



# Town of Wenham

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Hamilton and Wenham and Regional School District Secure Commonwealth Community Innovation Challenge Grant for \$90,000**

WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS—

Dr. Kenneth F. Whittaker, Esq., Chairman of the Wenham Board of Selectmen stated: “Wenham is pleased to have taken the lead on this creative grant opportunity. The Towns of Hamilton and Wenham have a rich history of sharing precious municipal resources in an efficient and effective manner. In a unique fashion, the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham and the Hamilton – Wenham Regional School District are endeavoring to build upon this high level of success by engaging in novel approaches to improving essential government services and creating the first in the Commonwealth combined Public Facilities and Infrastructure Department encompassing two towns and the regional school district.”

The Patrick Administration developed the Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant program in 2012. The program encourages and incentivizes regionalization based upon the belief that the most crucial and visible interactions between government and citizens occur locally. In two years, the program invested \$6.25 million in 49 unique projects that involve 197 municipalities across the Commonwealth. The Towns of Hamilton and Wenham along with the Hamilton – Wenham Regional School District received a first ever CIC grant award of \$30,000 in 2013. This grant was used to engage the University of Massachusetts Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management to assist with legal and organizational framework for the creation of this new public works department.

Patrick Wilson, Vice Chairman of the Wenham Board of Selectmen stated: “The School District and the Towns are committed to moving forward to design and implement a new paradigm for the management of all public facilities, infrastructure, and grounds maintenance, including routine and preventative building maintenance, capital repairs and overall infrastructure improvements. The potential savings to the citizens of Hamilton and Wenham and the opportunities to increase quality and efficiency are substantial. The award of the Community Innovation Challenge Grant further empowers us to ensure that the taxpayers are well served. This creative program will be the linchpin of our delivery of effective and efficient services to both Towns and the Hamilton – Wenham Regional School District.”

Jack Wilhelm, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen added: “This grant award will provide a solid foundation for our continued partnership with the Town of Hamilton and the Hamilton – Wenham Regional School District taking further advantage of this valuable partnership. We look forward to the financial and personnel management benefits that roll out under this innovation program”.

“We are proud of the extraordinary efforts of our respective Boards of Selectmen, the Hamilton – Wenham Regional School District and our staff for their hard work in securing the second consecutive Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant. We seized the opportunity to follow up on our initial award of \$30,000 in FY 2013”. Said Mark Andrews, Wenham Town Administrator.

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