

**SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**July 7, 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, Rob Houseman, Town Manager, Jennie Chamberlain, Selectboard Member, Jarett Berke, Secretary, Athos Rassias, Selectboard Member

**1. Opening of Meeting**

**a. Call to Order**

C. Callaghan called the meeting to order.

**2. Public Hearing**

None

**3. Agenda Review**

The Chair noted item 8a Police Dept Restructuring will be moved up in the agenda.

**4. Announcements/Recognition**

None

**5. Public Comment**

**a. Public may address the Board**

David Vincelette, 93 Lebanon Street asked if the Board members watched a video he had recommended. Some had and some had not yet done so.

He read from the Declaration of Independence.

He addressed issues he brings to all Selectboard meetings claiming local government officials have broken state and federal laws against him and calling for their response and investigations into these matters. He explained in detail what was taken from him, his family and his property. He made specific accusations of town departments, staff and Board members.

**8. Business Requiring Action**

**a. Police Department restructuring**

The Chief of Police sent in a proposal in advance and was present to address the item.

As noted in the memo, Chief Martin proposes a reorganization of the Hanover Police Department to create three formal divisions: Operations, Special Services, and a new Downtown Services Division. This structure improves efficiency, enhances downtown coordination, and supports career development, while maintaining the current staffing level of 21 sworn officers.

The plan includes adding one Lieutenant and one Corporal, while eliminating one Sergeant and one Officer position. The change results in no new FTEs and yields an estimated annual savings of \$8,445.52 by reducing overtime costs.

The Town Manager is in support of the proposal.

Chief Martin highlighted the changes and benefits of the proposal.

Chief Martin answered questions from Board members relating to location of the focused area, changes in coverage and staffing.

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J. Berke read a prepared statement into the record from the public table from the perspective of a business owner not as a Selectboard member.

### **Public Comment**

Jim Rubins, Hanover, business owner and member of the Downtown working group expressed frustration with the parking situation, which has not been solved over the years. The number one negative for visitors to town is the parking situation. He is not assigning blame but notes the pace towards solutions needs to pick up. He asked for a staff person or consultant to be focused on making the needed changes within this new budget year.

Susan Rubins commented that the parking meters are not advanced enough to pay electronically or to add time – potentially at a higher cost rate like you can in other towns. She gave ideas about park and shop and showing receipts of purchases if a ticket is given out. We are losing business due to the punitive parking systems in place.

**At 7:23 pm A. Rassias MOVED to approve the proposed reorganization of the Hanover Police Department as outlined in the memorandum dated April 14, 2025. J. Chamberlain SECONDED. All in favor**

### **b. Approve June 16, 2025, meeting minutes**

**At 7:33 pm J. Berke MOVED to Approve the minutes of June 16 as submitted. J. Chamberlain SECONDED. 3 in favor with J. Whitcomb and A. Rassias abstaining**

## **6. Business Requiring Discussion**

### **a. FY25 year in review of the Selectboard OKR (Objectives and Key Results) and Draft 2026 OKR's**

The Board discussed the goals that have been achieved, and the goals still underway. The list helps the board focus on what should be prioritized in the coming year.

The Board discussed priorities and whether the list should be used to measure progress of the goals the Town aspires to. Board members agreed that the important aspect is that there should be a list of agreed upon priorities and that progress should be tracked and that the list is reviewed throughout the year.

### **b. Selectboard FY26 calendar review**

R. Houseman addressed the calendar outline which staff have put together listing the Selectboard meetings and other known items which need to be addressed at certain times of the year.

### **c. Selectboard retreat/Selectboard training**

C. Callaghan noted a proposal to have two separate 3-hour sessions. The first for training and the second for goal setting. He proposed some dates by email and requested the Board members respond with their availability.

Marty Jacobs, Ph.D., is a transformative change consultant and systems thinker with over 30 years of experience in strategic planning, organizational learning, board development, and community engagement.

The Selectboard Chair, Vice Chair, and Town Manager met with Marty Jacobs to discuss the potential for Selectboard training facilitated by Marty.

Board members who have experience with her gave information about projects she has worked on for Hanover.

Board members agreed to have a proposal put forward on the training and requested the RSAs be addressed.

The Board discussed how to create the agenda for the goal setting session and clarified the timeline for the next Selectboard meeting and the trainings and retreat.

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## **7. Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Rob Houseman submitted his report in writing which highlighted the following department updates:

- NHDOT
- Assessing – Revaluation update
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector
- Planning, Zoning and Codes
- Etna Library
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works
- Fire

## **9. Approval of items by Consent**

### **Donations**

#### **Etna Library**

\$1,000 from Etna Ladies Aid

#### **Parks and Recreation**

\$1,500 from White River Toyota for 4th of July events

\$2,000 from Dartmouth College for 4th of July events

#### **Police**

\$100 from Joseph and Maryam Payfardar

### **Appointments**

Wendy Epps, Zoning Board of Adjustment, full member

Matt Stover, CIPC, full member

### **Pole license for new EV chargers at the Marshall Lot – 4 Maple Street**

**At 8:30 pm A. Rassias MOVED to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

**J. Whitcomb SECONDED. All in favor**

## **10. Selectboard Reports**

- J. Berke
  - Downtown Group
- J. Whitcomb
  - Howe Corporation
- C. Callaghan
  - Sister City visit Monday July 28<sup>th</sup>
- A. Rassias
  - Nothing to Report
- J. Chamberlain
  - JAM
  - Regional Planning Commission grant
  - Sustainable Hanover
  - Bike Walk

Discussion occurred regarding design options for an ongoing street project.

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**11. Adjournment**

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

**At 8:44pm A. Rassias MOVED to enter nonpublic session. J. Whitcomb SECONDED.**

**Roll call vote: Whitcomb- yes, Rassias- yes, Callaghan- yes, Chamberlain- yes, Berke- yes**

The board entered non-public session at 8:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jarett Berke, Secretary

**SUMMARY**

**Item 8a**

**At 7:23 pm A. Rassias MOVED to approve the proposed reorganization of the Hanover Police Department as outlined in the memorandum dated April 14, 2025. J. Chamberlain SECONDED. All in favor**

**Item 8b**

**At 7:33 pm J. Berke MOVED to Approve the minutes of June 16 as submitted. J. Chamberlain SECONDED. 3 in favor with J. Whitcomb and A. Rassias abstaining**

**Item 9**

**At 8:30 pm A. Rassias MOVED to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

**J. Whitcomb SECONDED. All in favor**

**Item 11**

**At 8:44pm A. Rassias MOVED to enter nonpublic session. J. Whitcomb SECONDED.**

**Roll call vote: Whitcomb- yes, Rassias- yes, Callaghan- yes, Chamberlain- yes, Berke- yes**