10) petitions in 2008. A summary of the Board's actions are as noted below:

(5) Petitions for Extension/Alteration of a Non-Conforming Use:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for Site Plan Review:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for Abbreviated Site Plan Review:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for a Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment:	Granted
(1) Petition for a Special Permit for an Accessory Use:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for a Sign Variance:	Granted with Conditions

The Zoning Board of appeals also participated in the following items during the year:

- The Zoning Board continued review of Massachusetts 40B Guidelines and legislation.
- The Zoning Board continued review of 40B project currently under construction.
- The Zoning Board began drafting a new Sign By-Law

Submitted By ZBA Board Members:

Beth Ganister, Chair

Winifred Whitman

David Sullivan

Jane Lyman, Alternate

Susan Wiltshire, Alternate

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 2009

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a total of Fourteen (14) petitions in 2009. A summary of the Board's actions are as noted below:

(1) Petition for a Comprehensive Permit:	Approved with Conditions
(3) Petitions for Extension/Alteration of a Non-Conforming Use:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for Site Plan Review:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for Abbreviated Site Plan Review:	Granted
(1) Petition for Site Plan Review; Extension of a Non-Conforming Structure; and a Parking Variance:	Approved with Conditions
(1) Petition for a Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment:	Granted
(1) Petition for a Special Permit for Conversion for Temporary Additional Living Area:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for a Special Permit for a Sign: Year	Granted For One
(1) Petition for a Special Permit:	Granted with Conditions
(2) Petitions for an Appeal of Decision of the Building Inspector: Upheld	Decision of Inspector
(1) Petition for an Appeal of Decision of the Building Inspector: Partially	Decision of Inspector
	Upheld

The Zoning Board of appeals also participated in the following items during the year:

- The Zoning Board reviewed current Massachusetts 40B Guidelines and legislation.
- The Zoning Board continued work on a new Sign By-Law

Submitted By ZBA Board Members:

Beth Ganister, Chair

Jane Lyman

David Sullivan

Winifred Whitman, Alternate

Susan Wiltshire, Alternate

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Held

Monday, May 5, 2008

At

Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

ADJOURNED SESSION

Held

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

At

Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

At the close of registration on April 15, 2008 there were 5686 registered voters.

Precinct 1 - 3024

Precinct 2 - 2727

Precinct 3 - 2688

Moderator declared a quorum being present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the 215th Annual Town Meeting at 7:40 P.M. with 915 registered voters checked and present, this annual meeting of the Town of Hamilton is now open.

Moderator appointed the Deputy Moderator who was duly sworn.

Robert Poole --56B Moynihan Road

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

AUDITORIUM

Left

<i>Theresa Mimi Fanning (Head Deputy)</i>	<i>122 Railroad Avenue</i>
<i>Richard Flynn</i>	<i>183 Linden Street</i>
<i>Shirley Gray</i>	<i>935 Bay Road</i>

Center

<i>Jeff Scuteri</i>	<i>171 Essex Street</i>
<i>Walter Leszczynski</i>	<i>10 Honeysuckle Road</i>

Right

<i>John Beveridge</i>	<i>956 Highland Street</i>
<i>Madelyn Liberti</i>	<i>17 Margaret Road</i>

CAFETERIA

Robert Poole (Head Deputy)
John “Jack” Akin
Judith “Judy” Bubriski

56B Moynihan Road
14 Griffith Road
14 Pleasant Street

MILES RIVER MULTI PURPOSE ROOM

Forrester “Tim” Clark

308 Sagamore Street

I have asked non-resident members of the regional school system, town officials and those assisting the Selectmen or Finance Committee to be present here so they may be available to answer questions. Members of the press [and the video crew] have also been allowed to be present. I remind those allowed here to do nothing which may influence the counting of a vote.

We have set up the cafeteria across the hall as overflow space. There is a closed circuit television set in the cafeteria and the Multi Purpose Room each with two tellers. All other non-registered visitors must be seated in the visitors’ area in the cafeteria.

Another procedural note, we record these proceedings so as to have an accurate record of the meeting. Therefore, unless I recognize you by name, please use the microphones provided and give your name and address when you arise to address the moderator. People in the cafeteria or Multi Purpose Room desiring to speak to any article should contact one of the tellers and arrange to be brought to the microphones in the auditorium.

All registered voters have been given a distinctive voter ID card when checking into the meeting. Do not lose or destroy this card. You will need to show the card on any counted vote. If you can not show the card, your vote may not be counted.

The invocation tonight will be by Dr. John Davis Professor of Theology at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton. Dr. Davis has been a resident since 1975.

Dr. John Davis said a prayer for the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Ramsey thanks Dr. Davis and proceeds to announce members at the front of the auditorium.

Under Town By-laws the conduct of all Town meetings are governed by the Town Meeting Time. A handbook of Parliamentary Law and all Articles of the Warrant for the Meeting shall be taken up in the order of their arrangement unless otherwise decided by a two-thirds vote of the Meeting.

I will read or summarize the Article and then recognize a Town Official or other person to make a motion on the Article for the Meeting to consider. Assuming the motion is seconded, I will then recognize the person who made the motion to tell us briefly why the motion is before the Meeting and what it is intended to accomplish. Thereafter I will open the floor for questions, discussion and debate.

If you want to ask a question or be heard on a motion, please proceed to the front of the aisles to one of the speakers. Let me warn you however, that while we will try to accommodate everybody wanting to speak, if you do not move quickly your window of opportunity may get closed.

Again, when I recognize you before you speak your piece, please state your name and street address for our

Meeting Minutes and so that everybody may know who you are.

When an Article has been acted upon and disposed of, any reconsideration requires a two-thirds vote under the Town By-laws. After they have taken up a new Article, the Moderator will not be inclined to entertain any motion for reconsideration of an earlier Article before all the remaining Articles have been taken up by the Meeting.

Materials relating to Warrant Articles and other Town matters are not to be handed out or distributed in the auditorium or in the overflow space except that they have extra copies of the Warrant Book and any Appendix correction sheets at the front of the auditorium. I assume most or all of you picked up one in the lobby if you did not already get one earlier. There is a table in the lobby outside the auditorium for informational materials. Voters are encouraged to pick up materials at the lobby table. In hand distribution of materials is limited to areas outside the building and as directed by the police.

This meeting is being televised and recorded for our cable television channel. I want to thank the students of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School for their work in producing the program and their teachers, Mr. Chris Shailor and Mr. Bill Melville.

If you have a cell phone or other personal communications device with you, please turn off the audible ringer or the phone. If you should receive a call that must be taken, please leave the meeting hall before taking or returning the call.

If for any reason we are unable to complete action on the Warrant tonight this Town Meeting will be recessed until Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at this same location or until such later time as we are able to get a quorum.

I am informed that there are some corrections to the Appendices to the Warrant and rather than making the corrections now, we are noting them and I plan to note them by Article when the Article is taken up and before the motion is made.

At this time we can proceed to the Warrant.

Introduction of front table:

Bruce Ramsey – Moderator
Jane Wetson – Town Clerk
Donna MacKenna – Town Counsel
Candace Wheeler – Town Administrator
Allison Jenkins – Assistant Town Administrator

Board of Selectmen:

William Bowler -- Chair
Richard Low
David Carey

Finance and Advisory Committee

Arthur Oberheim – Chair
Dan Bukkhegyi
Sandy Shaw
Jane Prince
Deborah Nippes-Mena – Finance Director/Accountant

SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 1-1</p> <p><i>Election of Officers and Ballot Questions</i></p>	<p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator: The vote on Article 1-1 is by ballot on Thursday, the 15th of May, 2008 at the Winthrop School. The polls will be opened at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>To elect the following Town Officers and to vote for the ballot questions shown as Appendix A of the 2008 Appendix Book at the Annual Town Election on Thursday, May 15, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Winthrop School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Moderator for one year • Town Clerk for three years • One Selectman for three years • One Assessor for three years • Two members of the Planning Board for five years • One member of Hamilton Wenham Public Library Trustees for three years • Three members of the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee for three years
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 1-2</p> <p><i>Reports</i></p>	<p>To hear reports of Town Officers and selected committees and to take action thereon or relative thereto. Reports will appear in the Calendar Year 2008 Town Report.</p> <p>Moved by William Bowler, duly seconded, that the reports of Town Officers and Committees be received and placed on file.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, recognizes Art Oberheim of the Finance and Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, recognizes Dave Carey of the Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, recognizes Susan Wiltshire of the Government Study Committee.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-1</p> <p><i>Compensation/Classification Table</i></p>	<p>Moved by William Boesch, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Personnel By-law, as recommended by the Personnel Board, by adopting changes to the Compensation/Classification Tables, which are set forth in Appendix B to the 2008 Appendix Book.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>
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<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-2</p> <p><i>General Town Appropriations</i></p>	<p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Board, duly seconded, to postpone this article until later in the meeting.</p> <p>The Moderator explained this requires a 2/3rd vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES NEARLY UNANIMOUSLY Declared by the Moderator</p> <p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Board, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the sums of \$13,827,769 for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District and \$8,601,099 for all other Town expenses. [The proposed budget appears as Appendix C to the 2008 Appendix Book.]</p> <p>Moderator: The sums in the motion do NOT include the override amounts of \$177,444 for the Town and \$1,288,322 for the schools. If anyone wishes to discuss the overrides, that discussion must be held until the motions on the overrides. This motion is only seeking appropriation for school and town expenses within the levy limit.</p> <p>I will now read each budget departmental totals starting on page 5, Appendix C of the Appendix Book. Call out "hold" for any item you wish to discuss. Discussions will then occur on held items. If the amounts for any held items are to be decreased, then the decreases must be made as amendments to the main motion as decreases to the total sum of school or Town expenses. [As to each held item]</p> <p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Board, duly seconded, to move the motion except for the HOLD on Emergency Management.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p> <p>1ST HELD ITEM – Jackie Hodge, Cutler Road, questioned the use of \$3250 for Emergency Management.</p> <p>Chief Walter Cullen, Emergency Management Director, explained this money is for FEMA training, local disasters, shelters, floods, moving children for safety and responding to emergency situations.</p> <p>Moved by Arthur Oberheim, duly seconded, the HELD sum for the Emergency Management \$3250 be accepted.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES Declared by the Moderator</p>
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<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-3</p> <p><i>Water Enterprise Budget</i></p>	<p>Moved by Richard Low, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town approve the Water Enterprise Budget set forth in Appendix D to the 2008 Appendix Book.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES Declared by the Moderator</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-4</p> <p><i>Water Enterprise Retained Earnings for Expenses</i></p>	<p>Moved by Richard Low, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$ 6,000 from Water Retained earnings to the Water Emergency Fund to pay for FY 09 expenses.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-5</p> <p><i>Waste Enterprise Budget</i></p>	<p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town approve the Waste Enterprise Budget set forth in Appendix E to the 2008 Appendix Book.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES Declared by the Moderator</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-6</p> <p><i>Waste Reduction Enterprise Fund Expenses</i></p>	<p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$285,300 from the General Fund to the Waste Reduction Enterprise Fund to pay for FY 09 expenses.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES Declared by the Moderator</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-7</p> <p><i>North Shore Regional Vocational School District Budget</i></p>	<p>Moved by David Ketcham, duly seconded, that the Town approve the FY 09 gross operating and maintenance budget of the North Shore Regional Vocational School District and raise and appropriate \$145,850 for the Town’s assessed portion thereof.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-8</p> <p><i>Town Operating Budget Override</i></p> <p>Question 1</p>	<p>Moved by William Bowler, Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$177,444 to be raised contingent on the passage of a referendum question pursuant to G.L. c.59, Sec. 21C (g), for FY 09 operating expenses of the Town, such referendum question to be voted upon by ballot at the Annual Town Election to be held on May 15, 2008 at the Winthrop School from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The ballot question text is set forth below:</p> <p>Question 1: Town Operating Levy Limit Override, G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 21C (g) “Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to assess an additional \$ 177,444 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Town’s net operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008?”</p> <p>Unanimous support of the Board of Selectmen and Finance and Advisory Committee. The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES Declared by the Moderator</p>

<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-9</p> <p><i>School Operating Budget Override</i></p> <p>Question 2</p>	<p>Moved by Richard Boroff, School Committee Chairman, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$1,288,322 to be raised contingent upon the passage of a referendum question pursuant to G.L. c. 59, Sec. 21C (g), and also contingent upon the Town of Wenham appropriating its proportionate share, for Hamilton’s share of the FY 09 operating budget of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District, as voted by the School Committee. A referendum question is included in the ballot for the Annual Town Election to be held on May 15, 2008 at the Winthrop School from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The ballot question text is set forth below:</p> <p>Question 2: School Operating Levy Limit Override, G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 21C (g) “Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to assess an additional \$1,288,322 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding Hamilton’s apportioned share of the net operating cost of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008?”</p> <p>Moved by James Kent, of 34 Hamilton Ave., duly seconded, with a procedural motion for a secret ballot.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION DEFEATED – NO SECRET BALLOT</p> <p>The Moderator recognized Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent of the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District.</p> <p>Dr. McGrath recognized Bill Martin, School Committee Member, for his work on the policy committee and his perspective to stop and think things through. Thank you for your service on the School Board and congratulations on your retirement.</p> <p>Dr. McGrath then addressed the Budget and Ballot Question.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote to place the School Override Question on the ballot.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR</p> <p>The Moderator called for show of cards.</p> <p>CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES BY A CLEAR MAJORITY Declared by the Moderator</p>
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The Moderator adjourned the Town Meeting at 10:30 PM until Tuesday, May 6th at the H-W Regional High School starting at 7:30 PM.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
ADJOURNED SESSION**

Held

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

At

Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

Moderator declared a quorum being present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, reopened the 215th Annual Town Meeting at 7:30 PM with 459 registered voters checked and present, this annual meeting of the Town of Hamilton is now open.

Moderator appointed the Deputy Moderator who was duly sworn.

Robert Poole

56B Moynihan Road

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

AUDITORIUM

Left

Theresa Mimi Fanning (Head Deputy)

122 Railroad Avenue

Richard Flynn

183 Linden Street

Kalil Boghdan

12 School Street

Center

Jeff Scuteri

171 Essex Street

Robert Poole

56B Moynihan Road

Right

Madelyn Liberti

17 Margaret Road

Judith "Judy" Bubriski

14 Pleasant Street

ARTICLE 2008/5 2-10

*Community
Preservation
Committee Budget*

Bruce Ramsey, Town Moderator, directed residents to turn to Appendix G on page 16 of the Appendix Book. Please note that there is a correction to the amount for the Community House portico project, project #4 under Historic Preservation. The correct amount recommended by the Community Preservation Committee is \$60,000.00. Next, I will read each recommended project, its purpose and amount and if anyone wishes to discuss a particular project, state "Hold". We will then vote on all non-held items and return to a discussion of each held item.

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chair Community Preservation, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Committee annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses in Fiscal Year 2009 as read and corrected by the moderator [excepting those items held], with each item to be considered a separate appropriation and further that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute agreements, on terms acceptable to the Board, to the extent necessary to effectuate the public benefits of such projects.

The Moderator called for the vote on all non-held items.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES (EXCLUDING HELD ITEMS #2, #4 AND #8)

The Moderator then moved on to the HELD items.

HELD ITEM #2 - To appropriate \$35,000 from FY 09 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund a portion of the restoration of the 113-year old tabernacle located at Asbury Grove, which has been determined eligible for listing and has an application pending to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

After a short discussion, the Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator called for a show of cards.

**CARD VOTE: YES 164
NO 179 MOTION DOES NOT PASS**

HELD ITEM #4 - To appropriate \$60,000 from FY 09 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund the renovation of the Hamilton Wenham Community House portico, a prime feature of this architecturally significant building. Final amount will be determined by the Town of Wenham's contribution, and will not exceed two times that amount consistent with the two-town apportionment formula for jointly funded projects.

After a brief discussion, the Moderator called for the vote.

	VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES
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<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-10</p> <p><i>Community Preservation Committee Budget (Continued)</i></p>	<p>Motion by William Bowler regarding held item #4. Moved by Bill Bowler, duly seconded, to amend the language to strike “Final amount will be determined by the Town of Wenham's contribution, and will not exceed two times that amount consistent with the two-town apportionment formula for jointly funded projects.”</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote to amend the language on Item #4.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES TO STRIKE LANGUAGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>HELD ITEM #8 - To appropriate \$35,000, of FY 09 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for administration costs including, but not limited to, Annual Community Preservation Coalition membership Fees and salary for part-time Community Preservation Committee Coordinator position.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-11</p> <p><i>Annual Financial Actions</i></p>	<p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the following financial actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Transfer \$2,000 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Account to be used for cemetery purposes; B. Transfer \$10,000 from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Account to be used for cemetery purposes; C. Transfer \$10,494.03 from the Clark Property Account to the Conservation Fund. <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-12</p> <p><i>Prior Year Bills</i></p>	<p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town take NO ACTION.</p> <p><i>The Moderator called for the vote</i></p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES (to take NO ACTION)</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-13</p> <p><i>Appropriation Excess Transfer</i></p>	<p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the transfer of \$ 13,600 from the FY’08 appropriation for the FICA/Medicare account to the Finance Committee Reserve Fund.</p>

	<p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 2-14</p> <p><i>Authorization of Recreation and Parks Revolving Account</i></p>	<p>Moved by David Carey, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, establish a revolving fund for the Recreation Department for the specific purpose outlined below for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.</p> <p><i>“Fees received for recreation programs to be expended for the purpose of program operations, maintenance and the hiring of necessary personnel and consulting services, said expenditures to be approved by the Recreation Board; and not to exceed one hundred and ninety eight thousand (\$198,000) dollars during the FY 09.”</i></p> <p><i>The Moderator called for the vote.</i></p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>

SECTION 3: PLANNING /ZONING ACTIONS

<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 3-1</p> <p><i>Senior Housing By-Law</i></p> <p><i>Requires 2/3rd vote</i></p>	<p>Moved by David Santomenna, Planning Board, duly seconded, that the Town delete the Elder Housing Special District provisions of the Zoning By-law, Section V-E, and replace it with a new Senior Housing By-Law by adopting the language set forth in Appendix H of the 2008 Appendix Book.</p> <p>This By-law is unanimously supported by the Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states the motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.</p> <p>CARD VOTE: 2/3 rd VOTE – UNCLEAR</p> <p>The Moderator then asked for a voice vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR</p> <p>The Moderator then asked for a counted vote.</p> <p>COUNTED VOTE: YES --- 352 NO --- 69</p> <p align="center">MOTION PASSES BY 2/3RD VOTE Declared by the Moderator</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 3-2</p> <p><i>Amendments to Senior Housing By-Law</i></p>	<p>Moved by David Santomenna, Planning Board, duly seconded, that the Town amend other sections of the Zoning By-Law, as amendments in conformity with the adoption of the Senior Housing Section of the Zoning By-Law by adopting the language set forth in Appendix I to the 2008 Appendix Book.</p>

<i>Requires 2/3rd vote</i>	<p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states the motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES BY A 2/3RD VOTE Declared by the Moderator</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 3-3</p> <p><i>Zoning By-Law Site Plan Review and Violations and Penalty</i></p> <p><i>Requires 2/3rd vote</i></p>	<p>Moved by Rick Mitchell, Planning Board, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Zoning By-Law Section VI. H. Site Plan Review, by adopting the language set forth in Appendix J to the 2008 Appendix Book, and further, that the Town amend the Zoning By-Law Section VIII. G – Violations and Penalty to add to the current language provisions for the non-criminal disposition of fines by adopting the language set forth in Appendix K to the 2008 Appendix Book.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states the motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY Declared by the Moderator</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 3-4</p> <p><i>Amendments to Zoning By-Laws</i></p> <p><i>Requires 2/3rd vote</i></p> <p><i>Requires 2/3rd vote</i></p> <p><i>Requires 2/3rd vote</i></p>	<p>Moved by Rick Mitchell, Planning Board, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Zoning By-Law Section V. A. 11. (e) 4. Accessory Apartment, by adopting the language set forth in Appendix L to the 2008 Appendix Book.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES BY 2/3RD VOTE Declared by the Moderator</p> <p><u>And further moved</u>, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Zoning By-Law Section V. A. 11. f. Roadside Stand, by adopting the language set forth in Appendix M to the 2008 Appendix Book.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY Declared by the Moderator</p> <p><u>And further moved</u>, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Zoning By-Law Section V. F. 4. Flood Plain District; amend provisions of Use Regulations, by updating the reference to the Massachusetts State Building Code by adopting the language set forth in Appendix N to the 2008 Appendix Book.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY Declared by the Moderator</p>

SECTION 4: TOWN ACTION UNDER STATUTE

ARTICLE 2008/5 4-1	<i>Moved by William Bowler, Chair, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of General Laws G.L. c. 41, sec. 100G1/4, which allows the town to provide</i>
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<p>Funeral Expenses for Police Officers /Firefighters Killed in the Line of Duty.</p>	<p><i>for funeral or burial expenses of a firefighter/police officer killed in line of duty.</i></p> <p><i>The Moderator called for the vote.</i></p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 4-2</p> <p>Uniforms for Police Officers and Firefighters</p>	<p><i>Moved by Richard Low, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of General Laws G.L. c. 40, sec. 6B, which allows the town to provide for uniforms for Police Officers and Firefighters worn in the line of duty.</i></p> <p><i>The Moderator called for the vote.</i></p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES Declared by the Moderator</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 4-3</p> <p>Purchase of Stormy Weather Work Clothes</p>	<p><i>Moved by David Carey, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of General Laws G.L. c. 40, sec. 6J, and sec. 6L which allows the town to provide for the purchase and rental of “stormy weather work clothes” for any designated employee.</i></p> <p><i>The Moderator called for the vote.</i></p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES Declared by the Moderator</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/ 5 4-4</p> <p>Trench Regulation</p>	<p><i>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator asked voters to please note that there is a correction to the article. The correct C.M.R. is 520 and not 540 as listed in the warrant book.</i></p> <p><i>Moved by William Bowler, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to designate a Town Official pursuant to G.L. c. 82A, §2, as the Town’s officer to issue permits for the purpose of creating a trench as that term is defined in G.L. c. 82A, § 4 and 520 C.M.R. 14.00 and further to authorize the Town’s officer to adopt regulations consistent with that statute and regulations.</i></p> <p><i>The Moderator called for the vote.</i></p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES Declared by the Moderator</p>

SECTION 5: OTHER ACTIONS

<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 5-1</p> <p><i>Chebacco Woods Land Swap No. 1</i></p> <p><i>Requires 2/3rd vote</i></p>	<p>Moved by Sara Getchell, Conservation Commission, duly seconded, that the Town vote to transfer from the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of sale, the parcel shown as Parcel B on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Hamilton, MA” dated March 17, 2004 prepared by Hancock Associates for Nancy L. Peterson, said conveyance to be at no cost to the Town and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine to be appropriate, including a sale for nominal consideration;</p> <p>and further authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Massachusetts General Court to approve the deeds to Nancy L. Peterson for the purpose of curing inadvertent encroachments onto Chebacco Woods pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the amendments to Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;</p> <p>and further authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire from Nancy L. Peterson the parcel identified as parcel A on a plan entitled “ Plan of Land in Hamilton, MA”, dated March 17, 2004, prepared by Hancock Associates for Nancy L. Peterson, for incorporation into Chebacco Woods conservation land under the joint ownership of Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Hamilton, Massachusetts;</p> <p>and further authorize the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission to amend the conservation restrictions that are affected by these changes to reflect the new boundaries as set forth in a plan on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 5-2</p> <p><i>Chebacco Woods Land Swap No. 2</i></p> <p><i>Requires 2/3rd vote</i></p>	<p><i>Moved by Sara Getchell, Conservation Commission, duly seconded, that the Town vote to transfer from the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of sale the parcel shown as Parcel B containing 20,008 s. f. more or less on a plan entitled “ Plan of Land in Hamilton and Wenham, MA”, dated March 17, 2004, prepared by Hancock Associates for Patrick A. Daly and Kathleen O’Brien, said conveyance to be at no cost to the Town and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine to be appropriate, including a sale for nominal consideration:</i></p> <p><i>and further authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Massachusetts General Court to approve the deed to Patrick A. Daly & Kathleen B. O’Brien, for the purpose of curing inadvertent encroachments onto Chebacco Woods pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the amendments to Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;</i></p> <p><i>and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire from Patrick A. Daly and Kathleen B. O’Brien, the parcel identified as parcel A on a plan entitled “ Plan of Land in Hamilton, MA”, dated March 17, 2004, prepared by Hancock Associates for Patrick A. Daly & Kathleen O’Brien, for incorporation into Chebacco Woods conservation land under the joint ownership of Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Hamilton, Massachusetts;</i></p> <p><i>and further authorize the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission to amend the conservation restrictions that are affected by these changes to reflect the new boundaries, as</i></p>

	<p>set forth in a plan on file in the Town Clerk's Office.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 5-3</p> <p>Citizen's Petition - Asbury Street – Sidewalk</p>	<p>Moved by David Carey, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, to withdraw the article to appropriate money to fund the construction of a sidewalk along Asbury Street from 470 Asbury Street to Highland Street.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote to withdraw the article and take No Action.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY TO WITHDRAW AND TAKE NO ACTION</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 5-4</p> <p>Inter-municipal Agreements</p>	<p>Moved by William Bowler, Chair, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Selectmen to enter into inter-municipal agreements with one or more municipalities to permit the member municipalities to lease municipal equipment or vehicles from one another, to acquire jointly, by lease, purchase, or otherwise, equipment or vehicles, or to share operational costs of such equipment or vehicles, all on terms satisfactory to the Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>Finance and Advisory Committee recommend favorable action.</p> <p>The Moderator called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY</p>
<p>ARTICLE 2008/ 5-5</p> <p>Conveyance of Tax- title Foreclosure Parcels to the Audubon Society</p> <p>Requires 2/3rd vote</p>	<p>Moved by Richard Low, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town (a) declare seven parcels of land acquired by the Town through tax foreclosure (Map 44, Lots 1 and 2; Map 45, Lot 2; and Map 54, Lots 21, 22, 24, and 25) as available for disposition, and (b) authorize the Selectmen to convey these parcels of land to the Massachusetts Audubon Society without additional consideration, consistent with the real estate disposition rules of G.L. Ch. 30B, Sec. 16, for the public purpose of satisfying the terms of the November 1994 eminent domain settlement agreement with the Audubon Society relative to the taking of Audubon land for public water supply, subject to such restrictions and limitations as the Selectmen shall determine will best meet these objectives.</p> <p>Board of Selectmen recommend favorable action.</p> <p>Bruce Ramsey, Moderator, states this motion requires a 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.</p> <p>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY</p>

SECTION 6: CLOSING FINANCIAL ACTIONS

<p>ARTICLE 2008/5 6-1</p> <p>Free Cash Application</p>	<p>Moved by Art Oberheim, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town take NO ACTION on the article to reserve, appropriate and authorize the Assessors to use available certified free cash to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008.</p>
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	<p><i>The Moderator called for the vote.</i></p>
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	<p><i>VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES ---To Take NO ACTION</i></p>
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ADJOURNMENT

At 10:30 p.m. Moderator Bruce Ramsey recessed this Annual Town Meeting until May 15, 2008 at 7 o'clock a.m. at the Winthrop School.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Held
Monday, October 27, 2008
At
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**

At the close of registration on October 15, 2008 there were 5,885 registered voters within the town of 8,362 residents.

Precinct 1 – 2,165
Precinct 2 – 1,984
Precinct 3 – 1,736

Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the Special Town Meeting at 7:30 P.M. with 198 registered voters checked and present, this Special Town Meeting, constituting the regular fall Town Meeting of the Town of Hamilton is now open.

Precinct 1 – 88
Precinct 2 – 60
Precinct 3 – 50

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

Kalil Boghdan	-- 12 School Street
Richard Flynn	-- 183 Linden Street
Arthur Crosbie	-- 215 Linden Street
David Dolan	-- Linden Street
Robert Poole	-- 56B Moynihan Road
Mimi Fanning	-- 122 Railroad Avenue

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Speakers, if you would like to ask a question or be heard on a motion, please proceed to one of the microphones at the front of the isles. While we will try to accommodate everybody, if you do not move quickly, your window of opportunity may get closed.

The Moderator noted the importance of anyone speaking to state their name and address for the meeting notes.

The Moderator thanks the students at the Hamilton-Wenham High School for their work in producing the televised meeting under the direction of Mr. Shailor and Mr. Melville.

The Moderator asks those in attendance to turn off the audio on all cell phones and other devices and asks that anyone who must take a call, please leave the auditorium before taking or returning the call.

The Moderator stated that if they are unable to complete action on the Warrant tonight, this Town Meeting will be recessed until Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the same location.

The Moderator introduces those in attendance at the front of the auditorium:

Moderator: Bruce Ramsey
Town Clerk: Jane Wetson
Asst. Town Administrator: Allison Jenkins

At the front table:

Town Counsel: Donna Brewer
Town Administrator: Candace Wheeler
Selectmen: William Bowler
David Carey
Richard Low, Chairman

Finance Committee: Bob Bullivant
John McWane
Arthur Oberheim
Sandy Shaw

Finance Director: Deborah Nippes-Mena

ARTICLE 2008/10 -1-1 Reports

The Moderator recognized Carin Kale, 36 Rock Maple Avenue, of the Government Study Committee. The committee that was appointed by the Board of Selectmen in February is considering the operations of the Town in regard to improvement, efficiencies and restructuring.

The committee is analyzing how Hamilton's government currently works and how other town governments' work. Committee members have met with department heads and Town boards to discuss the pros and cons of the existing Town structure. They also met with representatives from the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services. The committee will summarize its findings at the May 2009 Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 2008/10-1-2 Appropriation Transfer – Debt Principal and Interest

Moved by Arthur Oberheim, member of the Finance and Advisory Board, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$10,400 from the FY09 appropriation for the Essex County Retirement Account to pay Debt Principal and Interest on the Town’s FY09 Revenue Anticipation Notes.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2008/10-1-3 Appropriation Transfer – Community Notification System

Moved by Arthur Oberheim, member of the Finance and Advisory Board, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$5,000 from the FY09 appropriation for the Board of Health to fund the purchase and installation of a community notification system for the Emergency Center of Operations.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2008/10-1-4 Citizens Petition – Property Tax Exemption Petition to Legislature

Moved by William Dery, citizen, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to allow the Town, upon the affirmative vote at a regular or special Town Meeting to adopt a property tax exemption for certain qualifying parcels of owner-occupied real estate classified as Class One, residential, on substantially the terms and conditions set forth in Appendix A to this warrant; provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objective of this petition.

Dery presented for 20 minutes describing the need for a property tax exemption in Town for seniors on fixed incomes. He worked with Senator Bruce Tarr, State Representative Brad Hill and Town Counsel Donna Brewer on the language for the Home Rule petition to be put before the state Legislature. The proposal does not include any other Hamilton residents for tax exemption (i.e., low income under 65).

Amendment moved by William Dery, citizen, duly seconded, that Section 2, D have the \$80,000 reduced to \$65,000.

Amendment moved by William Dery, citizen, duly seconded, to change Section 6, A to add 60 days or more prior to the annual spring Town Meeting any and all documents necessary to establish eligibility for the exemption including income tax returns will be submitted for consideration of the exemption that year.

The Moderator said they would act on the amendments before the main motion.

The Moderator recognized Richard Low who said the Board of Selectmen opposes the Home Rule petition by majority vote although the Selectmen are in favor of providing property tax relief for low and middle-income seniors. The Board supports seeking approval for a Home Rule petition but it should be targeted to a narrower range of seniors (maximum income of \$50,000 and there should be an asset test and maximum home value \$300,000 to \$500,000) than is provided for in Dery's proposal.

The Selectmen are concerned about the financial impact a Home Rule petition could have on the Town. Specifically an override might be needed to fund the tax abatements. Low said the Town would continue work on a petition similar to the one proposed by former Selectman Jim Bryant.

The Moderator recognized Arthur Oberheim who said the Finance and Advisory Board is supportive of finding a way to help low and medium income seniors with property taxes. However it is very important to understand what the shift in the tax burden from one group of residents to another would be based on the tax exemption proposal. Also the need for an override to offset the tax abatements is another reason why the FinCom believes they need to do more work to understand the financial impact of the proposal.

Oberheim said the lack of an asset test in the proposal is another concern. He said the 10-year residency requirement is to ensure people don't move to Town for the tax incentive. Oberheim said the Town would look at eligibility criteria for a tax exemption including income, assets (i.e., annuities), and house value. There would be a cap of up to 15%.

The Moderator recognized Lynnette Fallon, 38 Goodhue, who explained the details of a property tax circuit breaker in Massachusetts General Law where \$900 can be deducted annually.

Oberheim responded to another resident in regard to the asset test in the tax abatement proposal. The asset test is thought to be critical to determine what help residents really need with their property taxes due to wide variation in property values. Income alone does not determine who needs help. The Town officials will try to find a balance between property value and income. Specifically the \$300,000 versus \$600,000 cost the Town needs time to find that out, said Oberheim. The FinCom is interested in helping seniors that have lived in Hamilton for a long period of time and paid their taxes.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Low who said the Town is preparing to put something related to the Home Rule petition forward at the spring Town Meeting rather than going forward now without enough information nor having determined what group to serve.

Michael O'Neill from Bridge Street said people could use reverse mortgages to offset the property tax burden. He stressed that the Town understands the plight of seniors on fixed incomes but he thought an asset test was necessary as well as knowledge about the impact of a shift in the tax burden.

Jennifer Scuteri, 171 Essex Street, agreed with Low that the tax impact should be understood. She said there are wealthy landowners living in the outskirts of Town who are hiding behind the Chapter 61 exemption to avoid paying property taxes where the Town has lost \$500,000 in property taxes. Some of these landowners are operating farms such as Green Meadows. Scuteri cited the example of one family with a land trust that avoided paying \$200,000 in property taxes last year. She suggested the Town officials be more aggressive when property tax exemptions are filed since many of these landowners have no mortgages, are not suffering and should be paying their fair share of the property taxes.

Another resident spoke briefly.

Betty Gray of 24 Lee Park, said senior citizens on fixed income need a break on property taxes. She is 74 and went back to work after retirement so she could continue to live in Hamilton. Gray recommended the Town move forward with the Home Rule petition now.

Joanne Patton, Asbury Street, said based on her age and income she would never qualify for the property tax exemption. But she encouraged the Town officials to bring a proposal with all eligibility credentials included to the spring Town Meeting.

The Moderator addressed the first amendment to amend the Appendix A, Section 2, Clause D to change the figure from \$80,000 and replace it with \$65,000. The motion to amend has been seconded.

The Moderator called for the vote on the amendment.

VOICE VOTE: AMENDMENT PASSES

The Moderator addressed the second amendment to amend the Appendix A, Section 6 that rewrites the second half of Section 6. It deletes the balance of the printed form late in the third line that says “who shall promulgate such a form.”

~~SECTION 6: A taxpayer seeking an exemption pursuant to this act shall, in each year in which the exemption is being sought, apply for such residential exemption to the Hamilton Board of Assessors in writing, on a form submitted to the Assessors, who shall develop and promulgate such a form within three (3) months following the passage of this act. Said form shall be submitted together with any and all documents necessary to establish eligibility for such exemption, including income tax returns, and shall be submitted within sixty (60) days following the receipt of the first annual tax bill for the year in which the exemption is being sought.~~

SECTION 6 will read as follows: “A taxpayer seeking an exemption pursuant to this Act shall in each year in which the exemption is being sought apply for such residential exemption to the Hamilton Board of Assessors in writing. On a form submitted to the Assessors who shall develop and promulgate such a form sixty days or more prior to the annual spring Town Meeting. Said form shall be submitted together with any and all

documents necessary to establish eligibility for such exemption including income tax returns. Failure to submit information will nullify any exemption for that year.”

The Moderator called for the vote on the amendment.

VOICE VOTE: AMENDMENT PASSES

The Moderator proceeded to the main motion. For the Town to authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to allow the Town, upon the affirmative vote at a regular or special Town Meeting to adopt a property tax exemption for certain qualifying parcels of owner-occupied real estate classified as Class One, residential, on substantially the terms and conditions set forth in Appendix A to this warrant; provided the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of requested legislation within the scope of the general public objective of this petition.

The Moderator noted that the reference to Appendix A is as amended to the amendments that just passed.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

**CARD VOTE: MOTION DOES NOT PASS
Declared by the Moderator**

APPENDIX A

SECTION 6 as amended at STM

PROPOSED ACT FOR THE EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN QUALIFYING REAL ESTATE FROM PROPERTY TAXES IN THE TOWN OF HAMILTON

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1: With respect to each qualifying parcel of real property classified as Class One, residential, there shall be an exemption from property taxes, sufficient so as the resulting tax will be no greater than 10% with provisions to vary in subsequent years up to 15%, set by majority vote of the town, of the owner occupied combined household, income, subject to the criteria set forth below.

SECTION 2: Real property shall qualify for the exemption set forth in Section 1 if all of the following criteria are met:

- a. The domicile of the qualifying real estate is owned and occupied by persons or family where 10 % and variable to 15% in subsequent years of the total combined income of all property owners and their spouses is less than the assessed real estate tax.
- b. The domicile of the qualifying real estate is owned and occupied by at least one person having reached 65 or more years of age. For the purposes of this exemption, either spouse or owner must be 65 years or older before the beginning of the fiscal year for which an exemption is sought.
- c. One or more of the property owners has been a resident of Hamilton for at least 5 consecutive years or more prior to the submission of an application for this exemption.
- d. The combined total income of the property owners [and their spouses] does not exceed \$80,000. The property is the primary residence of one or more of the property owners.

SECTION 3: This exemption shall be in addition to any exemption provided for by the laws of the Commonwealth, and for which the Commonwealth provides funding.

SECTION 4: Where as the exemption is based upon the total household income rather than the assessed valuation of the property, the computation shall be calculated by using the amount on line 22 of the IRS form 1040 or its equivalent of the various owners and their spouses, multiplied by 10 percent or the percentage set by the town set in subsequent years. The resulting figure shall be the maximum collectible property tax. If the resultant amount is higher than the present real estate tax, the lower figure will prevail.

SECTION 5: Definitions: For the purposes of this act; “parcel” shall mean a unit of real property as defined by the Assessors in accordance with the deed for such property and shall include a condominium.

[other definitions to be added...for property owner; real property; income; primary residence; owner-occupied; qualifying parcel; ...]

SECTION 6: A taxpayer seeking an exemption pursuant to this Act shall in each year in which the exemption is being sought apply for such residential exemption to the Hamilton Board of Assessors in writing. On a form submitted to the Assessors who shall develop and promulgate such a form sixty days or more prior to the annual spring Town Meeting. Said form shall be submitted together with any and all documents necessary to establish eligibility for such exemption including income tax returns. Failure to submit information will nullify any exemption for that year.

SECTION 7: Following Legislative approval, acceptance of this act by the Town of Hamilton shall be by an affirmative vote of a majority of the voters at any regular or special Town Meeting. This act shall become effective on the next day following the affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 2008/10-1-5 Closing Financial Actions

Moved by Arthur Oberheim, Chairman of the Finance and Advisory Board, duly seconded, that the Town take **NO ACTION** on this article.

Oberheim said this article was a placeholder but no action is needed.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY to take NO ACTION
Declared by the Moderator**

The Moderator recognized Senator Bruce Tarr who thanked the people involved with the effort related to the property tax exemption. He added that he and State Representative Brad Hill are prepared to work with the Legislature to help get a property tax exemption for seniors to become law in the state.

A motion was moved and seconded to dissolve the special Town Meeting at 9 p.m.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

**Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk**

TOWN OF HAMILTON
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
HELD
FEBRUARY 5, 2008
AT
WINTHROP SCHOOL, HAMILTON, MA

At the close of voter registration on January 5, 2008 there were 5,682 Active and Inactive Registered Voters.

PARTY	PRECINCT 1	PRECINCT 2	PRECINCT 3	TOTAL
Democrat	398	347	225	970
Green Party- USA	0	0	1	1
Green-Rainbow	3	1	2	6
Inter. 3Rd Party	4	4	3	11
Libertarian	8	3	5	16
Reform	1	0	0	1
Republican	371	435	574	1,380
Unenrolled	1,320	1,112	863	3,295
Working Families	2	0	0	2
TOTALS	2,107	1,902	1,673	5,682

The polls were opened at 7:00 AM by the Moderator Bruce Ramsey. A total of 2,879 ballots (51%) were cast:

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Provisional	Total
Democrat	651	551	370	2	1,574
Republican	444	507	354	0	1,305
Green-Rainbow	2	0	0	0	2
Working Families	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1,097	1,058	724	2	2,881

DEMOCRAT**Presidential Primary**

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total	Provisional	TOTAL
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (1)						
Blanks	0	1	2	3		3
John R. Edwards	9	5	2	16		16
Hillary Clinton	300	254	142	696	1	697
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.	1	2	1	4		4
Christopher J. Dodd	0	1	0	1		1
Mike Gravel	2	1	1	4		4
Barack Obama	332	283	220	835	1	836
Dennis J. Kucinich	3	3	1	7		7
Bill Richardson	1	1	0	2		2
No Preference	1	0	0	1		1
Write Ins	2	0	1	3		3
				0		0
Total	651	551	370	1572		1574

STATE COMMITTEE MAN (1)

Blanks	247	221	150	618		618
Daniel J. Lauzon	400	329	220	949	2	951
Write Ins	4	1	0	5		5
Total	651	551	370	1572		1574

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN (1)

Blanks	243	212	145	600		600
Kathleen A. Pasquina	407	336	225	968	2	970
Write Ins	1	3	0	4		4
Total	651	551	370	1572		1572

TOWN COMMITTEE (15)

Blanks	9718	8255	5548	23521	2	23523
Group				0		0

Write Ins	22	10	2	34	34
Bernard J. MacCallum	5			5	5
Thomas E. Lawnsbury	5			5	5
Evalyn L. Lawnsbury	5			5	5
John Beveridge	5			5	5
Andrea Beveridge	5			5	5
Total	9765	8265	5550	23580	23582

REPUBLICAN

Presidential Primary **Precinct 1** **Precinct 2** **Precinct 3** **Total**

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (1)

Blanks	0	0	1	1
John McCain	186	221	132	539
Fred Thompson	1	1	0	2
Tom Tancredo	0	0	0	0
Duncan Hunter	1	0	0	1
Mike Huckabee	42	26	37	105
Mitt Romney	201	249	165	615
Ron Paul	10	7	15	32
Rudy Giuliani	1	2	2	5
No Preference	1	1	2	4
Write Ins	1	0	0	1
Total	444	507	354	1305

STATE COMMITTEE MAN (1)

Blanks	149	155	134	438
John N. Racho	294	350	220	864
Write Ins	1	2	0	3
Total	444	507	354	1305

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN (1)

Blanks	153	161	129	443
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Christina A. Bain	290	346	225	861
Write Ins	1	0	0	1
Total	444	507	354	1305

TOWN COMMITTEE (36)

Blanks	14273	16113	11358	41744
Group	170	227	149	546
Paul G. Fischer	214	261	171	646
William F. Bowler	229	294	197	720
James A. Murphy	208	252	165	625
Andrew N. Mazzetta	241	287	180	708
Lucy L. Calder	202	254	165	621
Jill J. Chagnon	218	265	170	653
William F. Martin	218	294	186	698
Write Ins	11	5	3	19
Total	15984	18252	12744	46980

GREEN - RAINBOW

Presidential Primary	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
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PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (1)

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Jared Ball	0	0	0	0
Ralph Nader	2	0	0	2
Elaine Brown	0	0	0	0
Kat Swift	0	0	0	0
Cynthia McKinney	0	0	0	0
Kent Mesplay	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0
Write Ins				0
Total	2	0	0	2

STATE COMMITTEE MAN (1)

Blanks	2	0	0	2
Write Ins	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	2

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN (1)

Blanks	2	0	0	2
Write Ins	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	2

TOWN COMMITTEE (10)

Blanks	1	0	0	1
Write Ins	1	0	0	1
Total	2	0	0	2

WORKING FAMILIES

Presidential Primary	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (1)				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0
Write Ins	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

STATE COMMITTEE MAN (1)

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write Ins	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN (1)

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write Ins	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

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TOWN COMMITTEE (10)

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write Ins	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

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The polls were closed at 8:00 PM. Results were announced by the Moderator Bruce Ramsey at 10:30 PM.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

TOWN OF HAMILTON
Annual Town Election
Held
Thursday, May 15, 2008
At
Winthrop School, Hamilton, MA

The polls were opened at 7:00 AM by Moderator Bruce Ramsey.

At the close of Voter Registration on April 15, 2008 there were 5, 686 registered voters.

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	TOTAL
Democrat	398	349	231	978
Green Party USA	0	0	1	1
Green-Rainbow	2	1	2	5
Inter. 3 rd Party	4	4	2	10
Libertarian	7	1	4	12
Working Families	2	0	0	2
Republican	353	431	551	1335
Unenrolled	1350	1132	871	3343
Totals	2106	1918	1662	5686

The ballots were cast as follows:

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	TOTAL
Ballots	1077	1063	669	2809

Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Moderator 1 year				
Blanks	248	224	125	597
Bruce C. Ramsey	821	832	538	2191
Write-ins	8	7	6	21
Selectman 3 years				
Blanks	323	287	157	767
William F. Bowler	702	755	496	1953
Write-ins	23	12	10	45
Carol Mazzetta	29	9	6	44

Town Clerk	3 years					
Blanks		196	206	132	534	
Jane M. Wetson		877	856	536	2269	
Write-ins		4	1	1	6	
Board of Assessors	3 years					
Blanks		313	322	181	816	
Peter J. Kane		763	737	485	1985	
Write-ins		1	4	3	8	
Planning BD	Vote for 2	5 years				
Blanks			827	717	411	1955
Marc I. Johnson			670	717	469	1856
Frederick G. Mitchell			641	676	442	1759
Write-ins			15	12	14	41
Walter Meibaum			1	4	2	7
H-W Library Trustee	3					
years						
Blanks			285	249	156	690
Janice Pappas			788	810	512	2110
Write-ins			4	4	1	9
H-W Regional School Committee						
<i>Vote for 3</i>	<i>3 years</i>					
Blanks			1330	1136	668	3134
Richard L. Boroff			606	672	427	1705
Catherine A. Harrison			617	669	441	1727
Lauren S. Prior			668	700	455	1823
Write-ins			10	12	16	38
H-W School Committee						
Totals			Hamilton	Wenham		Total
Blanks			3134	229		3363
Richard L. Boroff			1705	176		1881
Catherine A. Harrison			1727	180		1907
Lauren S. Prior			1823	188		2011
Write-ins			38	4		42

Question 1: Town Operating Levy Limit Override, G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 21C(g)

“Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to assess an additional \$177, 444 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Town’s net operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008?”

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	TOTAL
Blanks	16	12	9	37
YES	563	600	403	1566
NO	498	451	257	1206

Question 2: School Operating Levy Limit Override, G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 21C(g)

“Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to assess an additional \$1,288,322 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding Hamilton’s apportioned share of the net operating cost of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008?”

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	TOTAL
Blanks	0	5	1	6
YES	454	566	400	1420
NO	623	492	268	1383

The Polls closed at 8:00 PM. Results were announced by Moderator Bruce Ramsey at 9:15 PM.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

TOWN OF HAMILTON

STATE PRIMARY
HELD
SEPTEMBER 16, 2008
AT
WINTHROP SCHOOL, HAMILTON, MA

At the close of voter registration on August 27, 2008 there were 5,785 Active and Inactive Registered Voters.

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Democrat	410	351	239	1,000
Green-Rainbow	2	1	2	5
Inter. 3rd Party	4	4	4	12
Libertarian	7	1	4	12
Republican	352	442	554	1,348
Unenrolled	1,361	1,147	898	3,406
Working Families	2	-	-	2
Total	2,138	1,946	1,701	5,785

The polls were opened at 7:00 AM by the Moderator Bruce Ramsey. A total of 526 ballots were cast:

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Republican	65	44	29	138
Democrat	164	128	96	388
Green-Rainbow	0	0	0	0
Working Families	0	0	0	0
Total	229	172	125	526

BALLOTS

<div style="background-color: #00bfff; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">REPUBLICAN</div> State Primary Election September 16, 2008	Precinct 1 Precinct 2 Precinct 3 TOTAL	65 44 29 		138	FINAL
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Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Senator in Congress				
Blanks	12	9	7	28
Jeffrey K. Beatty	53	35	22	110
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Representative in Congress				
Blanks	14	9	6	29
Richard A. Baker	51	35	23	109
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Councillor				
Blanks	65	44	27	136
Write-ins	0	0	2	2
Senator in General Court				
Blanks	4	4	2	10
Bruce E. Tarr	61	40	27	128
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Representative in Gen Court				
Blanks	2	3	1	6
Bradford R. Hill	63	41	28	132
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Register of Probate

Blanks	65	44	26	135
Write-ins	0	0	3	3

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

State Primary Election

September 16, 2008

Precinct			
1	164		
Precinct			
2	128		
Precinct			
3	96		
TOTAL	388		FINAL

Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Senator in Congress				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
John F. Kerry	112	80	66	258
Edward J. O'Reilly	52	48	30	130
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Representative in Congress				
Blanks	34	26	26	86
John F. Tierney	130	101	70	301
Write-ins	0	1	0	1
Councillor				
Blanks	34	29	29	92
Mary-Ellen Manning	97	65	51	213
Timothy P. Houten	33	34	16	83
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Senator in General Court				
Blanks	163	127	96	386

Write-ins	1	1	0	2
Representative in Gen Court				
Blanks	63	56	40	159
Donald Bumiller	101	72	56	229
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Register of Probate				
Blanks	60	52	40	152
Pamela Casey O'Brien	104	76	56	236
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Green Rainbow Ballot	Precinct		
	1	0	
	Precinct		
	2	0	
State Primary Election	Precinct		
	3	0	
September 16, 2008	TOTAL	0	FINAL

Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Senator in Congress				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Representative in Congress				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Councillor				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Senator in General Court

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Representative in Gen Court

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Register of Probate

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Working Families Ballot

State Primary Election

September 16, 2008

Precinct 1	0		
Precinct 2	0		
Precinct 3	0		
TOTAL	0		FINAL

Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Senator in Congress				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Representative in Congress				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0
Councillor				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Senator in General Court

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Representative in Gen Court

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

Register of Probate

Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0

The polls were closed at 8:00 PM. The results were announced by the Moderator, Bruce Ramsey at 9:00 PM.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

TOWN OF HAMILTON
STATE ELECTION
HELD
NOVEMBER 4, 2008
AT
WINTHROP SCHOOL, HAMILTON, MA

At the close of voter registration on October 15, 2008 there were 5,885 Active and Inactive Registered Voters.

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Democrat	411	367	246	1,024
Green-Rainbow	3	1	2	6
Inter. 3rd Party	4	4	4	12
Libertarian	8	1	5	14
Republican	355	440	564	1,359
Unenrolled	1,382	1,171	915	3,468
Working Families	2	-	-	2
Total	2,165	1,984	1,736	5,885

The polls were opened at 7:00 AM by the Moderator Bruce Ramsey. A total of 4,728 ballots were cast including Provisional and Absentee Ballots: 80% Voted.

	Pre 1	Pre 2	Pre 3	TOTAL	Provisional	Absentee	FINAL
State Election	1772	1718	1221		3	2	1777
Hamilton					6	2	1726
November 4, 2008					3	1	1225
				4711	12	5	4728

Candidate Name		Pre	Pre	Pre	Total	1			2			TOTAL
		1	2	3		1	2	3	1	2	3	
President & Vice President (1)												
Blanks		8	5	10	23							23
Baldwin and Castle	Constitution	9	4	1	14							14
Barr and Root	Libertarian	6	4	8	18							18
McCain and Palin	Republican	784	773	557	2114	2	3	1				2120
McKinney and Clemente	Green-Rainbow	6	0	2	8							8
Nader and Gonzalez	Independent	12	17	7	36							36
Obama and Biden	Democratic	939	910	634	2483	1	3	2	2	2	1	2494
Write-ins		7			7							7
	Hillary Clinton	1	5	2	8							8
Senator in Congress (1)												0
Blanks		48	38	48	134				1	1		136
John F. Kerry	Dem	980	921	611	2512	2	4	2	1	1	1	2523
Jeffrey K. Beatty	Rep	694	720	533	1947	1	2	1				1951
Robert J. Underwood	Lib	49	39	29	117							117
Write-ins		1	0	0	1							1
Representative in Congress (1)												0
Blanks		68	59	79	206			1	1	1		209
John F. Tierney	Dem	1123	1002	652	2777	2	4	1	1	1	1	2787
Richard A. Baker	Rep	581	657	490	1728	1	2	1				1732
Write-ins		0	0	0	0							0
Councillor (1)												0
Blanks		585	616	429	1630	2	1	2	1	1		1637
Mary-Ellen Manning	Dem	1177	1097	777	3051	1	5	1	1	1	1	3061
Write-ins		10	5	15	30							30
Senator in General Court (1)												0
Blanks		394	342	249	985	1		2	1	2	1	992
Bruce E. Tarr	Rep	1372	1374	969	3715	2	6	1	1			3725
Write-ins		6	2	3	11							11
Rep in General Court (1)												0
Blanks		101	119	99	319			1	1	1		322
Bradford R. Hill	Rep	1202	1237	857	3296	1	3	2	1			3303
Donald Bumiller	Dem	466	362	265	1093	2	3			1	1	1100
Write-ins		3	0	0	3							3
Register of Probate (1)												0
Blanks		614	632	470	1716	2	1	1	1	1		1722
Pamela Casey O'Brien	Dem	1154	1081	738	2973	1	5	2	1	1	1	2984

Write-ins	4	5	13	22						22
Question 1	Income Tax									0
Blank	31	37	32	100				1	1	102
YES	541	609	414	1564	2	4	2	1	1	1574
NO	1200	1072	775	3047	1	2	1		1	3052
Question 2	Marijuana									0
Blank	21	28	27	76				1	1	78
YES	1087	1106	712	2905	3	4	1	1	1	2916
NO	664	584	482	1730		2	2			1734
Question 3	Greyhound Racing									0
Blank	33	40	35	108				1	1	110
YES	1009	1020	800	2829	2	3	3	1	1	2840
NO	730	658	386	1774	1	3				1778

11/14/2008

Registrar's Signatures

The polls were closed at 8:00 PM and the Moderator announced the results at 9:00 PM.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Held**

Monday, May 4, 2009

At

Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

ADJOURNED SESSION

Held

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

At

Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

At the close of registration on April 14, 2009 there were 5,892 registered voters.

Precinct 1 – 213

Precinct 2 – 186

Precinct 3 – 133

Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the 216th Annual Town Meeting at 7:30 P.M. with 532 voters checked and present, this annual meeting of the Town of Hamilton is now open.

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

HEAD TELLERS

Cafeteria	Theresa Mimi Fanning	122 Railroad Avenue
Multipurpose	Forrester Tim Clark	308 Sagamore Avenue
Auditorium	Richard Flynn	183 Linden Street

AUDITORIUM

Left

Dorothea Ingalls	23 Lincoln Avenue
Carl Swanson	80 Walnut Road

Center

Leon Purington	32 Mill Street
William Friend	951 Highland Street

Right

Mair Walters	4 Veranda Circle
Robert Preston	598 Bay Road

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

I have asked non-resident members of the regional school system, town officials and those assisting the Selectmen and Finance Committee to be present here so they may be available to answer questions. Members of the press [and the video crew] have also been allowed to be present. I remind those allowed here to do nothing, which may influence the counting of a vote.

We have set up the cafeteria across the hall as overflow space. There is a closed circuit television set in the cafeteria and the Multi Purpose Room each with two tellers. All other non-registered visitors must be seated in the visitor's area in the cafeteria.

Another procedural note, we record these proceedings so as to have an accurate record of the meeting. Therefore, unless I recognize you by name, please use the microphone provided and give your name and address when you arise to address the moderator. People in the cafeteria or Multi Purpose Room desiring to speak to any article should contact one of the tellers and arrange to be brought to the microphones in the auditorium.

All registered voters have been given a distinctive voter ID card when checking into the meeting. Do not lose or destroy this card. You will need to show the card on any counted vote. If you cannot show the card, your vote may not be counted.

The Moderator asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation tonight will be by Fr. Louis Bourgeois of the Church of St. Paul. Fr. B was recognized as celebrating his Golden Jubilee – 50 years of service as a Catholic Priest. Fr. Bourgeois said a prayer for the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Ramsey thanked Fr. Bourgeois and proceeded to announce members at the front of the auditorium.

Introduction of front table:

Bruce Ramsey – Moderator
Jane Wetson – Town Clerk
Donna Brewer – Town Counsel
Candace Wheeler – Town Administrator
Allison Jenkins – Assistant Town Administrator

Board of Selectmen:

William Bowler
Richard Low – Chair
David Carey

Finance and Advisory Committee:

Robert Bullivant – Acting Chair
Dan Bukkhegyi
Sandy Shaw

John McWane
Deborah Nippes-Mena – Finance Director/Accountant

The Moderator recognized Selectman, Bill Bowler. My colleague Dick Low will be leaving the Board of Selectmen next week and so this will be his last Town Meeting. I would like to recognize his service to the Town. Dick has been a naval officer and sailor. He has sailed in very rough waters close to Antarctica and I am sure he would agree if someone is sailing a boat in calm water and a light wind, it's easy being Captain. It has been very stormy waters in Hamilton and this year has fallen to Dick to be the Chairman.

Dick has done an excellent job as Chairman. As his colleagues we have agreed and disagreed but Dick was steadfast and followed the course, no other agenda but the best interest of the people and Town of Hamilton. It has been my privilege to serve with you. We thank you for your service and dedication.

ARTICLE 2009/5 1-1 Election of Officers and Ballot Questions

To elect the following Town Officers and to vote for the ballot questions shown as **Appendix A** of the 2009 Appendix Book at the Annual Town Election on Thursday, May 14, 2009 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Winthrop School.

- Town Moderator for one year
- One Selectman for three years
- One Assessor for three years
- Two members of the Planning Board for five years
- One member of the Hamilton Housing Authority for five years
- Two members of Hamilton-Wenham Public Library Trustees for three years
- Three members of the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee for three years
- One member of the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee for two years

Moderator said the vote on Article 1-1 is by ballot on Thursday, the 14th of May, 2009 at the Winthrop School. The polls will be opened at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 2009/5 1-2 Reports

Moved by Richard Low, Chair, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that reports of town officers and committees be received and placed on file.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

The Moderator recognized Richard Low, Chairman, Board of Selectmen.

Thank you Mr. Moderator. It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve the Town of Hamilton as Selectmen. My best to my colleagues in the future.

Dick proceeded with his report.

Selectmen Priorities

- Government Structure
- Revenue Generation
- Cost Control
- Property Tax Structure
- Regionalization

The Moderator recognized Dave Carey, Selectman. Dave presented the reports as follows:

Town Website

Hamilton has a new website.
The new website uses a state of the art design standard (Virtual Town Hall)
We hope the new website will be the first place you look for any information about Hamilton
Here is the address: www.hamiltonma.gov

Website Features

- News, Notices and Updates**
- Meeting and Event Calendars**
- Downloadable Forms:** applications, license, permits, documents, zoning requests, etc.
- E-mail Subscriptions:** sign up for news, announcements, minutes, agendas and newsletters

What is the Connect-CT™ service?

Connect-CT™ (sometimes referred to as Reverse 911) allows town officials to send messages (phone, text and e-mail) to everyone in town in minutes. The messages will be about safety and welfare of our community. Your “listed” phone number is automatically included. In addition, you can go to the new Hamilton web-site and add any cell or phone number or any e-mail address. This service is in place now.

Recycling Results

- 50 % reduction in non-recycled trash (solid waste tonnage)
- \$9,000 per month savings (including bag sales)

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Representatives of the Town and the Seminary have been working together for two years to improve the relationship.

For the third year in a row, the Seminary will increase its contribution to Hamilton.

Total FY10 contribution \$110,000

---\$100,000 cash

---\$10,000 wages paid to Seminary Student working in HWRSD

The Seminary is also experiencing a difficult economy

Endowment down 20% and Operations distribution down 40%

Enrollment down 7%

No pay increases for faculty and staff for two years

Eliminated pension contribution, closed book store, etc.

The Moderator recognized Bob Bullivant, Finance Committee. Bob said he was substituting for Arthur Oberheim whose illness prevents him from being here this evening. We wish Art the best getting better. Bob also recognized and thanked Deborah Mena and the members of the Finance Committee for working extraordinarily hard on the budgets.

Making FY09 Ends Meet

7 Warrant Articles to move dollars to the appropriate line items

DOR requirement that Town Meeting must approve transfers greater than 5% of any previously voted line item

Actions combined into ATM Warrant to avoid the need for a separate Special Town Meeting

FY09 Budget Scramble

Lost Revenues (\$184,048)

Ambulance, Excise Taxes,
State Aid

Unplanned Expenses (\$197,283)

Legal/Consulting, Illness/Injury,
Eco contract

Budget Savings \$261,331

Waste Reduction, Insurance,
Unfilled Positions

Free Cash \$120,000

Balanced Budget

FY10 Budget Assumptions

A total budget increase of 2% without an operational override for the town

A change in health insurance plans to generate significant cost savings

No increase in controllable expenses

No new vehicle leases or purchases

No additional personnel positions or increase in hours

No COLAs for town employees in FY 2010

FY10 Budget Challenges

Steep decrease in State Aid and local revenues creating a funding gap over prior year expense structures
Decrease in new construction affecting tax base and levy capacity
Maintain community service level with 2.0% increase in budget
Unfunded Mandates
(Quinn Bill – Educational Stipends for Police, DEP-Ipswich River Regulations, EPA storm water rules, Prevailing Wage Law, Ch. 40-B affordable housing, Closed Landfill rules)

Proposed Budget

	FY'09	FY'10
Town Salaries and Wages	\$ 3,753,111	\$ 3,687,863
Town Operating Expenses	4,205,654	4,311,578
Town Debt	1,017,121	823,382
<u>Town Revenue: State/Local</u>	<u>(2,994,090)</u>	<u>(2,624,860)</u>
Net Town Expenditures	\$ 5,981,796	\$ 6,200,963
Hamilton Share School Net Expense	\$15,116,019	\$15,323,686
Hamilton Share School Debt Service	744,602	717,383
North Shore Voc/Tech School	145,850	118,700
Total Tax Levy	\$21,840,417	\$22,360,732

Distribution of Hamilton FY10 Expenses

- 2 % Health & Human Services
- 10 % Public Safety
- 4 % DPW
- 6 % General Government
- 6 % Fixed Costs
- 3 % Culture/Recreation
- 4 % Debt
- 65 % HW Regional School District and Voc Tech

Regional Services Apportionment Adjustments for FY 2010

Regional School District
FY 2010
Wenham: 32.24%
Hamilton: 67.76%
FY 2009
Wenham: 31.28%
Hamilton: 68.8
Decrease of .42% (Effect on Hamilton)
Apportionment based upon enrollment

COA Van

FY 2010

Wenham: 55.34%
Hamilton 44.66%

Based on ridership from calendar year 2006, 2007 & 2008

FY2009

Wenham: 48.66%
Hamilton: 51.14%

Based on ridership from calendar year 2005, 2006 & 2007

All Others---(Joint Recreation, ECO, and Joint Library)

FY 2010

Wenham: 36.29%
Hamilton: 63.71%

FY 2009

Wenham: 35.75%
Hamilton: 64.25%

Decrease of .54% (Effect on Hamilton)

Apportionment based on property valuation of preceding 3 years

Tax Impact of FY'10 Budget

'09 Tax Rate	\$15.23	\$360,000 home, increase	\$122.40
<u>Increase</u>	<u>.34</u>	\$544,000 home, increase	\$184.96
'10 Tax Rate	\$15.57	\$750,000 home, increase	\$255

Budgeted Item	Tax Rate Portion
Town Net Budget	\$ 3.72
HW Regional School	10.67
North Shore Regional Vocational	.08
Town & School Debt	1.10
2.23% Increase in Tax Rate	\$15.57

Tax Rate is based on today's assessed property values

An Eye on the Future

- Financial pressures will likely continue
- R.E. Tax Increases have reached a tipping point
- Town must stabilize and move on from police and Ambulance problems
- Reserve Funds must be bolstered to avoid Cash Flow borrowing costs
- Town Government must be reorganized to better cope with future challenges

Moderator said at this time, we will take up a procedural motion under Chapter II, Section 1 of the General By-laws to take certain articles out of order. This motion requires a 2/3rds vote for approval. I now recognize David Carey.

Moved by David Carey, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the following Articles be taken up out of the order of their arrangement by being the first Articles taken up at the Second Session of the 2009 Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2009 in the following order:

- Art. 2009/5 4-1 Citizen Petition to Change Town Meeting Dates and Times
- Art. “ 5-1 Town Manager Petition to the Legislature
- Art. “ 4-7 Increase Size of Board of Selectmen
- Art. “ 4-2 Lower age threshold for Existing Elder Exemption
- Art. “ 5-2 Property Tax Exemption Petition to the Legislature

and that in connection therewith, when the Town Meeting has disposed of the Article next preceding any of the above Articles, it shall skip over the above Article or Articles and take up the next Article that has not been acted upon except in the case of the opening of the Second Session when the above Articles shall be the first Articles taken up and then followed by any remaining Articles that have not been acted upon.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES by 2/3^{rds} VOTE
Declared by the Moderator**

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-1 FY 09 Free Cash Application

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the transfer of \$120,000 from certified Free Cash to be used as another financing source in the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2009.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES
Declared by the Moderator**

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-2 FY 09 Insurance Fund Transfer to General Fund

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the transfer of \$40,000 from the FY09 Police/Fire Insurance Fund to be used as another financing source in the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2009.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-3 FY 09 Waste Enterprise Fund Transfer to General Fund

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the reduction and transfer of \$20,000 from the FY09 Annual Town Meeting Article 2008/5 2-5 for the Waste Reduction Enterprise Fund to be used as another financing source in the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2009.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-4 FY 09 Appropriation for ECO Union Contract

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town transfer from available funds \$7,700 for FY09 Emergency Center Operations Salaries account budget for FY 09.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-5 FY 09 Budget Appropriation Transfers to Town Counsel Expenses

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the following transfers of money from the FY09 appropriations to the Town Counsel – Expenses account budget for FY 09:

- A) From Employee Group Insurance \$23,000
- B) From Ambulance Service Expense \$18,000
- C) From Highway Expense \$37,000
- D) From Planning Board Master Plan \$ 6,200

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-6 **FY 09 Budget Appropriation Transfer to Selectmen Expenses**

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the following transfers of money from the FY09 appropriations to the Selectmen – Expenses account budget for FY 09:

- A) From Planning Board Salaries \$15,290
- B) From Employee Group Insurance \$22,000

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-7 **FY 09 Wind Turbine Study Grant**

Moved by David Carey, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the town take no action on this article.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES to take NO ACTION

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-8 **FY 09 Appropriation Increase**

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the town transfer from available funds \$47,000 to increase the FY 09 Police Salaries account budget.

John Desimone, 25 Hamilton Avenue, asked if there were any savings from officers not on active duty. Bob Bullivant said no since the officers are all getting insurance while recuperating so there is not much salary line savings that can be used for overtime.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

**CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES
 Declared by the Moderator**

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-9 **Compensation/Classification Table**

Moved by William Boesch, Chair, Personnel Board, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Personnel By-law, as recommended by the Personnel Board, by adopting changes to the

classification and compensation table, copies of which are on file with the Town Clerk and which are set forth in **Appendix B** to the 2009 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

Declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-10 General Town Appropriations

Moderator read corrections: Turning to **Appendix C** in the Appendix Book, there are a few corrections. The Departmental total for the Department of Public Works shown on page 7 is \$875,232, since the Highway/DPW Salaries line has been decreased to \$395,517 and the Park Department salaries line has been increased to \$65,805. In addition, the Total Unclassified on page 9 is \$1,480,353, since the Employee Group Insurance expenses line has been increased to \$656,603.

After a line by line reading of the budget departmental totals only starting on page 5 of the Appendix Book . . .as stated by the Moderator, he in fact, read the functional budget representing the following areas: Total General Government - \$1,430,626, Total Protection of Persons - \$2,322,944, H-W Regional School District - \$15,323,686, Total Department of Public Works - \$875,232, Total Health & Human Services - \$328,452, Total Library - \$582,460, Total Elder Van - \$29,363, Total Recreation - \$74,313, Total Unclassified - \$1,480,353, Total Debt Principal & Interest - \$1,573,765.

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the sums for schools, highways, and all other Town expenses which are set forth in the 2010 Fiscal year Budget appearing as Appendix C of the 2009 Appendix Book with the additions and corrections read by the moderator.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

**ARTICLE 2009/5 2-11 Hamilton-Wenham School District Debt Authorization: Requires
a 2/3^{rds} vote Referendum Vote for Debt Service Exclusion –
Appendix A**

Moved by Laurie Wilson, Chair, School Committee, duly seconded, that the Town vote to approve the \$1,241,000 debt authorized by vote of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District on March 31, 2009 to pay costs of purchasing various pieces of capital equipment and costs of other improvements to the facilities of the District, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, provided that such approval shall be contingent upon the

Town voting to exempt the principal of and interest on the amount of such borrowing from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2 so called, by the passage of a referendum question under paragraph (k) of MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C.

The ballot vote on approval of this borrowing will take place on Thursday, May 14, 2009, at the Winthrop School from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on the following question: "Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay its share of the bond issued by the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs of purchasing various pieces of capital equipment and costs of other improvements to the facilities of the District, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?"

Moderator reminds the audience this motion requires a 2/3rds vote.

Alexa McCloughan, Bridge Street, made a presentation supporting a favorable vote on the motion. Jay Burnham representing the Enough Is Enough group showed a video and said he was opposed to the motion. Nancy Peterson, Chebacco Road, from the SOS group was in favor. Elizabeth Dunbar, Greenbrook Road, was opposed and asked what annual maintenance money had been used for. William Dery of Chebacco Road gave a presentation saying the school building repairs could be done in-house. Nancy Morse, Appaloosa Road, was in favor. Ruth Ryan, Linden Street, was in favor. Lynnette Fallon, Goodhue Street, in favor. Jean Towne, Savoy Road, opposed. Heidi Martin, Asbury Street, opposed. Jim Kent from EIE opposed. Amy Katz, Gregory Island Road in favor. Sam Daume, Boardman Lane, in favor. Richard Goehlert, Woodbury Street, opposed.

The Moderator called for the vote and explained this vote will put this question on the ballot.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

CARD VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to stand for a counted vote.

**COUNTED VOTE: YES 301
 NO 179**

**MOTION DOES NOT PASS BY 2/3^{rds} VOTE
Declared by the Moderator**

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-12 Water Enterprise Budget

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town approve the FY 10 Water Enterprise Budget as set forth in **Appendix E** to the 2009 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-13 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town approve the FY 10 Waste Reduction Enterprise Budget as set forth in **Appendix F** to the 2009 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-14 Waste Reduction Retained Earnings for Expenses

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the transfer of \$15,000 from retained earnings of the Waste Enterprise Fund for FY10 waste reduction expenses.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-15 North Shore Technical High School Budget

Moved by David Ketchum, North Shore Regional Vocational School, duly seconded, that the Town approve the FY 10 gross operating and maintenance budget of the North Shore Regional Vocational School District and raise and appropriate \$118,700 for the Town's assessed portion thereof.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-16 Community Preservation Committee Budget

Moderator: Please turn to **Appendix G** on page 16 of the Appendix Book. There are two amendments to the recommended projects. The #3 of the FY '10 recommended projects is to be changed. Rather than recommending appropriation of \$1000 to preserve the Liberty Road markers, the Community Preservation Committee has voted to delete this project #4 to increase the recommended amount to be reserved to the Historic Preservation Reserve fund from \$15,556 as now shown in the Appendix, to \$16,556. I believe Mr. Catalano will explain the reason for this change. A private donor will give the \$1,000 for the Liberty Road Markers.

I will read each recommended project, its purpose and amount and if anyone wishes to discuss a particular project, state "Hold". We will then vote on all non-held items and return to a discussion of each held item. Held items: FY'1- #1, and #6.

HELD ITEMS: FY'09 - #2, Historic Preservation Projects Other Approved Projects, FY'10 - #1 Historic Preservation Projects, FY'10 - #6 Historic Preservation Reserve.

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chair, Community Preservation Committee, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from community preservation fund annual revenues, specific reserves or other available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year as read and corrected by the moderator [excepting those items held], with each item to be considered a separate appropriation and further that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute agreements, on terms acceptable to the Board, to the extent necessary to effectuate the public benefits of such projects.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES WITHOUT HELD ITEMS

HELD ITEM: FY'09 -#2

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chair, Community Preservation Committee, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$25,500 from Historic Preservation Reserve to partially fund the lead removal associated with the portico restoration project for the Community House of Hamilton and Wenham to be spent in FY'09.

Bill Bowler was opposed because the Community House is a resource for Hamilton and Wenham and he thinks Wenham should contribute as well. He would rather see the money used for the old library owned by Hamilton. Mr. Preston from the Community House board said Wenham is donating \$15,000 over three years. The lead clean up was not expected.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

HELD ITEM: FY'10 - #1

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chair, Community Preservation Committee, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$26,000 from the FY'10 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to provide partial funding for the restoration of a 114-year old historic tabernacle located in Asbury Grove contingent upon the execution of a public benefit agreement upon such terms that are acceptable to the Board of Selectmen.

Brad Tilley from Asbury Grove spoke in favor. Laurie Wilson of Boardman Lane was opposed to spending Town funds on a private community building and setting a precedent. Margot Killoran, Sagamore Farm Road, asked if the benefit agreement was enforceable. Chris Davis, Partridgeberry Lane, Betty Gray, Lee Park, and Scott Maddern, Old Cart Road, in favor. Bill Bowler said money could be used at the old library for historic preservation for a Town-owned property. Tess Leary, Bay Road, was in favor.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

HELD ITEM: FY'10 - #6

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chair, Community Preservation Committee, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$88,870 from Community Housing Reserves and \$91,130 from FY10

Community Preservation Fund Revenues to create four affordable housing units at the site of the Acord Food Pantry in partnership with Harborlight Community Partners.

Rob Dana of Willow Street was not in favor.

Carl Swanson of Walnut Road thought the motion was premature and more information was needed. Carl Swanson moved that the motion be tabled. There was a second to his motion.

The Moderator explained to table the motion requires 2/3rds vote and called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION DOES NOT PASS to table the motion.
Declared by the Moderator

Lori Johnson of Highland Street is the president of the Acord Food pantry was in favor. Paul Ricker of Idlewood Avenue said Mac Shoe next to the food pantry location was for sale and was opposed due to the impact on development downtown and septic issues. Kora Sanders of Baker Avenue was a concerned abutter. Ann Smith of Old Cart Road and Lisa Gaquin of Rock Maple were in favor.

Lisa Gaquin moved the main motion.

The Moderator called for the vote on the main motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

A motion was moved and seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 11:30 p.m. It was recessed until 7:30 PM, Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

ADJOURNED SESSION

**Held
Tuesday, May 5, 2009
At
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**

At the close of registration on April 14, 2009 there were 5,892 registered voters.

Precinct 1 – 110
Precinct 2 – 101
Precinct 3 – 80

Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the 216th Annual Town Meeting at 7:30 P.M. with 291 voters checked and present, this annual meeting of the Town of Hamilton is now open.

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

AUDITORIUM

Left

Dorothea Ingalls	23 Lincoln Avenue
Arthur Towne	20 Savoy Road

Center

Leon Purington	32 Mill Street
William Friend	951 Highland Street

Right

Richard Goehlert	35 Woodbury Street
Chris Fibbe	995 Bay Road

**ARTICLE 2009/5 4-1 **Citizen Petition to Change Town Meeting Dates and Time
Town General By-law****

Moved by Jim Kent, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws, Ch. I, Sec. 2 “Time of Meetings”, to delete the current subsection b and replace it with the following: “The Spring Town Meeting, which shall be the Annual Town Meeting for purposes of General Laws,

Chapter 39, Section 9, shall include the adoption of an annual budget and other warrant articles, except the election of Town Officers, and shall meet on the second Saturday of May in each year at 9:00 in the morning. If the business of the Annual Town Meeting is not completed on the day of the said second Saturday of May, it may be adjourned from time to time. A regular Fall Town Meeting shall meet at a time designated by the Board of Selectmen, usually the third Saturday in October.”

Warren Gray of Bay Road was in favor. Margot Killoran of Sagamore Farm Road was in favor since an item could be voted a second time on the second night. Nancy Peterson, Chebacco Road, was not in favor because of the conflict with children’s sports. Paul Perkins, Boardman Lane asked for Selectmen recommendation (supported 2 to 1) and FinCom recommendation (defer action). Forrester “Tim” Clark was in favor. Tom Rogers, Sagamore Road, was opposed. Bill Jenkins in favor. Betty Gray, Lee Park, in favor. Steve Ozahowski, Willow Street, recommended no action. Elizabeth Dunbar, Greenbrook Road, in favor. Leonard Ruben, Asbury Street, opposed. Janet Aldrich, Rust Street, in favor.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

CARD VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to stand for a counted vote.

**COUNTED VOTE: YES 138 MOTION PASSES
 NO 127**

CHAPTER I

TOWN MEETING

SECTION 2: Time of Meetings

b. MEETING DATES: The Spring Town Meeting, which shall be the Annual Town Meeting for purposes of General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 9, shall include the adoption of an annual budget and other warrant articles, except the election of Town Officers, and shall meet on the first Monday of May in each year at 7:30 in the evening. If the business of the Annual Town Meeting is not completed on the evening of the said first Monday of May, it may be adjourned from time to time. A regular Fall Town Meeting, shall meet at a time designated by the Selectmen, usually the third Monday in October.

Amend to read:

CHAPTER I

TOWN MEETING

SECTION 2: Time of Meetings

b. **MEETING DATES:** “The Spring Town Meeting, which shall be the Annual Town Meeting for purposes of General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 9, shall include the adoption of an annual budget and other warrant articles, except the election of Town Officers, and shall meet on the second Saturday of May in each year at 9:00 in the morning. If the business of the Annual Town Meeting is not completed on the day of the said second Saturday of May, it may be adjourned from time to time. A regular Fall Town Meeting shall meet at a time designated by the Board of Selectmen, usually the third Saturday in October.”

ARTICLE 2009/5 5-1 Town Manager Petition to the Legislature

Moved by Susan Wiltshire, Co-chair, Government Study Committee, duly seconded, that the Town approve, and authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact, "An Act Establishing a Town Manager in the Town of Hamilton" in the form set forth in **APPENDIX L of the 2009 Appendix Book**, provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objective of this petition.

Carole Bullivant, Woodbury Street said the League of Women Voters was in favor. Jeff Sterling, Crescent Road, asked if this could be an elected position. Bill Shields, Bay Road, said the Selectmen could fire and hire the Town manager. The FinCom and Selectmen recommend favorable action. Jean Maurand, Garfield Avenue, was in favor if the Town manager would solve the Town's problems. Jack Lawrence, Rock Maple, said every department head would report to the Town manager.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 4-7 Increase number of Members – Board of Selectmen Town General By-Law

Moved by Jack Lawrence, Government Study Committee, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws, Ch. III by adding a new first sentence to Section 1, reading, "The Board of Selectmen shall consist of five (5) members, each to serve a three year term," such increase to be accomplished in accordance with G.L. c. 41, § 2.

The Finance Committee recommends no action. Selectmen support by majority vote. Joanne Patton of Asbury Street was in favor.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

CHAPTER III

SELECTMEN

SECTION 1. Except as otherwise provided by law and by these by-laws, the Selectmen shall have and may exercise all the powers of the Town and shall have general direction and management of its property and affairs. Unless otherwise provided by law, the Selectmen shall have the power to acquire and dispose of personal property for the Town.

Amended By-Law to read:

SECTION 1. *"The Board of Selectmen shall consist of five (5) members, each to serve a three year term," such increase to be accomplished in accordance with G.L. c. 41, § 2.* Except as otherwise provided by law and by these by-laws, the Selectmen shall have and may exercise all the powers of the Town and shall have general direction and management of its property and affairs. Unless otherwise provided by law, the Selectmen shall have the power to acquire and dispose of personal property for the Town.

ARTICLE 2009/5 4-2 Lower age threshold for Existing Elder Exemption

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of G.L. c. 59, § 5 cl. 41C to lower the eligibility age from 70 to 65.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 5-2 Property Tax Exemption Petition to the Legislature

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to allow the Town, upon the affirmative vote at a regular or special Town Meeting, to adopt a property tax exemption for certain qualifying parcels of owner-occupied real estate classified as Class One, residential, on substantially the terms and conditions set forth in **APPENDIX M** to the 2009 Appendix Book,

provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objective of this petition.

After some discussion, the Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

CARD VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to stand for a counted vote.

**COUNTED VOTE: YES 138
 NO 96**

MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-17 Annual Financial Actions

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the following financial actions:

- A. Transfer \$2,000 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. Transfer \$10,000 from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- C. Transfer \$3,722.04 from the Clark Property Fund to the Conservation Fund;
- D. Transfer \$194,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;
- E. Transfer \$276,870 from the General Fund to the Waste Reduction Enterprise Fund to be used for solid waste expenses.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-18 Written Demand Fees

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town increase the charge for each written demand issued by the Town Collector from Five Dollars (\$5.00) to Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to be added and collected as part of the tax as authorized by General Law Chapter 60, Section 15, effective as of July 1, 2009.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5 2-19 Winthrop Street Bridge

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town transfer from available funds \$19,500 to pay for repairs to the Winthrop Street Bridge.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

**ARTICLE 2009/5 2-20 Reauthorization of Recreation and Parks
Revolving Account**

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 53E ½, authorize the recreation revolving fund for FY10, specifying programs for expenditures, receipts to be credited, board / officer authorized to expend and limit on total expenditure for the year as set forth in **Appendix H** to the 2009 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

**ARTICLE 2009/5 3-1 Overlay District for Landfill
Zoning By-Law
Requires a 2/3^{rds} vote**

Moved by Marc Johnson, Planning Board, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Zoning By-law, by adding a new Section V.G., to establish a new Commercial Overlay District by adopting the language set forth in **Appendix I** of the 2009 Appendix Book.

Bill Dery, Chebacco Road, asked about the layout of the road. Bill Bowler explained that the Town is not responsible for moving the layout and Hamilton has been discussing getting an easement from Manchester and that community wants the road paved. The Selectmen and FinCom are in favor. Fire Chief Phil Stevens said water for development in the area will come from Hamilton and/or Manchester.

Moderator: This motion requires a 2/3rds vote.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES BY 2/3rds VOTE
Declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 2009/5 3-2 Conforming Amendments to Zoning By-Law
Requires a 2/3rds vote

Moved by Marc Johnson, Planning Board, duly seconded, that the Town amend other sections of the Zoning By-Law, as amendments in conformity with the adoption of the new Section V.G. of the Zoning By-Law by adopting the language and change to the Zoning Map as set forth in **Appendix J** of the 2009 Appendix Book.

Moderator: This motion requires a 2/3rds vote.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY
Declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 2009/5 4-3 Simplify Excavation of Public Ways By-Law by Removing
Provisions to Be Contained in Regulations
Town General By-Law

Moved by Bill Bowler, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws, Ch. X, Sec. 11 “Excavation and Back-filling on Public Ways and Sidewalks” by deleting the current section and replacing it with the following: “No person shall excavate or fill a public way or sidewalk in the Town without first obtaining a permit from the Director of Public Works. The Director of Public Works shall issue regulations setting forth the procedures deemed necessary for the safe operation of any such work.”

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

CHAPTER X
WAYS

SECTION 11. Excavation and Back-filling on Public Ways and Sidewalks

1. This By-law shall apply to any entity seeking to excavate or fill a public way or sidewalk in the Town.
2. The Director of Public Works shall issue all permits under this By-law. An application for a permit to open a roadway or sidewalk must be filed with the Director a minimum of 14 calendar days prior to the anticipated start of construction. Notification in emergencies must be made immediately. The application form must be completely filled out and accompanied by a sketch indicating the area and extent of anticipated work, and a

check in the amount of \$50.00, the permit fee. The application will be reviewed by the Director and approved, disapproved, or approved on conditions. A permit not completed and accompanied by a check and sketch will be returned with no action taken.

3. The approved permit will be returned to the applicant prior to the start of construction. The permit will state any special conditions to be observed during construction and shall direct how the roadway or sidewalk shall be resurfaced.
4. The procedures to be followed in excavating and back-filling are as follows:
 - a. Mark a definite digging line upon the road or sidewalk surface.
 - b. Prior to removing any surfacing, the pavement must be cut along the lines of the excavation using an asphalt cutting saw.
 - c. All excavation shall be done in such a manner so as not to scar, rupture, or otherwise damage the adjacent pavement. No crawler type equipment shall be driven over, offloaded, or used for excavation on public ways without the prior approval of the Director of Public Works.
 - d. All work areas shall be barricaded and suitably lighted. Barricades and lights shall conform to the Massachusetts Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and approved by the Police Chief or his appointee.
 - e. The Chief of Police shall determine whether uniformed officers are required during construction and whether rerouting of traffic will be permitted or required. The contractor shall pay for all required uniformed officers.
 - f. Backfill material shall be clean gravel, free from clay, subsoil, rocks with a maximum dimension greater than six (6) inches, and pieces of old pavement. Back-filling shall be done in nine (9) inch layers of loose material properly graded, moistened and compacted with a mechanical tamp. Use of puddling, water jetting, or other compaction techniques will be permitted subject to the approval of the Director of Public Works. Back-filling shall continue to within two (2) inches of the present road surface. Temporary bituminous concrete pavement, consisting of two (2) inches of surface course material, shall be installed and properly compacted within 48 hours after back-filling the trench. The temporary pavement shall be maintained by adding additional bituminous concrete for a minimum of thirty (30) days before installing the permanent pavement.
 - g. Permanent Pavement - The Director of Public Works shall determine whether the portion of the roadway in question is primary or secondary roadway. Installation of permanent pavement shall be in accordance with Method 1, Method 2, Method 3 or Method 4 as indicated on the approved permit. Under whichever method used, the temporary pavement and gravel backfill shall be removed to the depth required for construction of the permanent pavement.

Method 1: Primary Roadways

The permanent pavement shall consist of three (3) inches of bituminous concrete binder, rolled and then topped with two (2) inches of bituminous concrete surface course.

Method 2: Secondary Roadways, Driveways, and Sidewalks

The permanent pavement shall consist of two (2) inches of bituminous concrete binder course and one (1) inch of bituminous concrete surface course.

Method 3: Gravel Roads

Gravel roads will be compacted and topped with three (3) inches of blue stone dust and tamped into place. On larger excavations, a final grading of the road surface by mechanical means may be required as determined by the Director of Public Works.

Method 4: Concrete

All (cement) concrete sidewalks will be brought back to their original condition using methods used in their original construction.

- h. Unsuitable and excess materials shall be removed. Materials deemed usable by the Director of Public Works shall be removed to a location determined by him.
- e. Damage to Town-owned facilities, including drains, structures, utilities, curbing, roadways, etc. shall be repaired or replaced as directed by the Director of Public Works. All shoulders, grass strips, planting areas and other landscaping shall be returned to their original condition or better.
- f. The excavation and pavement restoration shall be guaranteed for a period of 12 months after installation of final pavement. Any settling shall be corrected by removing the bituminous concrete and installing new material to the correct grade. The use of cold planing or infrared may be used with permission of the Director of Public Works. Settling may be corrected by the Town at the permittee's expense.
- g. Failure to comply with this By-law will necessitate the permittee posting a \$1,000.00 surety bond payable to the Town of Hamilton to accompany any subsequent application.

Amend to read:

CHAPTER X

WAYS

SECTION 11. Excavation and Back-filling on Public Ways and Sidewalks

“No person shall excavate or fill a public way or sidewalk in the Town without first obtaining a permit from the Director of Public Works. The Director of Public Works shall issue regulations setting forth the procedures deemed necessary for the safe operation of any such work.”

**ARTICLE 2009/5 4-4 Incorporate the Historic District By-Law
in Town General By-law**

Moved by Tom Catalano, Chair, Historic District Commission, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Town General By-laws to assign as Ch. XXXI "Historic District", the Historic District By-law adopted by the 1972 Annual Town Meeting.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

TOWN OF HAMILTON ADOPTION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT BY-LAW

1. There is hereby established a Historic District, hereinafter called "The District" under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended, bounded and described as set forth in the copy of the by-law on file with the Town Clerk.

The metes and bounds are shown on a map entitled "Hamilton Historic District, Established 1972" filed with the Town Clerk and to be recorded with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds. Said map is designated as the map required for filing in accordance with the fourth paragraph of Section 3 of said Chapter 40C, as amended. The sources of said map are Assessors Maps #40 and #49 on file with the Board of Assessors of Hamilton.

2. There is hereby established a Historic District Commission, hereinafter called "The Commission", under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended, consisting of seven members and three alternate members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Before making any appointment the Board of Selectmen shall in writing request the names of two nominees from the Hamilton Historical Society, two nominees from the Chapter of the American Institute of Architects covering Hamilton, and two nominees from the Board of Realtors covering Hamilton. One appointment shall be made from the two nominees named by each such organization. If any such organization shall fail to name two nominees within thirty days of such request, the Board of Selectmen may make the appointment without nomination from such organization. The remaining appointments may be made without nomination from any independent organization. At least one member so appointed shall be a resident of or owner of property within the Historic District. When the Commission is first established two members shall be appointed for a term of one year, two shall be appointed for a term of two years, and three shall be appointed for three years. Their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years. The filling of vacancies in the membership of the Commission, the designation of alternate members to serve as required, and the election of Officers shall be in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended.

3. The authority of the Commission shall not extend to the review of any of the categories of buildings, structures, or external architectural features in the District set out in items one through seven of Section 8a of Chapter 40C, as amended.

4. The Commission shall have all the powers and perform all the duties conferred and impaired on Historic District Commissions by the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

5. In accordance with Section 14 of General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended, the Commission shall have the powers and duties of a Historical Commission, as provided by General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8D.

6. The Commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the provisions of General Laws, appropriation, employ clerical and technical assistants or consultants and may accept money gift and expend same for such purposes.

7. In case any section, paragraph, or part of this by-law be for any reason declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of last resort, every other section, paragraph, or part shall continue in full force and effect.

I hereby certify that upon motion made by Harold A. Daley duly seconded, it was unanimously voted at the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Hamilton to adopt the foregoing by-law, March 6, 1972.

ATTEST: Francis H. Whipple - Town Clerk

**PROPOSED BY-LAW
FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT
HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Preamble**

The purpose of this by-law is to promote the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public in keeping with the provisions of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, Chapter 40C, as amended, throughout the preservation and protection of the distinctive outward appearance and characteristics of buildings and places significant in the history of the town, through the maintenance of the appearance and settings of such buildings and places, and through the encouragement of design and construction compatible therewith.

1. There is hereby established a Historic District, hereinafter called "The District", under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the SE corner of properly, now or formerly of Stephen Vernon (Parcel 2 - Map No. 49) and running NW 430 degrees \pm to the SW corner of said parcel., then turning and running 327' \pm to the NW corner of said parcel; then turning SE and running 201' \pm along said parcel 2 to the westerly boundary of parcel 3; then turning and running NE 163,66' to the NW corner of said parcel 3; then turning and running NE 144' \pm ; then turning NE and running across parcel 4 (Map No. 49) a distance of approximately 300' \pm along a line that is 50' west of the westerly sideline of Bay Road and to that point where said line intersects the southerly boundary of parcel 5; then following the bounds of parcel 5, 115' \pm to the NW 66' to the NE and 500' \pm to the NW and to the intersection of the shoreline of Cutler's Pond; then turning northerly and running across the Pond a distance of approximately 267' \pm to the intersection of the shoreline and the westerly boundary of parcel 7; then following the bounds of parcel 7, 127' \pm to the NE and 429.50' southeasterly to the SW corner of parcel 8; then running 82.5' to the NW corner of parcel 8; then running E 106.5' \pm to the SW corner of land owned now or formerly by Ockenga (as shown on Plan No. 250 of 1969 s recorded in the Essex South District Registry of Deeds); then running NE 339.7' \pm to the NW corner of the property owned now or formerly by Ockenga (as shown on said plan); then running SE 37.4' \pm (as shown on said plan) to the SW corner of

parcel 10 of Map No. 49; then running in a straight line through the NW corner of parcel 10 to the boundary of Cutler Road and parcel 14 of Map No. 49 being a total length of approximately 156' ±; then running W along the boundary of Cutler Road and parcel 14 of Map No. 49 a distance of approximately 360' ± to the SW corner of parcel 14; then running NE 268.13' to the MW corner of parcel 14 on Map No. 49; then continuing NE 91.35' ± to the NE corner of parcel 13 Map No. 49; then running NE across parcel 32 (now or formerly of Proctor) of Map No. 40 (this course is not a property boundary and is approximately 506' ±) to a point on the boundary between parcels 32 and 33 of Map No. 40 that is 400' ± from the NE corner of parcel 32; then turning northerly and running across parcel 33 a distance of 712' ± to the SW corner of parcel 36 (Map No., 40); then turning and running SE 308' ± to the NW corner of parcel 35; then following the bounds of parcel 35, 156.60' southerly and 90' ± easterly to the westerly sideline of Bay Road; then following said sideline southerly on various courses totaling 998.5' ±, then running E across Bay Road approximately 50' ± to that point where the boundary between parcel 31 of Map No. 40 and parcel 15 of Map No. 49 (now or formerly of Pirie) intersects the sideline of Bay Road, then continuing easterly 125" ± along the northerly boundary of parcel 15; then turning and running SW across parcel 15 a distance of 231' ± to that point on the northerly boundary of parcel 16 that is 125' east of the easterly sideline of Bay Road; then running 234" ± to the NE corner of parcel 16; then running 127" to the SE corner of parcel 16 of Map No. 49; then running on many courses to include all parcel 17 of Map No. 49 and returning to a point which lies on the boundary between parcels 18 and 9, that is 975.84' west of the NE corner of parcel 19; then turning southerly and running 172' ± across parcel 19 to that point on the boundary between parcels 19 and 21 that is 354' east of the SE corner of parcel 20, then turning west and running 354' to the SE corner of parcel 20, then turning south and running approximately 135' ± to that point on the boundary between parcels 21 and 22 that is 320' ± east of the easterly sideline of Bay Road; then turning SE and running 346' ± to the NE corner of parcel 22; then continuing along the boundary between parcels 21 and 22 on three courses of 235', 150' ±, and 75' ± respectively to the NE corner of parcel 23 of Map No. 49; then running SW 125" ± to the SE corner of parcel 23; then running SW 179' along the boundary between parcels 21 and 24 of Map No. 49 to the SE corner of parcel 24; then running NW along the boundary between parcel 24 and Paddock Lane to a point approximately 150' ± from the sideline of Bay Road; then running SW across Paddock Lane approximately 40' ± to the NE corner of parcel 29 of Map No. 49; then continuing SW 105' ± to the SE corner of parcel 29; then running NW 150' to the SW corner of parcel 29; then crossing Bay Road to the SE corner of parcel 3 of Map No. 49 (this course is not a property boundary and is approximately 108' ± long); then following the boundary between parcel 2 of Map No. 49 and Bay Road a distance of approximately 380" ± to the point of origin.

The foregoing metes and bounds are shown on a map entitled "Hamilton Historic District, Established 1972" filed with the Town Clerk and with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds. Said map is designated as the map required for filing in accordance with the fourth paragraph of section 3 of said Chapter 40C, as amended. The sources of said map are Assessors Maps No. 40 and No. 49 on file with the Board of Assessors of Hamilton.

2. There is hereby established a Historic District Commission, hereinafter called "The Commission", under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended, consisting of seven members and three alternate members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Before making any appointment the Board of Selectmen shall in writing request the names of two nominees from the Hamilton Historical Society, two nominees from the Chapter of the American Institute of Architects covering Hamilton, and two nominees from the Board of Realtors covering

Hamilton. One appointment shall be made from the two nominees named by each such organization. If any such organization shall fail to name two nominees within thirty days of such request the Board of Selectmen may make the appointment without nomination from such organization. The remaining appointments may be made without nomination from any independent organization. At least one member so appointed shall be a resident of or owner of property within the Historic District. When the Commission is first established, two members shall be appointed for a term of one year, to shall be appointed for a term of two years, and three shall be appointed for three years. Their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years. The filling of vacancies in the membership of the Commission: the designation of alternate members to serve as required, and the election of Officers shall be in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended.

3. The authority of the Commission shall not extend to the review of any of the categories of buildings, structures, or external architectural features in the District set out in items one through seven of Section 8a of Chapter 40C, as amended.

4. The Commission shall have all the powers and perform all the duties conferred and imposed on Historic District Commissions by the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

5. In accordance with Section 14 of General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended, the Commission shall have the powers and duties of a Historical Commission, as provided by General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8D.

6. The Commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40C as amended, and may subject to appropriation, employ clerical and technical assistants or consultants and may accept money gifts and expend same for such purposes.

7. In case any section, paragraph, or part of this by-law be for any reason declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of last resort, every other section, paragraph, or part shall continue in full force and effect.

I hereby certify that the foregoing by-law and map were adopted by the Town of Hamilton under Article 17 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting held March 6, 1972, and approved by Robert H. Quinn, Attorney General on October 25, 1972, Published in the Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle December 20, 27, 1972 and January 3, 1973.

ATTEST: Francis H. Whipple - Town Clerk

**ARTICLE 2009/5 4-5 Revoke Acceptance of M.G.L. 48 Section 57G
Town General By-Law**

Moved by Richard Low, Chair, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town revoke acceptance of M.G.L. 48 Section 57G relative to mandatory compensation of certain heads of Fire and Police Departments and amend the General By-laws by removing the reference thereto in the Town By-laws Chapter III, Section 10.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

CHAPTER III

SELECTMEN

SECTION 10. The Selectmen are authorized and empowered, in accordance with G.L. Chapter 41, Sections 23A and 108N, to appoint a Town Administrator, a Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector and Finance Director and Health Agent, Emergency Center Supervisor and the Recreation Director in accordance with G.L. Chapter 41, Sections 66 and 69, to appoint a Director of Public Works, all for terms of one to three years, and to execute an employment contract with said officials the terms of which may with the concurrence of the Personnel Board vary from the Personnel By-Law. The Selectmen are also hereby authorized and empowered to appoint and to execute employment contracts with a Chief of Police and with a Fire Chief, as set forth in G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108-0, and G.L. Chapter 48, Sections 42, 43, 44 and 57G, the terms of which contracts may with the concurrence of the Personnel Board vary from the Personnel By-Law.

Amend to read:

SECTION 10. The Selectmen are authorized and empowered, in accordance with G.L. Chapter 41, Sections 23A and 108N, to appoint a Town Administrator, a Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector and Finance Director and Health Agent, Emergency Center Supervisor and the Recreation Director in accordance with G.L. Chapter 41, Sections 66 and 69, to appoint a Director of Public Works, all for terms of one to three years, and to execute an employment contract with said officials the terms of which may with the concurrence of the Personnel Board vary from the Personnel By-Law. The Selectmen are also hereby authorized and empowered to appoint and to execute employment contracts with a Chief of Police and with a Fire Chief, as set forth in G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108-0, and G.L. Chapter 48, Sections 42, 43 and 44 the terms of which contracts may with the concurrence of the Personnel Board vary from the Personnel By-Law.

**ARTICLE 2009/5 4-6 Sealer of Weights and Measures Fee Schedule
Town By-law**

Moved by Bill Bowler, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws, Section XXI Schedule of Fees by adding thereto the Sealer of Weights and Measures Fee Schedule set forth in **Appendix K** of the 2009 Appendix Book.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/5-3 Solid Waste Contract

Moved by David Carey, Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Selectmen to enter into a solid waste disposal contract for a term of 6 YEARS, upon such further terms and conditions acceptable to the Selectmen.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2009/5-4 Regional Emergency Communications Center

Moved by Ann Marie Cullen, Chief Dispatcher, duly seconded, that the Town take no action on this article.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES to take NO ACTION
Declared by the Moderator**

**ARTICLE 2009/5-5 Citizen Petition to Amend Hamilton-Wenham Regional
School District Agreement**

Moved by Lynette Fallon, duly seconded, that the Town take no action on this article.

Laurie Wilson from the School Committee responded. Bob Bullivant said the financial decisions are transparent to voters.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES to take NO ACTION

ARTICLE 2009/6-1 Free Cash Application

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Chair, Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town take no action on this article.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES to take NO ACTION

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The Moderator recessed the Annual Town Meeting until May 14, 2009 at 7 o'clock a.m. at the Winthrop School.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
Annual Town Election
Held
Thursday, May 14, 2009
At
Winthrop School, Hamilton, MA**

The polls were opened at 7:00 AM by Moderator Bruce Ramsey.

At the close of Voter Registration on April 14, 2009 there were 5,892 registered voters.

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Democrat	414	370	243	1,027
Green-Rainbow	4	2	3	9
Inter 3rd Party	1	2	1	4
Libertarian	8	1	5	14
Republican	347	432	562	1,341
Unenrolled	1,393	1,170	934	3,497
Totals	2,167	1,977	1,748	5,892

There were **1,844** ballots cast (31% of total voters) as follows:

Precinct 1	--	718
Precinct 2	--	682
Precinct 3	--	444

Candidate Name	Term	1	2	3	TOTALS
Moderator	1 Year				
Blanks		150	132	89	371
Bruce C. Ramsey		555	540	346	1441
Write-ins		13	10	9	32

Selectman	3 Years				
Blanks		5	3	7	15
John Anthony Celata		78	102	51	231
Paul L. Ricker		371	244	175	790
Jennifer Taub Scuteri		262	332	211	805
Write-ins		2	2	0	4

Board of Assessors		3 Years			
Blanks		193	175	116	484
Steven G. Ozahowski		522	504	323	1349
Write-ins		3	3	5	11

Planning Board - Elect 2		5 Years			
Blanks		486	442	308	1236
Edwin M. Howard, Jr.		449	448	270	1167
Marcella L. Ricker		495	467	302	1264
Write-ins		6	7	8	21

Housing Authority					
Blanks		203	189	153	545
Leigh M. Keyser		513	489	288	1290
Write-ins		2	4	3	9

H-W Library Trustee at Large - Elect 2		3 Years			
Blanks		399	366	245	1010
Annette V. Janes		570	523	341	1434
Jean M. Buckley		467	470	299	1236
Write-ins			5	3	8

H-W Regional School Committee - Elect 3		3 Years			
Blanks		919	721	475	2115
Alexa McCloughan		385	418	270	1073
John Joseph O'Keefe		407	426	278	1111
Dacia A. Rubel		430	468	298	1196
Write-ins		13	13	11	37

H-W Regional School Committee - Elect 1		2 Years			
Blanks		270	194	146	610
Theresa Fowley Leary		444	481	292	1217
Write-ins		4	7	6	17

Ballot Question #1 Hamilton-Wenham School District Post-Proposition
2 ½ Debt Exclusion, G.L. Ch.50, Sec. 21C(k)

“Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay its share of the bond issued by the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs of purchasing various pieces

of capital equipment and costs of other improvements to the facilities of the District, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?"

Question #1 School Debt					
\$1,241,000					
Blanks		201	199	134	534
YES		164	191	112	467
NO		353	292	198	843

This motion for a ballot question did not pass by 2/3rds Vote at the Annual Town Meeting-Declared by the Moderator

The Polls closed at 8:00 PM. Results were announced by Moderator Bruce Ramsey at 9:15 PM.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Held
Saturday, October 17, 2009
At
Winthrop Elementary School**

At the close of registration on October 7, 2009 there were 5,697 registered voters in Hamilton, and 8,495 residents.

Precinct 1 - 2123
Precinct 2 - 1954
Precinct 3 - 1620

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

Arthur Towne	-- 20 Savoy Road
Ray Whipple	-- 49 Mill Street
Robert Poole	-- 56B Moynihan Road
Lisa Fibbe	-- 995 Bay Road
Nick Pollard	-- 27 Walnut Road
William Gisness	-- 3 Walnut Lane

The Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, and opened the Special Town Meeting at 9:00 A.M. There were 517 total registered voters checked and present for the Special Town Meeting.

Precinct 1 195
Precinct 2 185
Precinct 3 137

All in attendance rose for the Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator asked non-resident Town officials and those assisting the Selectmen or Finance Committee to be present and available to answer questions. Members of the press and the video crew were also present. He reminded those allowed to attend to do nothing that could influence the counting of a vote.

All other non-registered visitors were seated in the visitors area in the gymnasium located down the hall behind the stage along with the overflow voters.

The Moderator reminded those in attendance the proceedings were being recorded in order to have an accurate record of the meeting. As a result he asked anyone who spoke to use the microphones provided, and unless recognized by name, to give their name and address before speaking.

The Moderator made several announcements before the meeting began.

First, he reminded voters this was the first time Hamilton had two warrants for Town Meetings held in the same day. On a procedural note, he explained the Office of the Secretary of State commanded that when the first Town Meeting was finished, the building must be vacated and a second voter check-in registration be performed before opening the second Town Meeting.

This would take an hour of voter and staff time to repeat the check-in procedure that had been done a few hours earlier. Rather than do this, it was decided to use a special procedure and hold a meeting within a meeting.

Before taking up all of the articles for warrant for Special Town Meeting #1, I will ask for a motion to recess Special Town Meeting #1. If the motion should be seconded and approved, Special Town Meeting #1 will be recessed while we open Special Town Meeting #2 and take up, consider and act on the two articles on the warrant for Special Town Meeting #2.

A separate and complete set of records will be kept for Special Town Meeting #2, separate from Special Town Meeting #1. When both articles on the Special Town Meeting #2 warrant have been acted upon, Special Town Meeting #2 will be dissolved and the recess for Special Town Meeting #1 will end and we will take up and act on the remaining articles following which this meeting will be dissolved.

Because the seating capacity at Winthrop School is only about 300, overflow seating was provided in the gymnasium behind the stage. The gymnasium was connected to the front room by video and audio and non-voters were directed to the gymnasium in order to keep the maximum number of seats in the main room available for voters. If some point later in the meeting it appeared enough seats were available to accommodate everybody the Moderator would call a brief recess to ask the gymnasium people to move to the main room. They also planned to try to accommodate non-voters and visitors in the main room if sufficient space opened up.

The restrooms were located behind the stage in the cross corridor and in the hallway where the voter entrance was located. Exit doors were located at the rear corners of the main room and at the far ends of the hallways and in the voter registration area.

Food, drink and refreshments were available in the school cafeteria. The food service was offered by Hamilton-Wenham Green and beverages were provided by the Winthrop School 5th grade parents and Friends of Winthrop School.

The Moderator appointed three assistant moderators for the Town Meetings to officiate and supervise the actions and needs of voters and visitors, coordinating the tellers with the counted votes and assisting the moderator before, during and after the meeting.

The assistant moderators were:

Richard Flynn	-- 183 Linden Street
Arthur Crosbie	-- 944 Bay Road

For the voter's convenience, the Hamilton by-laws governing Town Meetings were printed and mailed along with the warrant for Special Town Meeting #1. The Moderator explained he would read the motions that summarize the articles and recognize the Town official or other person to make the motion on the article for the meeting to consider it.

Assuming the motion is seconded, he would then recognize the person who made the motion to tell the voters why the motion was before the meeting and what it was intended to accomplish. After this he would open the floor for questions, discussions, and debate.

The Moderator then instructed voters who wished to speak to an issue to proceed to one of the microphones at the front of the center isle. He said that while they would try to accommodate everybody, if they did not move quickly, their window of opportunity might get closed.

The Moderator reiterated the importance of anyone speaking to state their name and address for the meeting minutes.

In order to reconsider an article that was already acted upon and disposed of requires a 2/3rds vote under Town By-Laws. Handout materials related to warrant articles surrounding the Town Manager were not to be handed out or distributed in the hall or the overflow gym except by the assistant moderators. Extra copies of the warrant book and appendix correction sheets were available on the tables next to the voter entrance and the tables for informational materials. Voters were encouraged to pick up the materials at the tables.

The meeting was televised on cable television channel 10. The moderator thanked Bill Melville for his many hours of designing and installing the sound and video services for the Town Meetings.

The Moderator asks those in attendance to turn off the audio on all cell phones and other devices and asks that anyone who must take a call, please leave the meeting hall before taking or returning the call. Blackberry cell phones sometimes cause or aggravate amplifier speaker feedback and if that should occur please turn the Blackberry off.

The Moderator referred to the voter cards and told voters when to hold up the cards when a vote is taken.

SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

No articles in this section.

The Moderator recognized David Carey, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Carey presented a Selectmen's report in which he explained the services and regulations that Town government provides. Selectmen are working to reduce the amount of revenue needed by cutting costs, as well as by managing the Town's assets and risk. The Town is trying to increase

revenues (i.e., \$100,000 gift from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, wind turbine project and downtown planning charette).

The Moderator then introduces those in attendance at the front of the auditorium:

Moderator: Bruce Ramsey

At the front table on stage right -

Town Clerk: Jane Wetson

Assistant Town Administrator: Christine Lindberg

At the elevated table -

Finance Committee: Arthur Oberheim and Bob Bullivant, Co-chairs
Dan Bukkhegyi

Finance Director: Deborah Nippes-Mena

On the left side-

Board of Selectmen:

David Carey, Chairman
Jennifer Scuteri
William Bowler

Town Administrator: Candace Wheeler

Town Counsel: Donna Brewer

A presentation was made by Gretel Clark about the Town’s Recycling and Trash Collection, specifically addressing organic material recycling and how Wenham is participating.

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-1 Compensation/Classification Table

Moved by William Boesch, Personnel Board Chair, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Personnel By-law, as recommended by the Personnel Board, by adopting the classification and compensation table set forth in **Appendix A** to the Appendix Book to this Warrant. The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-2 Appropriation Transfer- Prior Year Bill FY08

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Finance and Advisory Board co-chair, duly seconded, that the Town authorize \$82.62 from the appropriated FY10 Total General Government to pay a FY08 prior year bill.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-3 Community Preservation Committee Projects

Moved by Peter Clark, Community Preservation Committee member, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate monies from community preservation fund annual revenues and specific reserves for the undertaking of community preservation projects as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee and as read by the Moderator [excepting those items held], with each item to be considered a separate appropriation and further that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute agreements, on terms acceptable to the Board, to the extent necessary to complete the projects.

The Moderator then read the items in **Appendix B**. If a resident wished to discuss the item further, they were instructed to say "hold". After all the items were read discussion would be held on each issue.

Historic Preservation – Projects

1. To appropriate \$13,000 from FY 10 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund renovations to the cemetery building in Hamilton's historic Town Cemetery;
2. To appropriate \$33,000 from FY 10 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund the painting of Hamilton's historic Town Hall; **HOLD**
3. To appropriate \$38,000 from FY 10 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund an ADA elevator study, environmental assessment, and space needs study at Hamilton's historic Town Hall; **HOLD**
4. To appropriate \$1,000 from FY 10 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund new signs for Hamilton's Historic District;
5. To appropriate \$28,000 from Historic Preservation Reserves to fund the replacement of the front steps at Hamilton's historic Town Hall; **HOLD**

Recreation – Projects

1. To appropriate \$9,400 from FY 10 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for the Weaver Pond Nuisance Vegetation Control project. **HOLD**

Following the reading of the list, the Moderator explained the initial motion would include Historic Preservation **Projects #1:** \$13,000 for cemetery building, and **#4:** \$1,000 for Historic District signs.

The Moderator called for the vote on these two items.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES.

He then moved on to Historic Preservation **Project #2:** to appropriate \$33,000 from Community Preservation Funds Revenue to fund the painting of Hamilton’s historic Town Hall.

There was discussion among Jeff Sterling of 25 Crescent Road, Dan Ellis, of 16 North Street, and Michael O’Neil, 25 Bridge Street.

The Moderator then called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

CARD VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to stand for a counted vote.

**COUNTED VOTE: YES 168
NO 132**

MOTION PASSES

Following the vote the Moderator addressed Historic Preservation **Project #3:** \$38,000 from Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund an ADA elevator study, environmental assessment, and space needs study at Hamilton’s historic Town Hall.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

*Historic Preservation **Project #5:** \$28,000 from Historic Preservation Reserves to fund the replacement of the front steps at Hamilton’s historic Town Hall was discussed next.*

After some discussion, the Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

Recreation **Project #1** was voted on next to appropriate \$9,400 from FY 10 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for the Weaver Pond Nuisance Vegetation Control project.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-4 General Town FY10 Appropriation Transfers

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Finance and Advisory Board co-chair, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the following transfers for the FY10 General Town Appropriations:

- a. \$5,000 from Total Department of Public Works to Total Health & Human Services
- b. \$4,900 from Total Protection of Persons & Property to Total Health & Human Services
- c. \$36,160 from Total Protection of Persons & Property to Total Unclassified

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

The Moderator explained an article needed to be taken out of order because the presenter had a call related to a medical situation and needed to leave after the article was taken up.

He entertained a motion to take up Article 5-5 out of order. Leon Purington made the motion which was duly seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/10-5-5 Merger of North Shore Vocational Tech. H.S. & Essex Aggie

Moved by David Ketchum, 5 Old Cart Road, duly seconded, that the Town elect to become a member of the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 463 of the Acts of 2004, as amended.

Ketchum introduced Amy O'Malley, Superintendent/Director of North Shore Vocational School District, for a presentation on the merger.

After the presentation the Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-5 **General Town FY10 Appropriation Increases**

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Finance and Advisory Board co-chair, duly seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate money for the following additional FY10 General Town Appropriations:

- a. Increase the appropriation for Total Health & Human Services by \$1,640
- b. Increase the appropriation for Total General Government by \$51,000.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-6 **Water Enterprise FY10 Budget**

Moved by Arthur Oberheim, Co-Chairman of the Finance and Advisory Board, duly seconded, that the Town amend the FY '10 Water Enterprise Budget by transferring \$22,000 from Capital Improvements to Salaries.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-7 **Water Enterprise FY10 Retained Earnings**

Moved by Arthur Oberheim, Co-Chairman of the Finance and Advisory Board, duly seconded, that the Town authorize the transfer of \$22,000 from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to the Water Plant Capital Improvement expense for FY10.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

SECTION 3: PLANNING/ZONING ACTIONS

No articles in this section.

SECTION 4: TOWN BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

**ARTICLE 2009/10-4-1 **Sealer of Weights and Measures Fee Schedule
Town By-law****

Moved by Bill Bowler, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws, Section XXI Schedule of Fees to increase certain fees of the Sealer of Weights and Measures by adopting the fees set forth in **Appendix C** to the Appendix Book to this Warrant.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/10-4-2 **Town Manager language changes Town By-law**

Moved by Susan Wiltshire, Co-Chairman of the Government Study Committee, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws, passim, to delete the term “Town Administrator” and replace it with “Town Manager,” to take effect upon the initial employment of a Town Manager, in the following places: Chapter III, Section 15(b); Chapter XXIV, Section 13; and Chapter XXX, Section 8.B.17.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2009/10-4-3 **Regional School Stabilization Fund**

Moved by Lisa Gaquin, Co-Chairman of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee, duly seconded, that the Town take **NO ACTION** on this article.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES
 To take NO ACTION**

**ARTICLE 2009/10-4-4 **Paper Ballot Votes at Town Meeting
Town By-law****

Moved by Jennifer Scuteri, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws, Ch. II “Rules and Procedures of Town Meetings” by adding a new Section 10 to read as follows: “There shall be a secret ballot vote whenever 25% of the Town Meeting votes in the

affirmative in response to a motion for a paper ballot with respect to an article for overrides, a debt exclusion or a capital outlay expenditure exclusion of greater than \$250,000.00.”

Bill Bowler, Selectman, spoke in opposition to the article. A discussion involving many residents ensued.

After an extensive discussion of the pros and cons of the measure, the Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

CARD VOTE: MOTION FAILS

Declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 2009/10-4-5 Water By-law amendments to comply with DEP Town By-law

Moved by Bill Bowler, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town amend the General By-laws by striking Chapters XXV and XXVI therefrom and replacing them with a new Chapter XXV by adopting the language set forth in **Appendix D** to the Appendix Book to this Warrant.

Peter Clark, of 823 Bay Road, spoke about the motion as applied to the schools and Myopia Hunt Club. Bill Dery, of 356 Chebacco Road, proposed an amendment to the motion to Section D, Section 2 near the last the sentence that starts with the provisions are applicable he wants to insert “private wells” in the exceptions between recycled water and stormwater runoff.

The Moderator then explained Bill Dery was making a motion to amend the motion with an amendment to Appendix D. The motion was to amend Appendix D, Section 2 purpose in the next to last line as printed in the appendix to the warrant to insert after “do not apply to the use of recycling water, private wells, stormwater runoff ...” Duly seconded.

Other residents then discussed the amended motion.

The Moderator called for the vote on the amendment.

VOICE VOTE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT DEFEATED

The Moderator called for the vote on the main motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES
Declared by the Moderator

SECTION 5: OTHER ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2009/10-5-1 **Regional ECO**

Moved by Jennifer Scuteri, Selectman, that the Town authorize the Selectmen to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for a period of up to ten years on terms acceptable to the Selectmen, to provide emergency and non-emergency police, fire, and emergency medical services dispatch with other municipalities in Essex County, to be funded based on a per-capita chargeback through the Cherry Sheet.

The Moderator recognized Rick Jeffries, of the Essex County Sheriff Department, for a presentation. Another representative from the sheriff’s department, Mr. McGowan also addressed the voters.

Several residents spoke to the motion and voiced support and concerns.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: UNCLEAR

The Moderator asked the voters to hold up their voter cards.

CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/10-5-2 **Police Regionalization**

Moved by Lynette Fallon, 38 Goodhue Street, duly seconded, that the Town take **NO ACTION** on this article.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES
 To take NO ACTION**

ARTICLE 2009/10-5-3 **Water MGL c.40, Section 42G-I - Town By-law**

Moved by Bill Bowler, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of MGL c.40, §42 G-I regarding assessments for the laying of water pipes in public and private ways and amend the General By-laws, Ch. IV “Board of Public Works” by adding a new Section 3 as set forth in **Appendix E** to the Appendix Book to this Warrant.

Several residents made comments on this article before the vote.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2009/10-5-4 Water MGL c.40, Section 42J

Moved by Bill Bowler, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of MGL c.40, §42J to defer charges to certain property owners who currently receive state Circuit Breaker exemptions on their real estate tax bills.

The Moderator called for the vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

The Moderator reminded residents that Article 5-5 was already handled so they moved on to Article 5-6.

ARTICLE 2009/10-5-6 Firehouse Place: Amend septic easement

Moved by Bill Bowler, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town grant an amendment of the septic system easement to the owner of 69 Willow St. to maintain and repair the septic system under the Town lot located at the corner of Railroad Ave. and Willow St.

The Moderator reminded residents that because this motion involves the amendment of a conveyance of land it requires a 2/3^{rds} vote.

The Moderator called for the vote.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES by 2/3^{rds} VOTE
Declared by the Moderator**

ARTICLE 2009/10-5-7 Home Rule Petition: Increase Selectmen from 3 to 5

Moved by Susan Wiltshire, Co-Chairman Government Study Committee, duly seconded, that the Town approve and authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact a special act to increase the number of selectmen from 3 to 5, such increase to be effective at the annual Town

Election in May 2010, provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objective of this petition.

Bob Bullivant, of the Finance and Advisory Board, made a motion to amend the motion to change the effective date of the motion from May 2010 to May 2011.

Moved by Bob Bullivant, duly seconded, that the Town approve and authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact a special act to increase the number of selectmen from 3 to 5, such increase to be effective at the annual Town Election in May 2011, provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objective of this petition. Duly seconded.

Several residents and Board members made comments on this motion.

The Moderator reminded voters the amendment was to change the main motion effective date from the Town Election in May 2010 to the Town Election in May 2011.

The Moderator called for the vote on the amendment.

VOICE VOTE: AMENDMENT DOES NOT PASS
Declared by the Moderator

The Moderator called for the vote on the main motion.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES
Declared by the Moderator

The Moderator then entertained a motion to recess the Special Town Meeting #1 to open the Special Town Meeting #2, noticed for this date, this meeting to reopen upon the dissolution or adjournment of the second Special Town Meeting.

Moved by Arthur Crosbie, duly seconded, to recess this meeting to open the second Town Meeting noticed for this date, this meeting to reopen upon the dissolution and adjournment of the second Town Meeting.

The Moderator explained that this allowed those in attendance to go into Town Meeting #2 and come back and finish up one or two articles remaining on the Special Town Meeting #1 warrant without having to evacuate the building and re-register everybody coming back. The counters will have to make sure there is a quorum for the two meetings.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

At 12:42 p.m. the Moderator announced the meeting was in recess from Special Town Meeting #1 to Special Town Meeting #2.

The Moderator reopened Special Town Meeting #1 at 2:11 p.m.

ARTICLE 2009/10-5-8 Meals Tax

Moved by Jennifer Scuteri, Selectman, duly seconded, that the Town accept the provisions of MGL c.64L, §2(a) to impose a local meals excise tax.

An amendment was moved by Jennifer Scuteri, Selectman, and duly seconded, to take no action on the first motion.

Several residents spoke on the motion.

The Moderator called for the vote on the amendment on the initial motion so that the Town could take no action on the article.

VOICE VOTE: AMENDMENT PASSES

The Moderator called for the vote on the main motion to take **no action** on the article.

VOICE VOTE: NO ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN

SECTION 6: CLOSING FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2009/10-6-1 Free Cash Application

Moved by Bob Bullivant, Finance and Advisory Board co-chair, duly seconded, that the Town **take no action**.

The Moderator called for the vote to take NO ACTION under this article.

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES
 To Take NO ACTION**

DISSOLUTION OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING #1

The Moderator dissolved the Special Town Meeting #1 at 2:20 p.m.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

TOWN OF HAMILTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING #2
Held
Saturday, October 17, 2009
At
Winthrop Elementary School

At the close of registration on October 7, 2009 there were 5,697 registered voters in Hamilton, and 8,495 residents.

Precinct 1 - 2123
Precinct 2 - 1954
Precinct 3 - 1620

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn.

Arthur Towne	-- 20 Savoy Road
Ray Whipple	-- 49 Mill Street
Robert Poole	-- 56B Moynihan Road
Lisa Fibbe	-- 995 Bay Road
Nick Pollard	-- 27 Walnut Road
William Gisness	-- 3 Walnut Lane

The Moderator pronounced the tellers sworn after consulting with the Assistant Moderators.

Richard Flynn	-- 183 Linden Street
Arthur Crosbie	-- 944 Bay Road
Ray Desroches	-- 306 Moulton Street

The tellers counted voters and the Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, and opened the Special Town Meeting at 12:42 P.M. There were 517 total registered voters checked and present for the Special Town Meeting.

Precinct 1 195

Precinct 2 185
Precinct 3 137

All in attendance rose for the Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator asked non-resident Town officials and those assisting the Selectmen or Finance Committee to be present and available to answer questions. Members of the press and the video crew were also present. He reminded those allowed to attend to do nothing that could influence the counting of a vote.

All other non-registered visitors were seated in the visitors area in the gymnasium located down the hall behind the stage along with the overflow voters.

The Moderator reminded those in attendance the proceedings were being recorded in order to have an accurate record of the meeting. As a result he asked anyone who spoke to use the microphones provided, and unless recognized by name, to give their name and address before speaking.

There were two articles on the warrant for Special Town Meeting #2 the first was the Cutler School HVAC debt exclusion.

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-8 **Cutler School HVAC Debt Exclusion**

Moved by Lisa Gaguin, Co-Chair of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee, duly seconded, that the Town of Hamilton hereby approve the \$1,531,720.00 borrowing authorized by vote of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District on October 1, 2009, to pay for the costs of remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the HVAC system at the Cutler Elementary School, located at 237 Asbury Street, Hamilton, Massachusetts, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, which vote provided, in relevant part, as follows:

That for the purpose of paying costs of remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the HVAC System at the Cutler Elementary School, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, located at 237 Asbury Street, Hamilton, Massachusetts, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the Cutler School and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, there be and hereby is authorized, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, the incurring of debt on the full faith and credit of the District in the amount of \$1,531,720; that the District acknowledges that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's ("MSBA") grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the

District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) forty-two point five eight percent (42.58%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of each of the District's member towns to exempt the amounts necessary to repay their respective shares of any debt authorized by this vote from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 21C(k)(Debt Exclusion); and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount received from the MSBA prior to the issuance of any bonds or notes authorized under this vote and set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

The Moderator asked Ms. Gaquin for clarification as to whether she intended to say when describing the statute, M.G.L., Ch.59, Sec. 21C(k). He wanted to clarify which statute referred to the Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion provision? Gaquin said yes, she meant to refer to the Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion provision, therefore the motion was corrected to reflect this change.

The Moderator then recognized Dennis O'Leary, Project Engineer, Paul Semanski, Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Business Manager, Mike Hammerl of the Regional School District Building Committee and Jack O'Keefe of the Regional School District as Facilities Liaison to make a presentation on the motion to the voters.

Several residents asked questions.

The Moderator called for a card vote and reminded voters this motion requires a 2/3rds vote.

CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES by 2/3rds VOTE
Declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 2009/10-2-9 Water Enterprise Debt Exclusion

Moved by David Carey, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$310,000 for the purpose of financing upgrades and repairs to the Gordon Thompson Water Treatment Plant, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$310,000 and issue bonds or notes thereof under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or

state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; and that the Board of Selectmen, or other appropriate local body or official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project.

The Moderator reminded residents this motion requires a 2/3 vote. He then recognized John Tomasz, Department of Public Works Director, for a presentation.

The Moderator called for the vote and reminded residents this motion requires a 2/3rds vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

DISSOLUTION OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING #2

Moderator said this closes action on Special Town Meeting #2. He dissolved Special Town Meeting #2 at 2:10 P.M. He then returned to Special Town Meeting #1 to complete the final articles.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

TOWN OF HAMILTON
Special Town Election
Held
Tuesday, November 24, 2009
At
Winthrop School, Hamilton, MA

The polls were opened at 7:00 AM by Moderator Bruce Ramsey.

At the close of Voter Registration on November 4th there were 5,698 registered voters.

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Democrat	415	374	242	1,031
Green-Rainbow	4	1	1	6
Inter 3 rd Party	0	2	1	3
Libertarian	8	1	3	12
Republican	337	416	488	1,241
Unenrolled	1,357	1,164	884	3,405
Totals	2,121	1,958	1,619	5,698

There were **554** ballots cast (10% of total voters) as follows:

Precinct 1 -- 209
Precinct 2 -- 191
Precinct 3 -- 154

Ballot Question #1 Hamilton-Wenham School District
2 ½ Debt Exclusion, G.L. Ch.50, Sec. 21C(k)

“Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay for the costs of remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the HVAC System at the Cutler Elementary School, located at 237 Asbury Street, Hamilton, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?”

Question #1 School Debt Exclusion				
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Blanks	0	0	0	0
YES	168	169	127	464
NO	41	22	27	90

The Polls closed at 8:00 PM. Results were held waiting for Wenham’s vote on December 17, 2009. The results were announced on December 17th at the Wenham election.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk

TOWN OF HAMILTON
Special Primary Election
Held
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
At
Winthrop School, Hamilton, MA

The polls were opened at 7:00 AM by Jane Wetson, Town Clerk.

At the close of Voter Registration on November 18, 2009 there were 5,704 registered voters.

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Democrat	418	374	244	1,036
Green-Rainbow	4	1	1	6
Inter 3rd Party	0	2	1	3
Libertarian	8	1	3	12
Republican	338	415	485	1,238
Unenrolled	1,357	1,165	887	3,409
Totals	2,125	1,958	1,621	5,704

There were **1,248** ballots cast (22% of total voters) as follows:

Precinct 1	--	508
Precinct 2	--	445
Precinct 3	--	295

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Precinct 1	--	141	
Precinct 2	--	127	
Precinct 3	--	<u>96</u>	
		364	Final Total

Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Senator in Congress				
Blanks	0	1	0	1
Scott P. Brown	127	114	79	320
Jack E. Robinson	12	11	16	39
Write-ins	2	1	1	4

DEMOCRAT PARTY

Precinct 1	--	367	
Precinct 2	--	318	
Precinct 3	--	<u>199</u>	
		884	Final Total

Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Senator in Congress				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
Michael E. Capuano	85	57	31	173
Martha Coakley	162	173	110	445
Alan A. Khazei	78	62	36	176
Stephen G. Pagliuca	41	26	22	89
Write-ins	1	0	0	1

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Precinct 1	--	0	
Precinct 2	--	0	
Precinct 3	--	<u>0</u>	
		0	Final Total

Candidate Name	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Senator in Congress				
Blanks	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	2	0	0	0

The Polls closed at 8:00 PM. Results were announced by Moderator Bruce Ramsey at 9:15 PM.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Jane M. Wetson, CMMC
Town Clerk