

Selectboard
May 15, 2023
FINAL

SELECTBOARD MEETING

May 15, 2023

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

The meeting of the Selectboard was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Vice Chair Athos Rassias. Also present were: Nancy Carter, Selectboard Member, Carey Callaghan Selectboard Member, Jennie Chamberlain, Selectboard Member, Alex Torpey, Town Manager

Absent: Joanna Whitcomb, Selectboard Member

Vice Chair Rassias explained the process for public comment.

1. Public Comment

Kari Asmus, 2 Sausville Rd invited the board members to attend the Memorial Day observance event at 3pm on Monday May 29th. As a member of the Finance Committee, she read into the record a statement as follows:

During a public meeting on March 29th, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the FY24 Town of Hanover budget as contained in Article 28 and many of the other articles.

We voted our approval primarily on the basis that we believe the level of funding in this budget is generally necessary for the goods and services that residents of Hanover have historically enjoyed and expected. There are some amounts that we might quibble over, and those perhaps can be part of the discussion next year as we will undoubtedly need to look some challenges in the eye as part of the FY25 budget process.

For the third straight year, the Selectboard budget proposes use of one-time monies from the Undesignated Fund Balance to support on-going operational expenses and to temper what would otherwise be a 10.9% tax rate increase.

(With the non-inclusion of \$32,000 in Article 23, the anticipated tax rate increase itself is now estimated at 7%.) This proposal is of particular concern as the reliance on fund balance has doubled over last year, and in the case of the Ambulance Fund where the fund balance will be drawn down to \$0, its usage is inconsistent with Selectboard policy.

The Finance Committee also notes that capital reserve funds are on a trajectory to be depleted more rapidly than they are replenished—owing to the impact of inflation on replacement costs. The Finance Committee urges the Selectboard and administrators to carefully monitor and plot the multi-year trajectories necessary to keep future increases manageable to taxpayers and to weigh the fairness of shifting costs from current to future taxpayers when considering additional bonds.

The Selectboard's involvement will be critical in this highly uncertain environment, and we encourage members of the public to engage in the discussions that we hope will ensue.

In closing, the Finance Committee expresses its appreciation for the efforts of staff, administrators and Board members throughout this past year and the difficulties endemic to times of transition. We note the budget process of the past two years has been less than ideal and many questions regarding fiscal management have been raised as completion of the FY22 audit is still in the wings. We are pleased with the recent hiring of key staff, and we look forward to a productive year ahead.

David Vincelette, 93 Lebanon St noted he has had years of issues with Selectboard members and staff regarding Mink Brook and fencing on his property. He noted three of those six people are no longer on staff or this board. He made accusations he has made before regarding pollution and his desire to bring in Federal investigators. He is not in favor of the five minute public comment procedure and wants the board members to answer his questions. He again mentioned his opposition to the Town logo.

Vice Chair Rassias noted the public comment procedure is unlikely to change and noted that conversations with staff or board members and Mr. Vincelette have not been fruitful in the past. The Town is addressing a new logo this year, but that process takes time.

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2. Meeting with District 2 Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington

Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington was in attendance to introduce herself to the Selectboard. She informed the board of the area District 2 encompasses and highlighted what the Executive Council does and how she hopes to help the cities and towns she represents.

3. Proclamations to honor Peter Christie and Bill Geraghty's Town service

This item was tabled to the next meeting for further preparation.

4. Welcome remarks and initial re-organization discussion

The 2023/2024 organizational meeting for the Selectboard began. Because of new members and one member's known absence, we're going to do the process over the course of two meetings this year. We'll start the discussion on May 15th, and then have final discussion and decisions at the June 5th's Selectboard meeting.

Action Requested: Review the 2022/2023 Selectboard Liaison list and begin to make all necessary updates.

Vice Chair Rassias welcomed the two new Selectboard Members, explained the organizational process, talked about the role of the board, explained the liaison assignments and speculated on which are available. This will be discussed and ideally decided on at the next meeting.

Public Comment

Kari Asmus, Trustee of the Trust Funds noted they had their first meeting and noted the procedure for communication may need to be updated to add a point person.

5. Town Meeting next steps

The Town Manager reviewed the Town Warrant with the Selectboard and provided an update on next steps for various actions that were approved at Town Meeting.

Staff and election workers will meet June 5th to discuss how it went and make suggestions. Those will be brought to the Selectboard at their meeting that evening so if board members have any suggestions, send them to Town Manager.

Article 15: Selectboard Member Carey asked if there will be a timeline/ flowchart of key decisions that need to be made since this was a topic of concern at Town Meeting. Vice Chair Rassias replied yes, this will be well-planned and communicated throughout the process.

Hands on housing workshop will be held Monday May 22nd at 7pm at the Howe open to the public and on Zoom.

Article 16: The process that began last year will continue with infrastructure of creating forms, applications, registration, getting the job description posted. All residents will be informed of the program by mail and the potential start date of the program is July 1, 2023.

Mr. Torpey updated the board on the following:

- New website is going live tomorrow
- Mr. Torpey will be out of office next week

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6. Review and vote to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the Wastewater Reclamation Facility Upgrade Project and to Authorize the Town Manager to apply, sign and execute all necessary documents.

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at Town Meeting, the Town voted to approve a Bond for the Wastewater Reclamation Facility Upgrade Project. The second part of this process is for the Selectboard to vote to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the SRF Program for the sum of up to \$22,000,000.00 with the understanding that all loan funds received are to be repaid. The Selectboard further needs to authorize the Town Manager to apply for, sign and execute all necessary documents for grants and loans for the Town of Hanover's Wastewater Reclamation Facility Upgrade Project on behalf of the Town.

Action Requested: Vote to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the SRF Program for the sum of up to \$22,000,000.00 with the understanding that all loan funds received are to be repaid. The Selectboard also authorizes the Town Manager to apply for, sign and execute all necessary documents for grants and loans for the Town of Hanover's Wastewater Reclamation Facility Upgrade on behalf of the Town.

Public Comment

Kari Asmus noted that due to the grants, the bond will be less than the approved \$22M. There is over \$1M available for projects like this in the waste water fund. How and when will the discussion take place whether some of those funds will be used to offset this project? Mr. Torpey noted this could be a discussion with the newly formed CIP committee. Timing of discussion/ decision and drawing of funds was mentioned.

At 8:30pm, Carter MOVED to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the SRF Program for the sum of up to \$22,000,000.00 with the understanding that all loan funds received are to be repaid. The Selectboard also authorizes the Town Manager, Alex Torpey, to apply for, sign and execute all necessary documents for grants and loans for the Town of Hanover's Wastewater Reclamation Facility Upgrade on behalf of the Town. Rassias SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

7. Review and vote to into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the Water Main Distribution and Lead Service Line Replacement Project and to Authorize the Town Manager to apply, sign and execute all necessary documents

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at Town Meeting, the Town voted to approve a Bond to replace water distribution lines and lead service lines. The second part of this process is for the Selectboard to vote to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the SRF Program for the sum of up to \$7,800,000.00 with the understanding that all loan funds received are to be repaid. The Selectboard further needs to authorize the Town Manager to apply for, sign and execute all necessary documents for grants and loans for the Town of Hanover's Water Main Distribution and Lead service line replacement project.

Action Requested: Vote to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the SRF Program for the sum of up to \$7,800,000 with the understanding that all loan funds received are to be repaid. The Selectboard also authorizes the Town Manager to apply for, sign and execute all necessary documents for grants and loans for the Town of Hanover's Water Main Distribution and Lead service line replacement project.

At 8:34pm, Carter MOVED to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the SRF Program for the sum of up to \$7,800,000 with the understanding that all loan funds received

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are to be repaid. The Selectboard also authorizes the Town Manager, Alex Torpey, to apply for, sign and execute all necessary documents for grants and loans for the Town of Hanover's Water Main Distribution and Lead service line replacement project. Rassias SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

8. Adjournment

Per NH RSA 91-A:3 A, 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: Rassias- yes, Carter-yes, Callaghan- yes, Chamberlain-yes,

The board entered non-public session at 8:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey Callaghan, Secretary

SUMMARY

Item 6

At 8:30pm, Carter MOVED to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the SRF Program for the sum of up to \$22,000,000.00 with the understanding that all loan funds received are to be repaid. The Selectboard also authorizes the Town Manager, Alex Torpey, to apply for, sign and execute all necessary documents for grants and loans for the Town of Hanover's Wastewater Reclamation Facility Upgrade on behalf of the Town. Rassias SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Item 7

At 8:34pm, Carter MOVED to enter into a binding agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the SRF Program for the sum of up to \$7,800,000 with the understanding that all loan funds received are to be repaid. The Selectboard also authorizes the Town Manager, Alex Torpey, to apply for, sign and execute all necessary documents for grants and loans for the Town of Hanover's Water Main Distribution and Lead service line replacement project. Rassias SECONDED the Motion. All in favor

Item 8

Per NH RSA 91-A:3 A, 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: Rassias- yes, Carter-yes, Callaghan- yes, Chamberlain-yes,

The board entered non-public session at 8:36pm.