

Selectboard
May 1, 2023
FINAL

SELECTBOARD MEETING

May 1, 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, Alex Torpey, Town Manager

Absent: Vice Chair Athos Rassias

Chair Christie explained the process for public comment.

1. Public Comment

Jane Masters, 15 Willow Spring Circle is concerned about cell phone reception in Hanover and the new timetable for the sidewalk installation on Verona. She brought these issues to the board for their information and updates.

Mr. Torpey noted the cell service is on the Town's long-term radar.

The board noted the Verona sidewalk is on the DPW list for this year, but they are short staffed. The money set aside needs to be used by June of 2027, but there's no current definitive scheduled date.

Carey Callahan introduced to the board a new resident to Hanover who was evacuated from Afghanistan. He will be attending the high school and his extended family is all due to arrive soon.

He is interested in learning how local government works and was interested to attend tonight's meeting.

Kari Asmus, 2 Sausville Rd asked about Muster day which she posed at the April 10th meeting. She understands there are financial and staffing restraints and has spoken to the scouts who are interested in participating. What else can she or staff do to make this event happen this year?

The board discussed whether they can decide to let a citizen take on this project on their own if the Town staff does not have the time to do so. Ms. Asmus suggested that Parks and Rec take the lead and she can support them as needed.

Mr. Torpey noted this event is not in the budget for this year or next year. It's too late to add it to the staff schedule at this point (this and additional positions are vacant in Parks and Rec) and there is no money allocated for it. Parks and Rec is in favor of bringing the event back when there is ample time and budget for it.

The plan that was in place is for Ms. Asmus to meet with the relevant staff to iron out details, though she seemed reluctant to do so. The board suggested she take that route and if the staff is able to support the event, they will, but if it doesn't work out for this year, it should be on the event schedule for next year.

2. Review of Request for Reallocation of Supplemental Highway and Supplemental Bridge Aid Funds

On September 12, 2022 the Selectboard accepted supplemental state aid highway funding in the amount of \$240,739.71 for use in funding a 50% match for LED Streetlight Replacement project with any unused balance to be applied to the repair of the large drain outfall adjacent to the southern edge of Ledyard Bridge.

On February 27, 2023 the Selectboard accepted supplemental bridge aid funding in the amount of \$219,869.96 with the understanding that Peter Kulbacki, Director of Public Works, would be requesting an allocation for a bridge that was not completed within the FY 21 bridge bond allotment.

As indicated in Peter Kulbacki's interoffice memo, funds have been saved in one project while additional funds are needed for other projects due to increased costs.

Action Requested: Reallocate \$219,869.96 of the supplemental bridge aid accepted on February 27, 2023 and reallocate up to \$60,130.04 of the supplemental highway funding accepted on September 12, 2022 to the replacement of the

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bridge near the intersection of Ruddsboro and Three Mile Roads with any remaining unexpended balance of highway aid not used to complete the LED street light replacement and bridge at Ruddsboro and Three Mile Roads reallocated to the cross country path between Verona Street and Reservoir Road.

Kari Asmus as Finance Committee asked why the proposal is not to use the bond money for the bridge for the purpose it was bonded. Chair Christie noted the plan was to draw down the entire bond, but we were one bridge short and the cost escalated. He believes the anticipated cost of the other four bridges will draw down that balance.

At 7:23pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Reallocate \$219,869.96 of the supplemental bridge aid accepted on February 27, 2023 and reallocate up to \$60,130.04 of the supplemental highway funding accepted on September 12, 2022 to the replacement of the bridge near the intersection of Ruddsboro and Three Mile Roads with any remaining unexpended balance of highway aid not used to complete the LED street light replacement and bridge at Ruddsboro and Three Mile Roads reallocated to the cross country path between Verona Street and Reservoir Road. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Chair Christie and Mr. Torpey discussed the cost of the cross country path and how much is cash vs 'in-kind'. Mr. Torpey will bring back more information.

3. 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: Approve a one time abatement in the amount of \$1,555.00 and request the homeowner access the customer portal to self monitor flows while the home is unoccupied to avoid a possible repeat situation in the future.

At 7:28pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Approve a one time abatement in the amount of \$1,555. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

4. Review of Recommendation for Elderly Exemption – 17 Etna Road

The Assessing Department has received a Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemption requesting an Elderly Exemption be approved. The Assessing Department recommends this application be approved.

Action Requested: Approve the request for Elderly Exemption.

At 7:31pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Approve the request for Elderly Exemption. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

5. Review of Recommendation for Veterans' Credit – 4 Hunter Lane and 6 Bridgman Road

The Assessing Department has received two Permanent Applications for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions requesting a Veteran's Tax Credit. The Assessing Department recommends these applications be approved.

Action Requested: Approve the requests for Veterans' Credit.

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At 7:31pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Approve the requests for Veterans' Credit. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

6. Review of Recommendation for Current Use Application – 71 Stevens Road

The Assessing Department has received an application for Current Use Assessment which is recommended for approval.

Action Requested: Approve the request for Current Use assessment.

At 7:32pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Approve the request for Current Use assessment. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Chair Christie wondered if some of these above items can be approved through an administrative process, but Mr. Torpey clarified that is not an option. He suggested that for future meetings as more of these need to be approved, they can do a consent agenda which allows all items to be on the agenda, but allows the board to vote for several items at once if they wish. The board was in favor of moving to that process.

7. Recommendation to Set Polling Hours for Town Meeting, May 9, 2023

Hanover Town Meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2023 at the Hanover High School Gymnasium, 41 Lebanon Street, Hanover, New Hampshire. Staff recommends that the Board set polling hours for Tuesday, May 9th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Action Requested: Set the polling hours for Hanover Town meeting on May 9, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

At 7:33pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Set the polling hours for Hanover Town meeting on May 9, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

The entrance will be different this year. Please park and enter through the back.

The board discussed which members will be in attendance at what time throughout the day.

Carter 7-10

Geraghty 10-1

Whitcomb 1-4

Rassias 4-7

It was noted that Christie is not allowed to be there in this role.

To make a quorum at 7am, Whitcomb, Carter and Geraghty can be there.

At the end of the night, all members will be there.

8. Appointment of Ballot Clerks for Town Meeting

A list of Town Meeting election volunteers that have agreed to assist Town staff with the upcoming Town Meeting has been generated. Staff recommends the Board formally appoint these individuals as Ballot Clerks for Town Meeting on May 9, 2023.

Action Requested: Appoint Ballot Clerks for the May 9, 2023 Town Meeting on Monday evening

At 7:40pm, Chair Chrisite MOVED to Appoint the recommended Ballot Clerks for the May 9, 2023 Town Meeting. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

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9. Banner Requests – Montshire Museum of Science; Walk to End Alzheimer’s

The Montshire Museum has requested six light post banners to be hung from July 17, 2023 to August 14, 2023 to promote their Under the Arctic Exhibition. If approved, staff can accommodate this request. The Alzheimer’s Association of NH and VT has requested to hang an overhead banner from September 17, 2023 to September 24, 2023 to promote their Walk to End Alzheimer’s being held in Hanover on September 30, 2023. If approved, staff can accommodate this request.

Action Requested: Approve the Montshire Museum’s request to hand light post banners and the Alzheimer’s Association of NH and VT’s request to hang an overhead banner during the times indicated above.

At 7:41pm, Chair Christie MOVED to approve the banner requests. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

11. Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2023; April 3, 2023; April 10, 2023

At 7:42pm, Chair Christie MOVED to approve the minutes of March 28, 2023; April 3, 2023; April 10, 2023 as submitted. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

10. Donations – Etna Library; Hanover Parks and Recreation

The Etna Library received a donation from the Hanover Garden Club in the amount of \$75.00, a donation from Jerry and Pat Balkcom in the amount of \$100.00 and a donation from Thomas and Barbara Hall in the amount of \$500.00.

The Hanover Parks and Recreation Department received a donation from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation in the amount of \$6,500.00 to be used by the Friends of Recreation (\$3,500) and the 4th of July Celebration (\$3,000), a donation from Patricia Atwood in the amount of \$250.00, a donation from Sara and Bill Young in the amount of \$100.00 and a donation from the Dresden School District in the amount of \$150.00 all to be used toward the AT mural project.

Action Requested: Approve the donations to the Etna Library totaling \$675.00 and the donations to the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department totaling \$7,000.00.

At 7:43pm, Selectboard Member Carter MOVED to Approve the donations to the Etna Library totaling \$675.00. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

At 7:44pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Approve the donations to the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department totaling \$7,000.00. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Selectboard Member Whitcomb asked for more information about what the AT mural project is.

A member of the public tried to explain the location of the proposed mural on a sidewalk where the Appalachian Trail crosses near the school.

Carey Callahan noted a potential security risk by including copies of personal checks within the public Selectboard meeting packet. The board agreed that starting with the next meeting no checks should be included in the publicly available information packet.

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12. Administrative Reports

Mr. Torpey updated the board on the following:

- Town Meeting
- Town Report/Warrant
- Selectboard Election Duties May 9
- Traffic Safety and Escooter ordinance
 - Discussion occurred regarding the various Town boards vs advisory committees and who should be included in the planning and how all of the groups communicate and support each other.
- Human Resource Updates
- DPW Summer Work Schedule and Staffing Shortages
- Other Updates
 - Website update
 - ICMA Conference
 - Fire promotions
 - Downtown Hanover Updates

13. Selectboard Reports

Selectboard Member Joanna Whitcomb

Selectboard Member Whitcomb asked the chair of the Bike Walk committee to update the board as she was not at the last meeting. Events:

- Rodeo went great- teaching kids to ride
- Bike/Walk to school day May 3rd
- May 19 Curb your Car day- bike to work

Selectboard Member Nancy Carter

Selectboard Member Carter noted the May 2nd Planning board meeting will include the final review of the 14 West Wheelock application for site plan review.

Chair Peter Christie

Chair Peter Christie had nothing to report.

Selectboard Member Bill Geraghty

Selectboard Member Geraghty had nothing to report.

14. Other Business

Chair Christie noted this is Selectboard Member Geraghty's last meeting as a Selectboard Member and he recognized his 11+ years of service.

15. Adjournment

Per NH RSA 91-A:3 A, C, 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

The board entered non-public session at 9:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Whitcomb, Secretary

SUMMARY

Item 2

At 7:23pm, Chair Christie **MOVED** to Reallocate \$219,869.96 of the supplemental bridge aid accepted on February 27, 2023 and reallocate up to \$60,130.04 of the supplemental highway funding accepted on September 12, 2022 to the replacement of the bridge near the intersection of Ruddsboro and Three Mile Roads with any remaining unexpended balance of highway aid not used to complete the LED street light replacement and bridge at Ruddsboro and Three Mile Roads reallocated to the cross country path between Verona Street and Reservoir Road. Selectboard Member Carter **SECONDED** the Motion. All in favor

Item 3

At 7:28pm, Chair Christie **MOVED** to Approve a one time abatement in the amount of \$1,555. Selectboard Member Geraghty **SECONDED** the Motion. All in favor

Item 4

At 7:31pm, Chair Christie **MOVED** to Approve the request for Elderly Exemption. Selectboard Member Whitcomb **SECONDED** the Motion. All in favor

Item 5

At 7:31pm, Chair Christie **MOVED** to Approve the requests for Veterans' Credit. Selectboard Member Geraghty **SECONDED** the Motion. All in favor

Item 6

At 7:32pm, Chair Christie **MOVED** to Approve the request for Current Use assessment. Selectboard Member Whitcomb **SECONDED** the Motion. All in favor

Item 7

At 7:33pm, Chair Christie **MOVED** to Set the polling hours for Hanover Town meeting on May 9, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Selectboard Member Whitcomb **SECONDED** the Motion. All in favor

Item 8

At 7:40pm, Chair Chrisite **MOVED** to Appoint the recommended Ballot Clerks for the May 9, 2023 Town Meeting. Selectboard Member Geraghty **SECONDED** the Motion. All in favor

Item 9

At 7:41pm, Chair Christie **MOVED** to approve the banner requests. Selectboard Member Geraghty **SECONDED** the Motion. All in favor

Item 11

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At 7:42pm, Chair Christie MOVED to approve the minutes of March 28, 2023; April 3, 2023; April 10, 2023 as submitted. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Item 10

At 7:43pm, Selectboard Member Carter MOVED to Approve the donations to the Etna Library totaling \$675.00.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

At 7:44pm, Chair Christie MOVED to Approve the donations to the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department totaling \$7,000.00. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Item 15

Per NH RSA 91-A:3 A, C, 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

The board entered non-public session at 9:08pm.