

Press Release – 2/18/13

## **Notes from the Hamilton Town Council**

The February 14th Hamilton Town Council meeting opened as usual, with remarks from community attendees. We heard from a resident who spoke in support of the new draft wind law for the town of Madison, a concern of Hamilton residents who would feel impacts of wind projects in the adjoining town.

Representatives from SOMAC (our ambulance service) presented a resolution to the town council proposing the creation of a tax district to fund their operations. SOMAC provides a vital resource for the community, and with changes in how hospitals operate, availability of volunteers, hiring EMTs, and funding concerns, SOMAC is reaching its limits of financial viability. Creating a taxing area for the towns that have coverage through SOMAC would ensure the continuation of this valued service. The resolution is under consideration as SOMAC further explores this option and opens discussion on the proposal with the Town of Lebanon.

The meeting proceeded with news from our highway supervisor on plowing and maintaining roads, as well as updating our equipment. Additional housekeeping included review of end of year financial forms, paying bills, and reviewing reports from our code enforcement officer. The town office houses stacks of these and other documents, and is looking at ways to effectively archive records and prioritize what needs to be retained. A committee was formed to determine best policies on this issue which will enable us to lighten the load of what we currently store.

The energy working group reported on the recent meeting with the town council, attorney Joe Catalano, and planner Nan Stolezenburg to discuss the town of Hamilton's comprehensive plan. We learned that our existing plan, put into place in 1999, is a good document that is ready to be updated or amended to reflect the current profile and upcoming needs of the town. We discussed working with a planner and the community to move forward with this work. The town council also passed a resolution in support of hiring Delta Engineering to put a road protection plan in place for the Town of Hamilton. We are talking to adjoining towns about joining us as a way to save costs and create uniform road use laws in our area.

The Hamilton Town Council meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Town of Hamilton office in the Village of Hamilton at 7pm. Our next regular meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2013. We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org/>

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Submitted by  
Chris Rossi, Hamilton Town Council