

Selectboard
April 10, 2023
FINAL

SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 10, 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, Nancy Carter, Selectboard Member, Vice Chair Athos Rassias, Alex Torpey, Town Manager, Finance Director Ellen Bullion

Absent: None

Chair Christie explained the process for public comment.

1. Public Comment

David Vincelette, 93 Lebanon St listed grievances against the Town which he has mentioned at previous meetings regarding issues at his residence in the past.

Whit Spaulding, Chair of Conservation Commission- here tonight as a resident- shared some thoughts on the project proposed to use five acres of Mink Brook Forest for affordable housing. He is in favor of the project and thanked everyone who has helped to move the project forward. He asked what the process is if the warrant is approved- will the parcel be conveyed at that point, or will that be separate? Whoever the partner is going to be needs to be transparent with their experience and whether they can make happen the project as the various donors and stakeholder's desire. Twin Pines would be a great choice.

Board members noted this is an item on tonight's agenda under the warrant and will be discussed at that time.

Kari Asmus, Etna asked again about Memorial Day not being a break-even event anymore. Less veterans tax credits for this current budget year have been paid out than what was anticipated in the budget by \$2000. Is it possible to use the funds that weren't spent on veterans tax credit towards that event?

Selectboard Member Whitcomb expressed that the idea of needing to break even for events like this and Parks and Rec programs is not the way to go. There are some needs that the Town just needs to spend the money on.

Selectboard Member Geraghty agreed with her and also noted he understood that the groups have lost interest in participating. The organizers should discuss this and find out if the groups are interested and available or not, but it should not be limited due to a budget item.

Mr. Torpey will discuss this item with Parks and Recreation Director.

2. Review and Approval of 5 Easement Deeds for Dartmouth College/Town of Hanover Projects and to authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary documents

Included in your packet are 5 easement deeds from which are housekeeping items from projects that the Town and College have been working on over the past 13 or more years. Additional information on each Easement Deed has been prepared by Rob Houseman to further explain the need for each document. Town staff requests the Selectboard approve each Easement Deed and authorize the Town Manager to execute the documents on behalf of the Town.

Action Requested: Approve the 5 Easement Deeds for projects between Dartmouth College/Town of Hanover Projects and authorize the Town Manager to execute the Deeds on behalf of the Town.

There was some question whether Selectboard has authority to approve deeds ahead of Town Meeting.

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At 7:45pm, Chair Christie MOVED to table this item to a meeting following Town Meeting.

There was no second or vote, but the item was not heard by the board.

3. Request and Recommendation from Hanover Parks and Recreation to Read and Sign Arbor Day Proclamation

Hanover Parks and Recreation request the Board Read and adopt the Arbor Day Proclamation and designate April 21, 2023 as Arbor Day by signing the Arbor Day Proclamation.

Action Requested: Read the Arbor Day Proclamation and designate April 21, 2023 as Arbor Day.

Selectboard Member Geraghty read the proclamation and the board members signed it.

At 7:47pm, Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED to adopt the Arbor Day Proclamation and designate April 21, 2023 as Arbor Day. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Public Comment

Karen Geiling asked how the community will hear about this proclamation which was answered.

4. Proclamations – Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works has provided two Proclamations to be read tonight, one for William Brown and one for Moses Delphia.

Action Requested: Read the Proclamation for William Brown and Moses Delphia on Monday evening.

Chair Christie read the proclamations into the record.

5. Review of Request to Abate Water/Sewer Bill for Property Located at 34 Rayton Road

Due to an unexplained issue while this home was unoccupied last summer, the residents received a large water and sewer bill in September, 2022. It was speculated that something was left running or on during the time frame of this billing period although the residents dispute that. Further testing of the water meter and review of the home for leaks also provided no further explanation. The residents request an abatement determined by the Public Works Department to be in the amount of \$1,555.00.

Action Requested: Review the Request to Abate the Water/Sewer bill in the amount of \$1,555.00 and determine if this amount should be abated. Further, Town staff requests that any future water & sewer bill abatement request be denied due to the homeowners now having access to a customer water portal which allows them to monitor usage themselves.

Chair Christie noted it is not clear in the documents whether town staff recommends this abatement or not. Mr. Torpey will ask for more information, a recommendation from staff and whether a partial abatement is permitted.

6. Pre-Town Meeting Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Warrant for the 2023 Town Meeting

The draft Warrant for the 2023 Town Meeting is ready for board review and adoption. The board will be asked to take a position for or against each item on the warrant which will be published on the final warrant.

Public hearing opened

The board went through each warrant article one by one.

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Article 1: Selectboard Members

Chair Christie and Selectboard Member Geraghty's terms are ending. Chair Christie is running again for another term. Selectboard Member Geraghty is not. Two additional people are running for these Positions.

Some clarifications to the explanations were suggested by Chair Christie.

Articles 2 - 7 Planning Board

Chair Christie noted that the zoning explanations are not very helpful though he understands these are written to meet the legal criteria.

Mr. Torpey will review the explanations with Planning Department Director Rob Houseman to clean them up.

Article 8

Selectboard vote 5-0 in favor of article 8.

Article 9

Selectboard Member Geraghty commented that there has been much discussion and review of this item by the Selectboard previous to this meeting.

Selectboard vote 5-0 in favor of article 9.

Article 10

Selectboard vote 5-0 in favor of article 10.

Article 11

Chair Christie noted a grammatical error in the explanation portion.

Selectboard vote 5-0 in favor of article 11.

Article 12

Chair Christie noted a potential grammatical error within the article.

Language within the explanation portion was also clarified.

Selectboard vote 5-0 in favor of article 12.

Article 13

Chair Christie noted this article contains explanations that should be in the explanation portion rather than the article itself. The board wasn't sure if the language was required within the article. Mr. Torpey can look into that and move it if possible.

The board decided it was not harmful so they will leave the explanation and article as is written.

Selectboard vote 5-0 in favor of article 13.

Article 14

The explanation portion was discussed and noted it is copied into the document twice and does not reference the most updated RSA version.

Town Manager updated the language for the article.

Kari Asmus suggested some further changes to the language.

Selectboard agreed with the language but Town Manager will send it to the lawyers for approval.

Selectboard vote 5-0 in favor of article 14 as revised.

Article 15

Chair Christie presented a revised language suggestion within the explanation.

Board members refined the language for the explanation portion.

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Kari Asmus relayed information about a project from years ago and the process that was used. This proposed project doesn't seem to have as much community outreach informational sessions and she suggested those.

Margaret Bragg, 108 Greensboro Road is an abutter and is concerned about the change of density to the project since it was first proposed.

Edgar Parrado, 124 Greensboro Road asked about the Town Meeting process regarding this issue. Board members explained the procedure.

Karen Geiling, Hollenbeck Lane, an original donor and supporter of the project is concerned about the language in the article not being transparent enough about the density options. She requested the board postpone this warrant article to allow for more community conversation prior to a vote.

Selectboard vote 5-0 in favor of article 15 as revised.

Article 16

Kari Asmus asked if amendments to the ordinance will be allowed on the floor for this article.

Town Manager will look into this.

She also made a suggestion for language revision within the warrant article which the board discussed.

She thanked the board for bringing this item to Town Meeting rather than keeping it at the Selectboard level.

She still expressed concern about adopting the ordinance as not being in the best interest of the Town.

Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 16.

Article 17

The board discussed and confirmed with E. Bullion specific amounts for unassigned fund balance for multiple fiscal years.

Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 17.

Article 18

Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 18.

Article 19

Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 19.

Article 20

Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 20.

Article 21

Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 21.

Article 22

Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 22.

Article 23

Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 23.

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Article 24

Kari Asmus as Finance Committee Chair thanked the board and staff for all of the extra work getting the numbers right.
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 24.

Article 25
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 25.

Article 26
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 26.

E. Bullion will confirm the language in the bargaining agreements regarding the phrase 'vacation sell-back' and if incorrect, update the explanatory sections of articles 25, 26 and 27 with the proper term.

Article 27
Kari Asmus as Finance Committee Chair asked some clarifying questions about the language as well as what the funds are for. Chair Christie and Mr. Torpey gave explanations.
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 27 with revised explanatory language.
Selectboard Member Geraghty further explained the change in procedure from previous years to this proposed budget regarding undesignated fund vs. tightening up all budget lines and having a minimal fund for unforeseen necessities.

Article 28
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 28.

Article 29
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 29.

Article 30
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 30.

Article 31
Discussion occurred regarding employee compensation for Parks and Rec vs what article 31 includes.
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 31.

Article 32
The board questioned if this is legal and Town Manager confirmed it is actually required. They discussed the explanatory language and requested it be condensed.
Selectboard vote 5-0 on article 32.

Public hearing closed

The board members discussed and decided which member will present each article at Town Meeting:

Article 8	Peter Christie
Article 9-11	Nancy Carter
Article 12-13	Bill Geraghty
Article 14-15	Joanna Whitcomb
Article 16-20	Athos Rassias

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Article 21-23 Nancy Carter

Article 24-27 Bill Geraghty

Article 28 Peter Christie

Article 29-32 Joanna Whitcomb

Article 33 Town Moderator

7. Banner Requests – Hanover Improvement Society for Storrs Pond Recreation Area and Champion Rink

Jeff Graham of the Hanover Improvement Society has requested that the Storrs Pond Recreation Area overhead banner be hung during times no other banner is hung to promote memberships and the Champion Rink overhead banner be hung also on weeks no other banner is hung to promote continuing fundraising.

Action Requested: As specific time frames are not requested staff can accommodate this request as time allows.

At 9:46pm, Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the banner requests. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

8. Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2023; April 3, 2023

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

9. Administrative Reports

A. Torpey gave his reports also noting due to the time spent on the budget and preparing the Town Warrant, I and my office are significantly behind on a number of emails, messages, and projects. We have worked well beyond our hours, including over some weekends and holidays, and will hopefully be getting caught up in the next few weeks – but we ask for patience and consideration as we get back up to speed!

- Budget
 - Spoke with both organizations about the Bressett requests. Will streamline the application process and clarify the criteria
- Human Resources
- Hanover Community Power
- Downtown Hanover Working Group
- Other
 - Traffic Safety
 - Town Hall hedges
 - Election Vote Tabulator Testing
 - Secretary of State and vendor will have representatives on site 7am-7pm to handle any machine issues
 - New website
 - Dartmouth Meetings

10. Selectboard Reports

Selectboard Member Joanna Whitcomb

Selectboard Member Whitcomb met with Bike Walk committee and they have some events coming up:

- Bike/Walk to school day in May
- April 30 bike rodeo

Hanover Historical Society is hosting a talk at the Howe and online April 11.

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Selectboard Member Nancy Carter

Selectboard Member Carter noted the Planning board voted to approve a project involving moving portions of the track at the high school. 14 West Wheelock application will be reheard on Tuesday May 2nd.

Chair Peter Christie

Chair Peter Christie had nothing to report.

Selectboard Member Bill Geraghty

Selectboard Member Geraghty had nothing to report.

Vice Chair Athos Rassias

Vice Chair Rassias had nothing to report.

11. Other Business

Chair Christie is finishing up the Selectboard report for the Town Report which will be ready tomorrow.

12. Adjournment

Per NH RSA 91-A:3 E and L, the Selectboard needed to attend a non-public session. The board took a roll call vote to enter the non-public session.

Roll call vote: P. Christie- yes, , J. Whitcomb- yes, B. Geraghty-yes, N. Carter-yes, A. Rassias-yes

The board entered non-public session at 9:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Whitcomb, Secretary

SUMMARY

Item 2

At 7:45pm, Chair Christie MOVED to table this item to a meeting following Town Meeting.

There was no second or vote, but the item was not heard by the board.

Item 3

At 7:47pm, Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED to adopt the Arbor Day Proclamation and designate April 21, 2023 as Arbor Day. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Item 7

At 9:46pm, Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the banner requests. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Item 12

Per NH RSA 91-A:3 E and L, the Selectboard needed to attend a non-public session. The board took a roll call vote to enter the non-public session.

Roll call vote: P. Christie- yes, , J. Whitcomb- yes, B. Geraghty-yes, N. Carter-yes, A. Rassias-yes

The board entered non-public session at 9:59pm.

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