

Selectboard  
March 6, 2023  
FINAL

**SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**March 6, 2023**

**7:30 P.M. - MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - HANOVER, NH**

The meeting of the Selectboard was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Chair Peter Christie. Also present were: Bill Geraghty, Selectboard Member, Joanna Whitcomb, Selectboard Member, Alex Torpey, Town Manager

Absent: Vice Chair Rassias, Nancy Carter, Selectboard Member

**1. Public Comment**

None

**2. Recommendation to Set Public Hearing on Monday, March 20, 2023 to Adopt the Updated 2023 Hanover Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The Hanover Hazard Mitigation Plan has been updated for 2023 and now needs to be adopted by the Selectboard. This document is 184 pages and is available on the website for review.

Action Requested: Town Staff recommends scheduling a Public Hearing on Monday, March 20, 2023 to adopt this Plan.

**At 7:31pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Set Public Hearing on Monday, March 20, 2023 to Adopt the Updated 2023 Hanover Hazard Mitigation Plan. Selectboard Member Whitcomb. SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

**3. Recommendation to Set Public Hearing on Monday, March 20, 2023 to Review Request for Easement on Bent Road**

The Public Works Department has been discussing the need to establish a better plow turn around at the end of the Bent Road which currently utilizes the driveway of the Bent's property. The Department of Public Works and Timothy Bent are in agreement to establishing a new turnaround and for the need for the easement.

Action Requested: Town Staff recommends scheduling a Public Hearing on Monday, March 20, 2023 to review this request.

**At 7:32 pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Set Public Hearing on Monday, March 20, 2023 to Review Request for Easement on Bent Road. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

**4. Sustainable Hanover Community Power Update**

Sustainable Hanover will present a brief update on the launch of Hanover Community Power's program as we lead up to the launch date this spring.

Judi Colla handed out some PR materials to the board. The PR team is meeting weekly among themselves as well as meeting weekly with the representatives from the other towns.

The timeline has been delayed. We don't yet have the rates so everything is pushed back a bit including the mailing and the public meeting. They are setting up a back up meeting date. The launch will now be the third or fourth week of April rather than the first.

Those with solar panels will not be automatically enrolled as we originally thought.

The CPCNH website is live and that's where people can go to sign up.

It is still TBD which plan Hanover participants that are automatically enrolled will be signed up for.

Competitive suppliers have been sending mail advertisements – this is nothing to do with the program and unfortunately it is confusing some folks.

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**5. Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Union Contract for FY 2023/2024 with AFSCME Local 3657, Police Department Employees**

AFSCME Local 3657 (Police) members have approved the agreement reached between the Town and the AFSCME bargaining unit. The next step is for the Board to ratify the contract at the Selectboard public hearing. Once the Board acts, this item is then officially placed on the warrant for Town Meeting in May.

Action Requested: Adopt the Proposed Union Contract with AFSCME Local 3657, Police Department Employees, on Monday evening.

Matt Upton, Labor Attorney noted the agreements before the board tonight are fair and balanced. There is a 5% COLA, steps, and one-time payments. This will hopefully attract new employees and fill vacancies as they come up.

The contracts are supported by the department heads.

Public Comment:

Kari Asmus asked the status of the critical shortage contract for police.

Mr. Upton said it's ongoing, but it's close to coming back to full staff.

Some discussion occurred about overtime, line items and which funds will support them.

**At 7:42 pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Adopt Proposed Union Contract for FY 2023/2024 with AFSCME Local 3657, Police Department Employees. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

**6. Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Union Contract for FY 2023/2024 with AFSCME Local 1348, Public Works Employees**

AFSCME Local 1348 (Public Works) members have approved the agreement reached between the Town and the AFSCME bargaining unit. The next step is for the Board to ratify the contract at the Selectboard public hearing. Once the Board acts, this item is then officially placed on the warrant for Town Meeting in May.

Action Requested: Adopt the Proposed Union Contract with AFSCME Local 1348, Public Works Employees, on Monday evening.

Matt Upton noted this contract is similar to the other with the exception of the one-time fee being a little lower and the stipend for licensed folks doubled, which makes up that difference in the one-time payment.

These contracts also include a referral bonus of \$1000 upon hire and \$1000 after 6 months.

Public Comment:

Kari Asmus asked if critical shortage starts right away, or on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Upton answered her questions.

**At 8:00 pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Adopt Proposed Union Contract for FY 2023/2024 with AFSCME Local 1348, Public Works Employees. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

**7. Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Union Contract for FY 2023/2024 with IAFF Local 3288, Firefighters**

IAFF Local 3288, (Firefighters) members have approved the agreement reached between the Town and the IAFF bargaining unit. The next step is for the Board to ratify the contract at the Selectboard public hearing. Once the Board acts, this item is then officially placed on the warrant for Town Meeting in May.

Action Requested: Adopt the Proposed Union Contract with IAFF Local 3288, Firefighters, on Monday evening.

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Matt Upton noted this contract gave the employees two missing steps that were discovered. They also receive the 5% COLA and a small one-time payment of \$150. Finding the funds for this has helped morale.

There is a comp time item in the contract that is 84 hours max to carry for the year and must be used or paid out at end of year. This is allowed for public firefighter employees, though not for other jobs in the state.

Public Comment:

Kari Asmus asked about steps, holidays, and physical fitness.

Mr. Upton clarified the steps that they will receive are two steps on July 1 and a third step on their anniversary during 2023/2024. No changes were made regarding physical fitness, the focus was on fixing the missed steps.

Mr. Torpey expounded that we are working towards uniformity among all employees through these contracts and look forward to continuing this with future contracts.

**At 8:03 pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Adopt Proposed Union Contract for FY 2023/2024 with IAFF Local 3288, Firefighters. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

#### **8. Recommendation to Adopt Abatements as Recommended by Advisory Board of Assessors**

The Advisory Board of Assessors met on February 3, 2023 to hear requests for abatements. The decisions of the Board of Assessors are ready for the Selectboard's acceptance. From there, if a property owner is still not in agreement with the decision of the Town, they can appeal their case to either the Grafton County Superior Court or the NH Board of Tax and Land Appeals.

Action Requested: The Selectboard's role is to accept what the Board of Assessors has decided as the final step in the Town process.

**At 8:14pm, Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to approve the Recommendation to Adopt Abatements as Recommended by Advisory Board of Assessors. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

#### **9. Banner Request – Hanover Conservancy; The Prouty; Hood Museum of Art; Upper Valley Business Alliance**

The Hanover Conservancy has made a request to hang 5 Light Post banners from June 5, 2023 to June 26, 2023 promoting Annual Hanover Trails Challenge. If approved, we can accommodate this request.

The Prouty has requested 10 Light Post banners from June 26, 2023 to July 17, 2023 and a Main Street Banner from July 9, 2023 to July 16, 2023 promoting The Prouty on July 16th. If approved, we can accommodate these requests.

The Hood Museum of Art has requested 3 Light Post banners from April 1, 2023 to October 1, 2023. As the Hood's front entrance is mostly blocked by construction fencing for the Hopkins Center remodel, the Hood has identified 3 light posts on Lebanon Street for this request. These light posts have primarily been used for holiday snowflake decorations and have been approved for the Hood's use by the Parks and Recreation Department. If approved, we can accommodate this request.

The Upper Valley Business Alliance has made a request for a Main Street banner to be hung from April 2, 2023 to April 8, 2023 to promote the Week of the Young Child. If approved, we can accommodate this request.

**At 8:15pm, Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED to approve the banner requests. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

#### **10. Appointments – Planning Board**

The Planning Board has a full member vacancy. Kristine McDevitt, an alternate Planning Board member has agreed to serve as a full member for a three year term.

Action Requested: Appoint Kristine McDevitt as a full member of the Planning Board for a three year term.

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**At 8:16pm, Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to Appoint Kristine McDevitt as a full member of the Planning Board for a three year term. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

### **11. Donations – Etna Library**

The Etna Library has received a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from John and Huntly Hashagen in memory of Hank Smith. As this amount is over \$25.00 the donation requires Selectboard acceptance.

Action Requested: Town staff recommends accepting the \$100.00 donation to the Etna Library from John and Huntly Hashagen in memory of Hank Smith.

**At 8:17pm, Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED to accept the donation to the Etna Library. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

### **12. Administrative Reports**

A. Torpey gave his administrative report:

- Budget
  - Updated information is on the website and will be updated weekly through the expected budget approval on March 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Dartmouth's incoming President
- NH and VT Secretaries of State visit Hanover
- April ICMA Conference in Burlington, VT
- Hanover Community Power
- Downtown Hanover
- Solar Exemptions
- Styrofoam recycling update
- Free COVID-19 tests

#### Other Business

Selectboard Member Geraghty confirmed some dates with Mr. Torpey.

March 20        expected vote on the budget  
March 27        vote on budget if not ready on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
April 10        vote on warrant articles for Town Meeting

#### Selectboard reports

Selectboard Member Whitcomb noted bicycle skills clinic April 30 Walk and Roll to school day is May 3.

March 7 school budget vote.

### **13. Adjournment**

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

**Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to adjourn at 8:26pm. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Whitcomb, Secretary

**SUMMARY**

**Item 2**

**At 7:31pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Set Public Hearing on Monday, March 20, 2023 to Adopt the Updated 2023 Hanover Hazard Mitigation Plan. Selectboard Member Whitcomb. SECONDED the Motion. All in favor**

**Item 3**

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**Item 7**

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**Item 8**

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**Item 9**

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**Item 10**

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