

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
February 24, 2025
7PM - MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - HANOVER, NH**

The meeting of the Selectboard was called to order at 7p.m. by C. Callaghan, Chair.

Also present were: Joanna Whitcomb, Vice Chair, Athos Rassias, Selectboard Member, Rob Houseman, Town Manager, Jennie Chamberlain, Selectboard Member, Jarett Berke, Selectboard Member; Ellen Bullion, Finance Director

Absent: None

1. Opening of Meeting

a. Call to Order

C. Callaghan called the meeting to order.

2. Public Hearing

None

3. Agenda Review

Trustees of Trust fund presentation will move ahead of budget review.

4. Announcements/recognition

R. Houseman recognized the 5-year anniversaries of employees.

5. Public Comment

a. Public may address the Board

David Vincelette, 93 Lebanon St noted after the last meeting he received a letter from Rob Houseman relating to asphalt waste. He addressed this letter, and letters received from NH DES in 2005 and 2018. He recapped a timeline of events.

Questions previously asked relating to who authorized the dumping of asphalt waste and who participated were addressed. He asked a few more questions he would like answered.

6. Business Requiring Discussion

b. Trustees of the Trust Fund - Trust Fund Overview

The Trustees of the Trust Funds have prepared their annual report and Sally Boyle, Chair, presented an overview. Kari Asmus, Trustee, also participated in the discussion.

The presentation included:

- Trustee of Trust Funds Role and Responsibilities
- Review Current Fund Balances and Type of Investments
- Current Status of the Bressett Endowment Fund
 - Discussion on the process for holding funds specified for one fiscal year to use in the next fiscal year
 - Discussion on criteria for allocation of funds and procedure underway for legal review
- Trustees' Bressett Fund Recommendations

a. Consolidated Budget Review - FY 2026

Ellen Bullion, Finance Director, prepared an overview of the consolidated budget and presented it to the board.

Over the past month, the departments have presented their proposed FY 2026 budgets. These budgets were built based on the Zero-based Budgeting philosophy which was very well received. All the budgets have been consolidated and the

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chart provided shows an initial analysis of the General Fund budget. This analysis signals a 5.3% tax rate increase, and the major factors of the calculation are as follows:

- Net Assessed Value
- Revenues
- Appropriations
 - Compensation
 - Healthcare
 - Retirement
 - Insurance
 - Debt Service
 - Capital Reserve Funds

The board reviewed the information provided, asked clarifying questions and held discussion.

Rich Gregor, Finance Committee asked some clarifying questions relating to the options of the middle school change since there hasn't been an official vote yet.

Kari Asmus, CIPC asked about the healthy undesignated fund balance and whether some of those funds could be moved into a capital reserve fund to cover needs we know we have.

Board members thanked and complemented Ellen on the format of the one-page sheet.

c. MW TIF District Update

J. Whitcomb recused herself from the item.

R. Houseman presented an overview of the TIF District plan including the proposed improvements for the roadway, costs and timeline.

Board members asked questions about loss of parking, lane drop feedback, finances of a TIF, and potential tax increases for Main St property owners.

Kari Asmus asked about whether more property tax revenue will come in if the TIF district is created vs if no TIF district. She does not think there will be.

7. Business Requiring Action

a. Approval of items by Consent

i. Approval of February 10, 2025, Selectboard Minutes

At 8:53 pm J. Berke MOVED to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025 as submitted. J. Whitcomb SECONDED. All in favor

ii. Donations – Etna Library

\$200.00 given by Julia M. Wybourne

\$1,000 given in memory of Peregrine B. Spiegel (no donor listed)

\$25,000 given in memory of Pietie Birnie by the Birnie Family

Action Requested: Accept the donations to the Etna Library as listed above.

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At 8:53 pm A. Rassias MOVED to accept the donations to the Etna Library. J. Whitcomb SECONDED. All in favor

8. Selectboard Reports

- A. Rassias
 - Conservation Commission
 - Deer program- possible expansion
 - Mink Brook Forest Management
- J. Whitcomb
 - Sustainable Hanover
 - Trustees of Trust Funds
 - Discussion on Bressett Fund interpretation of uses
- C. Callaghan
 - Finance Committee
- J. Berke
 - Nothing to report
- J. Chamberlain
 - Regional Planning Commission
 - Junction Arts Media

Other Business

J. Chamberlain thanked R. Houseman for information on the intersection at College and Wheelock. She requested the item be put back on the agenda for another discussion and additional public comment.

Board members discussed their opinions on the matter at length.

9. Adjournment

The board did not need to attend a non-public session.

A Rassias MOVED to adjourn at 9:38pm. J. Berke SECONDED.

All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jarett Berke, Secretary

SUMMARY

Item 7a

At 8:53 pm J. Berke MOVED to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025 as submitted. J. Whitcomb SECONDED.

All in favor

At 8:53 pm A. Rassias MOVED to accept the donations to the Etna Library. J. Whitcomb SECONDED. All in favor

Item 9

The board did not need to attend a non-public session.

A Rassias MOVED to adjourn at 9:38pm. J. Berke SECONDED.

All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:38PM.