

FINAL

**2012 TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF HANOVER
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Hanover High School Gymnasium**

The annual Town Meeting of Hanover, New Hampshire convened on May 8, 2012 at 7 a.m. by the Town Moderator, Marilyn (Willy) Black, at the Hanover High Gymnasium. Moderator Black explained that the polls would be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. for the purpose of voting for candidates for Town Offices and for all other articles requiring vote by official ballot as set forth in Articles One through Six of the Town Meeting Warrant.

ARTICLE ONE: To vote (by nonpartisan ballot) for the following Town Officers:

Three Selectmen, one to serve for a term of two (2) years and two to serve for a term of three (3) years;

William V. Geraghty	454 (2 year term)
Jay C. Buckey, Jr.	356 (3 year term)
Nancy A. Carter	299 (3 year term)

One Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years;

Ginger E. Boitnott	450
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One Moderator to serve for a term of two (2) years;

Marilyn (Willy) Black	484
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One Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of six (6) years; and

Arlene Mahler	463
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One Trustee of Trust Funds to serve for a term of three (3) years.

Judson T. (Jay) Pierson	470
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ARTICLE TWO (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board in Amendment No.1:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.1 as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 1 would amend the Hanover Zoning Map to change the zoning district in which the property designated as Lot 3 on Assessors Map 8, currently occupied by the Chieftain Motor Inn, from the RR Rural Residence zoning district to the GR-4 General Residence-4 zoning district, and would amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance by amending Section 204.5 to add “Hotel” to the list of uses allowed by special exception in the GR-4 district and to add dimensional controls for a hotel in that district, by amending Section 204.7 to remove “Hotel” from the list of uses by special exception in the RR district, and by amending the definition of “Hotel” in Section 902.

At a public hearing held on February 28, 2012, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 382 NO 128 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE THREE (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed in Amendment No.2:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.2 as proposed by petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 2 would amend Section 210.2 so that in the RO, SR and GR zoning districts, in addition to the 25 percent allowed for accessory structures, each lot will be credited with a 600-square-foot allowance for a garage.

At a public hearing held on March 13, 2012, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 421 NO 80 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FOUR (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board in Amendment No.3:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.3 as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 3 would amend Sections 310 and 1006.4 to allow the Zoning Administrator to issue temporary permits for a period not to exceed 18 months to allow the use of an otherwise non-conforming structure for access to a building if such structure is for a person with a disability.

At a public hearing held on March 13, 2012, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 454 NO 44 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FIVE (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board in Amendment No.4:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.4 as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 4 would amend Section 803 so that a landowner wishing to rebuild a non-conforming structure is relieved of the requirement to rebuild an exact replica.

At a public hearing held on March 13, 2012, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 429 NO 65 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE SIX (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by petition in Amendment No.5:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.5 as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 5 would add a new Section 213 to create a West End Neighborhood Overlay District setting forth development and building-form standards; would make related amendment to Tables 204.5 and 204.6 to refer to those standards for properties in the West End; and would add a zoning map showing the boundaries of the overlay district.

At a public hearing held on March 13, 2012, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 374 NO 117 ARTICLE PASSED

BUSINESS MEETING

Moderator Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting would begin with The Pledge of Allegiance with Lieutenant Michael Evans leading the audience. Moderator Black invited Selectman Geraghty to present Article Seven.

ARTICLE SEVEN: To choose the following Town Officers to be elected by a majority vote:

Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Nominate the Following Persons for the Following Offices:

One member of the Advisory Board of Assessors for a term of three (3) years;
Katherine Connolly

Three Fence Viewers, each for a term of one (1) year;
Robert Grabill
William Garrity
Vacancy

Two Surveyors of Wood and Timber, each for a term of one (1) year;
John Richardson
Ed Chamberlain

Such other officers as the Town may judge necessary for managing its affairs.

Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the Motion. The motion PASSED and the nominees were ELECTED.

ARTICLE EIGHT: To receive reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers and to vote on any motion relating to these reports and to receive any special resolutions that may be appropriate and to vote thereon.

Selectman Geraghty MOVED that the reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers as printed in the 2011 Town Report be accepted, as well as any Special Resolutions.

Selectman Geraghty invited Hank Tenney, Parks & Recreation Director, to present the Recreation Volunteer of the Year Award. Mr. Tenney stated that each year they have to figure out a way to get their recipient to Town Meeting. Mr. Tenney asked Liz Burdette to present the award because she is very close to this year's recipient.

Liz Burdette made the following presentation:

“This year's recipient of the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department's Volunteer of the Year Award goes to a very special person. She started volunteering as soon as her children started participating in programs in 2006. She has volunteered as a parent contact, helped out at practices in whatever capacity was needed from keeping score to running drills, helping at special events including manning the water station at the Turkey Trot, taking money at Halloween events, and assisting at the Pond Party. Even now that her daughters are in high school and beyond, she can still be found four times a year taking money at middle school dances and the basketball tournament, and helping at family nights. This year's recipient is truly dedicated to providing opportunities for our community including countless hours served as a Girl Scout leader. She has a network of friends and family that she pulls from to help find volunteers to ensure events are fully staffed. The department would also like to take this time to thank Scott, Courtney, and Shannon for their hours of service while working side by side with their wife and mother, this year's recipient of the Hanover Parks and Recreation's Volunteer of the Year Award, Dodi Hill.”

Ms. Hill was presented with a plaque and applause from the audience.

Selectman Geraghty invited Vice Chairman Connolly to make two presentations; one for the Planning Board and one for the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Vice Chairman Connolly made the following presentation to Charlie Faulkner to honor his 24 years of service on the Planning Board:

“Charlie Faulkner has served on the Planning Board since 1987 – that’s 24 years in total. Remember that number by the way; you may hear it again tonight. Sometimes his length of service seems to have been beyond reckoning. For quite a few of those years, Charlie served as the Chair. Charlie is the consummate gentleman, reliably bestowing civility on the Board’s proceedings, extending courtesy and consideration to everyone who served on the Board and to everyone who spoke to the Board, no matter what the other’s demeanor or opinion.

Charlie devoted much of his time to conversations with other members, ever seeking harmony and mutual respect. He devoted even more time to study to be sure that he understood fully every application coming to the Board. He usually lingered in the background of most discussions; sometimes to the point where observers were not sure if he remained awake, only to be then surprised by Charlie’s ensuing pithy, direct, comprehensive, and cogent analysis.

Charlie has always sought common ground, finding those points of concord within what on the surface seem to be disparate and even conflicting perspectives. He always expected the best of those around him, and by treating them with this expectation and with respect and kindness; he always brought out the best in others.

Not only will we miss Charlie’s incisive and calming presence with us, we already have.”

Mr. Faulkner was presented with a gift from the Town and the audience applause.

Vice Chairman Connolly made the following presentation to Chrysanthi Bien to honor her for her 24 years of service on the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee:

“Chrysanthi Bien has devoted herself to the service of elders in the Hanover area for so long that no one I spoke with could date the beginning of her involvement. Through an examination of town records, we’ve discovered that Chrysanthi joined the steering committee of the Hanover Senior Center in 1988; twenty-four years ago. She’s continuously chaired the group for the past twenty-one years. Since 1986, she has also led the committee running the 55-Plus Art Show at the Howe Library.

When Chrysanthi first began, the Senior Center offered only a few informal activities. Today its schedule is rich with exercise and craft classes, lunches, health clinics, and social activities. Chrysanthi played a role in the overall growth of the center’s offerings, but she has also directly involved herself in nurturing several programs. Once a month, various Upper Valley churches take turns sending members to make lunch for the center’s seniors. Chrysanthi coordinates the program, making many phone calls to ensure that there are enough volunteers and that plans are in place.

Over the years, she has helped maintain the continuity of craft offerings by leading activities herself. Each December, for example, she gets greens from our family’s Christmas tree farm for wreath making. As a painter, she also encourages the work of others, promoting senior center

participation in Howe Library's art show and guiding the hours of labor necessary for the show's success. She has initiated and supported the development of connections between young people and seniors at the center and is instrumental in the advisory committee's volunteering monthly to prepare a meal for guests at the Upper Valley Hostel.

Gracious, thoughtful, kind and always upbeat ~ this is Chrysanthi to a "T" and the seniors of Hanover have vastly benefitted by her leadership amongst them for a quarter of a century. Bravo, Chrysanthi. I also wanted to add that Chrysanthi has been awarded the Vaughn Award which I believe is the NH State Award for those who have aided senior centers for a great length of time."

Ms. Bien was presented with a gift from the Town and the audience applause.

Selectman Geraghty invited Julia Griffin to present the Conservation Commission award.

Ms. Griffin made the following presentation to Judy Reeve to honor her 23 years of service on the Conservation Commission:

"There is no one who cares more about the natural environment, good design and plants than Judy Reeve. Judy's training and experience as a landscape architect has brought a wealth of talent and useful knowledge to the Conservation Commission over many years of service to this community. Judy is a keen observer of landscape and how people interact with their environment and is first and foremost always about enhancing those experiences for our residents and visitors. She is also an "ace" at reading site grading plans which is not a skill held by your average community volunteer.

Judy served for 23 years as a member of the Conservation Commission and as Chair for the last several years until she turned the reigns over to Ed Chamberlain. While a Commission member, Judy helped the Town permanently conserve many acres of land, participated in writing an award winning Open Space Plan for the Town and guided commissions through some difficult development reviews. During that time, Judy always kept her eye on changing statutes and rules at the State level and was a regular attendee at state and regional conferences in order to be current with both rules and best practices. She was also a champion for "in-town" open spaces and for places where people could go with their dogs. Many of us fondly remember all of the site visits that Judy's dog, Lily, faithfully attended as a representative of the Hanover canine community.

Judy is often opinionated, always passionate, but a wonderful listener with a keen ability to synthesize competing perspectives as she helped to steer the Commission toward consensus. Always fun to be with, we also know that Judy makes a mean marmalade and takes great pride in her children and grandchildren. The Commission misses her leadership and perspective but is fortunate that she can still make time to serve on its Open Space Committee. Thank you Judy for your labor of love that has been the Hanover Conservation Commission for 23 years."

Ms. Reeve was presented with a gift from the Town and applause from the audience.

Selectman Geraghty invited Chairman Christie to make a special presentation. Chairman Christie asked Judy Doherty to rise and made the following presentation to thank her for her service on the Board of Selectmen:

“It was not long after Judy Doherty landed a new position at Dartmouth College in 2006 that she was snagged to join Hanover’s Parks and Recreation Board. Members of the Recreation Board and Department recognized an active working Mom who was busily raising not one but three athletic children and they just knew she would bring a fresh perspective to their programs. Judy served on the Recreation Board for 3 years demonstrating her ever thoughtful and focused style of decision-making.

It was that quiet leadership style that led Brian Walsh to encourage Judy to run for the Select Board in 2009. On the Select Board, her perspective as a working parent, as a long-time senior college administrator well acquainted with Town and Gown issues, and her trademark ability to tackle issues logically via her commitment to understanding and carefully evaluating the data, have been of invaluable help. Whether evaluating the benefits of new software designed or immersed in the often challenging discussions around alcohol use at Dartmouth College and the role played by local law enforcement, Judy always brought a calm, thoughtful and carefully reasoned approach.

On a personal note, I’ve had the privilege of working with Judy since her election to the Board of Selectmen and in a true Venus and Mars fashion have greatly appreciated her approach to decision making.

Before tackling the specifics of any issue, she would always step back and ask about the background and history, question the policy implications, and ask if there was anything that we could learn from other towns

Having gotten comfortable at the 20,000 foot level, she would then dive into the specifics: a wonderful problem solving skill that has benefitted the Town greatly.

The Board wishes Judy all the best as she and her family transition to Meriden as part of her husband’s work with Kimball Union Academy. We will keep her engaged as a citizen ex officio, knowing we can continue to benefit from her spirit, her commitment to community, and her understanding of how colleges and, now communities, work.

Thank you Judy - you are a gem and you will be missed!”

Ms. Doherty was presented with a gift from the Town and applause from the audience.

Ms. Griffin noted that this year the Town decided that they wanted to support a local manufacturer so the gifts presented are “Hanover” bowls from Simon Pearce with the Town of Hanover seal engraved on it.

Selectman Geraghty invited Brian Walsh, Retired Chairman of the Select Board, to make a presentation to honor Kate Connolly.

Mr. Walsh invited Kate Connolly to sit in her Town of Hanover rocking chair and made the following presentation:

“Kate Connolly joined the Town as an active volunteer back in 1980, recruited to join the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mind you, the legally technical ZBA is not for the faint of heart, requiring the ability to interpret the Town’s Zoning Ordinance with razor-sharp focus. Clearly Kate’s scientist mind steered her towards this type of initial volunteer service on behalf of the Town, and the ZBA and Hanover benefitted from her involvement for eight (8) busy years.

Then, in 1988, Kate heard the siren call of the Hanover Board of Selectmen. And lo and behold, twenty-four (24) years later, Kate officially retires from the Board of Selectman later this evening. Just like that, 24 years of truly herculean service to the community has flown by and, in the meantime, we cannot even begin to tally up the number of hours Kate has devoted to this community. Added to her many hours of Selectmen’s meetings dealing with a myriad of mundane and not-so-mundane issues, Kate has also 1) served as the Selectman’s liaison to first the Conservation Commission and later, her first love, the Planning Board; 2) she has been one of Hanover’s three representatives to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, including service as the organization’s Treasurer; 3) she has served on countless working groups, taskforces and blue ribbon committees on just about everything having to do with master planning, zoning, transit, town infrastructure, and legislative policy; 4) she has been an active Town representative to the New Hampshire Municipal Association, often traipsing down to Concord weekly for critical meetings during each annual legislative session; 5) she has served as a member of Hanover’s Advisory Board of Assessors (and was just appointed by all of you to serve as a full member of that committee as she retires from the Board of Selectmen); 6) as the Board liaison to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee; 7) as Board liaison to the Howe Library Corporation’s Board of Trustees, and, last but not least, 8) has served as roving ambassador for Hanover in visits to both of our sister cities, Joigny in France and Nihonmatsu in Japan.

In essence, serving our community has been Kate’s life and in so many countless ways Hanover has benefitted from her logical approach to all things, her detailed memory of everything that has transpired in this community over the past 32 years, and her amazing appetite for all things municipal government.

Bravo Kate for your dedication, your selfless service, and, when all else fails, your marvelous sense of humor. The Board and staff will miss you in your long-standing role as a Selectman, but looks forward to your continued service in the areas of planning, assessing and public policy we can trap you into. Please rise and give Kate a hand.”

Vice Chairman Connolly received a rocking chair from the Town and applause from the audience.

Moderator Black invited Representative David Pierce to give a brief legislative update.

Rep. Pierce stated that he is the State Representative representing Hanover and Lyme along with Sharon Nordgren who was present as well. Rep. Pierce stated that he is in his 3rd term in the House and wanted to address Town Meeting about what is going on in Concord.

Rep. Pierce reported that there are a number of things that are affecting the Town; he serves on the Election Law Committee so he knows those issues best. One of the things that came up this time was a proposed bill to make it a lot easier to challenge voters as they check in and obtain their ballot. He recalled that in 2002, this created a problem in Hanover because there were challengers from out of town coming in and challenging all of the college students that were coming in to vote. This made for long lines and people had to wait a very long time in the cold November weather. He stated that they were able to get that defeated because even though it passed the House, the Senate decided to kill that bill.

Rep. Pierce reported that another bill coming out of Election Law is the consideration of a photo ID bill. The vote will be on Thursday and then it will go to the House and there will be some negotiations between the Senate and the House as to the version that will get passed, if anything. Rep. Pierce felt that this could also cause an impact and problem in Hanover if they allowed the Senate version of the bill allowing student IDs to serve as proof of identity; the House version is going to take that out. He is doing his best to make sure that the bill is reasonable as it comes out of committee.

Rep. Pierce reported that one of the most impactful legislation that has come out of the Legislature this year has been with budget issues. He stated that the Legislature slashed Medicaid reimbursement rates and reconfigured the disproportionate share hospital tax system so that DHMC has lost approximately \$100 million in revenue and he and the other representatives in Concord fought hard against this because this is \$100 million being taken out of the local economy.

Rep. Pierce stated that there has been some downshifting of costs from the State to the Town which puts more pressure on the Town budget. He stated that he has kept a particularly close eye on the tax rate and he feels that the Select Board and the Finance Committee have done a good job and the residents have a lot to be thankful for; they are trying to keep the tax rate as low as it is in light of the downshifting from Concord.

Rep. Pierce noted that residents are encouraged to contact the four representatives and Senator Matt Houde anytime they have questions. Rep. Pierce asked for any questions from the audience.

Richard Howarth, 2 Sausville Road, asked about redistricting in the general court and the State Senate district and what will happen with that. Rep. Pierce stated that he serves on the Redistricting Committee as well and the Senate bill to redistrict the Senate districts went through both houses without much opposition; it met the constitutional requirements. The new Senate District runs from Lyme to Charlestown and to Enfield and Canaan; so they are adding Claremont and Charlestown at the Southern end of the district but it removes Towns to the east; Grantham, Franklin, & Hill.

Rep. Pierce stated that for the House Districts, they opposed really strongly the redistricting plan because it did not meet the new Constitutional Amendment that the people passed in 2006. Essentially, that amendment said that if your Town or your Ward has enough population to justify one Representative, you get one Representative or however many is justified for that. Rep. Pierce stated that the House plan that was passed awards only 65% of those Towns or Wards that have enough population to have their own Representative. There have now been 5 lawsuits lodged against the State; the City of Manchester, the City of Concord, and legislators and other concerned citizens that have all filed suit to object to the House Redistricting Plan.

Rep. Pierce reported that the Court proceedings have started and the Superior Court is trying to expedite things so that it can get up to the State Supreme Court because the filing period for the next Legislature opens on June 6th. If redistricting goes beyond that date, the Court will have to hold off the filing period until it is resolved. For Hanover specifically, under the State Constitution Hanover is entitled to 3 of its own Representatives because it has sufficient population to justify that. Moderator Black thanked Rep. Pierce for his update.

Moderator Black stated that before they move forward, none of this would be possible without the Hanover staff and she asked Julia Griffin to introduce the Department Heads that were present. Ms. Griffin introduced Nick Giaccone, Police Chief; Hank Tenney, Parks & Recreation Director; Jonathan Edwards, Planning & Zoning Director; Mary White, Howe Library Director; Barbara Prince, Etna Library Director; Jessie Levine, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director; Corey Stevens, Information Technology Director; Roger Bradley, Fire Chief; and Peter Kulbacki, Public Works Director. Ms. Griffin noted that Mike Ryan, Town Assessor, was absent due to illness. Ms. Griffin later introduced Betsy McClain, Administrative Services Director.

Moderator Black asked Town Meeting if they wished to have each of the Articles read by the Select Board or individually. Town Meeting asked that each Article be read once.

Vice Chairman Connolly read through Articles Nine through Thirteen.

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,170 for deposit into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2010-2011. Funding deposited into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund derives from 50% of the land use change tax proceeds, paid by property owners when they take land out of current use.

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,170 for deposit into the Conservation Fund created as authorized by RSA 36-A:5.I, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2010-2011. Funding deposited into the Conservation Fund derives from 50% of the land use change tax proceeds, paid by property owners when they take land out of current use.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,730 for deposit into the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Transportation Improvement Fee Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. This amount is equivalent to the total Transportation Fee surcharge for each motor vehicle registered in the Town of Hanover (\$5.00 per vehicle) during fiscal year 2010-2011.

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$994,888 and authorize payment into existing capital reserve funds in the following amounts for the purposes for which such funds were established:

Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$50,760
Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund	\$40,000
Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund	\$50,000
Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund	\$12,240
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$56,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$270,000
Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$66,123
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$67,000
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$307,615
Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$5,000
Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund	\$45,150

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$537,555 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:

Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Radio repeaters for ambulances</i>	\$6,000
Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund <i>Ruddsboro Road bridge repair – 300’ west of Chandler Road</i>	\$67,705

Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund	
<i>Continued roof replacement at Richard Hauger Public Works Facility</i>	\$58,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	
<i>Partial funding for turn-out gear replacement</i>	\$25,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	
<i>Replace two Highway maintenance trucks and a grader</i>	\$282,200
Parking Vehicles and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	
<i>Replace Emergency 911 call boxes and sealing maintenance on the brickwork at the Parking Facility</i>	\$63,650
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	
<i>Trailer-mounted 6" trash pump</i>	\$20,000
Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	
<i>Contracted labor for Town-wide property revaluation program</i>	\$15,000

This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these specified purchases are complete or June 30, 2017, whichever is sooner.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to Approve Article Nine through Article Thirteen jointly as written. SECONDED from the floor.

Bob Russell asked about Article Thirteen and how firm the numbers are in this budget because some of them look like they might be estimates. Ms. Griffin stated that the numbers are accurate and are based on the Town's cost estimate for various pieces of equipment; the Town cannot exceed that cost.

Kim Perez asked about the amounts reserved in the Capital Reserve Fund and whether these amounts are the same each year. Vice Chairman Connolly stated that they are pretty steady each year although the withdrawals aren't necessarily. Ms. Perez asked if she could clarify whether it is more or less than last year. Ms. Griffin stated that the Town does 20 year projections and year to year there may be slight adjustments but by and large the number stays the same.

Kari Asmus referred to the Minutes from the last Town Meeting and noted that this is a significant increase over last year which was \$710,425 versus \$1 million.

The motion PASSED and Articles Nine through Thirteen were ADOPTED as written.

Moderator Black announced the results of the election. Jay Buckey, Jr. and Nancy Carter each won the election for the 3 year term for Select Board; William V. Geraghty won the election for the 2 year term for Select Board. (Willy Black won the election for Moderator.) Library Trustee is Ginger Boitnott; Supervisor of the Checklist is Arlene Mahler; and Trustee of Trust Funds is Judson (Jay) Pierson.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,899,991 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, for the purposes set forth in the Town budget. This sum does not include the funds voted in any of the preceding or succeeding articles.

Chairman Christie MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,899,991 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, for the purposes set forth in the Town budget. This sum does not include the funds voted in any of the preceding or succeeding articles. SECONDED from the floor.

Chairman Christie made the following budget presentation:

“Okay, this was going to be a pretty straight forward budget year. Give Julia a reasonable target; turn her and the department heads loose, and bing, bang, problem solved. Oh well, budget season never seems to be quite that easy and lots of things happen on the way to the forum.

After years of asking Julia to bring back budgets with tax rate increases significantly below the Consumer Price Index (CPI), this year we set the target at the CPI or 3.5%. Julia was also tasked with bringing to the Board a prioritized list of expense reductions that would get us down to 2.5% and another list of add backs that would take us up to 4.5%.

The budget presented tonight hits the 3.5% tax rate increase target. For the sake of full disclosure, the amount raised from taxes in this budget is up 4.5 %, but this is offset by the anticipated increase of \$18 million in the grand list to arrive at the 3.5% tax rate impact.

So what’s the problem, we hit our target ~ right?

Well, on the way to the forum, several major items needed to be addressed which turned out to be the drivers in this budget. One of these was the increase in energy costs which impact both fuel purchased by the town and the paving that we do. Total energy related costs including paving, electricity, heating oil, and fuel went from \$726,000 in FY 2012 to \$912,000 in this budget, an increase of \$186,000, almost 26%.

Since this category represents around 10% of our non payroll expenses it has a major impact. To make matters even more interesting, when we asked Peter Kulbacki, our head of Public Works, what keeps him up at night, he told us that we are falling behind in our paving program. Oh Joy!

We spend about \$500,000 a year on paving, but have not increased that amount enough over the years to keep pace with the ever rising cost. Given that it costs over 10 times more to rebuild a road than to repave it, it is bad economics to fall behind.

Our short term response to this reality was to raise the originally proposed paving budget by \$50,000, but in reality this pretty much just keeps us from falling further behind and we have catch up to do down the road (no pun intended).

When we asked Peter to propose an economically optimum amount that we need to be thinking about, his first estimate was in the \$700,000 per year range. We will be looking at this carefully relative to next year's budget, so hold on to your seats.

The other objective that was hard to achieve in this budget was the funding for what came to be affectionately called the Etna Village Project. You will remember that at last year's town Meeting you appropriated \$190,000 from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund, which along with \$55,000 from the Conservation Fund and \$115,000 in private fund raising allowed the Town to buy 9.4 acres in Etna Village from the Hayes family. The Etna Library is on one corner of this land which then stretches up behind the Etna Fire Station and abuts the Appalachian Trail.

The vision behind this purchase was to make the Library handicap accessible and to eliminate dangerous parking along the Etna Road by creating a parking lot behind the Library and adding a handicap accessible entry from the new parking area.

In addition, we also have a wonderful opportunity to expand the outdoor skating rink up behind the fire station which is a magnet for folks of all ages during the winter, and to add a small playing field for general use. All of this, however, comes with a pretty hefty \$300,000 price tag.

To make a long story short, the Board looked at a variety of options from bonding, to doing the project in stages, to not doing it at all and concluded that we wanted and needed to fulfill the original vision. Given the safety issues relative to parking and the limitation of access that comes from no handicap accessibility and the two sets of very steep steps that currently need to be navigated to get in the front door, we decided to find a way to get the project done this year when we have some capacity in Public works that will not be available the following year.

We also wanted to live within our 3.5% guideline. We accomplished all of the above by funding \$55,000 from taxes, using \$150,000 from undesignated reserves, accepting \$40,000 from trust funds controlled by the Library Trustees, and by looking to raise an additional \$55,000 from private fund raising.

Through our discussions, the Board came to appreciate even more this gem of a Town Library that will shine even brighter and be used by even more citizens of all ages when the improvements are made.

Okay, what else can I tell you about this budget? On a more macro level, the Town continues to be very sensitive to the fact that property taxes keep going up even while some of our citizens ability to pay has been stagnant or even gone down. The Town is committed to finding and funding new ways of doing business that can reduce our costs going forward. A few examples of this can be found in this budget.

With this proposed budget, we hope to be an early adopter of an on-line bill presentation and payment tool that will provide convenient and more timely tax and utility bill information. This new tool will allow us to reduce our front-office staff, reclassifying a full-time position to part-time.

Also in the proposed budget are funds to make tax maps, property cards and other assessment information available on-line. In addition to providing this information in a more convenient and often asked-for format, we reduce operating costs by eliminating the public computer kiosk.

Included in this budget is a lease-purchase of more accurate water meters and a remote meter reading system to more carefully measure and bill for all water usage. Not only will this new system maximize revenues in the Water Fund, but the streamlining of the meter reading will allow for some creative possibilities to re-deploy staff.

None of these measures individually make a large difference, but collectively over the years can be very significant.

It would not seem like a budget talk if I did not continue to harp about State downshifting which continues to be alive and well. Be clear, the State of New Hampshire does have a broad based tax; it is called the property tax. The way it works is that the State, in an effort to balance its own budget, downshifts costs or keeps for itself money that it previously shared. Because of the magnitude of the downshifting, towns have limited choice but to pass the downshifting along in the form of increased property taxes. The cumulative effect of State downshifting has now grown to an anticipated \$328,000 in this budget, representing about 4% of the General Fund portion of the tax bill. This is a winning strategy for the State and we can expect to see more of it in the years ahead. So again, hold on to your seats.

On a different note, I do want to tell you about one experiment that we inadvertently ran this past year. You will remember that we replace our police cruisers on a three year cycle, which always causes heartburn and seems too aggressive to some. The new fleet was approved in last year's budget, but because we wanted to move to a new platform that included an all wheel drive feature, we had to wait in line for their availability. You guessed it, Murphy struck and we had to replace three out of the four transmissions before retiring the vehicles. Life goes on.

In wrapping up, as always our thanks go out to Julia, Betsy, Jessie and all the department heads who work hard on their budgets and to all of our wonderful Town Staff who make our lives better each and every day. Thank you."

Moderator Black asked for any discussion on the budget.

Kari Asmus asked if someone was present from the Finance Committee that could speak about their divided vote on this budget.

Heidi Postupack serves on the Finance Committee and she read the report of the Hanover Finance Committee's comments regarding the Hanover FY13 Proposed budget:

“With six of the seven Hanover Finance Committee members present its meeting on March 12, 2012, the Hanover Finance Committee (HFC) voted 5 to 1 in favor of the FY13 town budget as approved by the Hanover Select Board at its meeting on March 1, 2012.

The HFC reached this decision after carefully reviewing details of the projected revenues and expenditures as presented in the town budget proposal by town administrators and individual department heads, and by discussing the details with town officers. Representatives of the HFC attended all public meetings held by the Select Board, during which the budget was discussed and approved.

The Hanover Finance Committee is an appointed resident body charged to opine on financial matters of the Town of Hanover and Hanover School District. The members are Kristi Fenner (Chair), Michael Gerling, Heidi Postupack, Daryl Press, John Ruth, Peter Christie (Hanover Board of Selectmen Representative), and Kevin Cotter (Hanover School Board Representative).

The Hanover Board of Selectmen met four times from February 27 to March 1, 2012, to review and approve the proposed town budget for FY13 (July 2012-June 2013). During these public meetings, administrators provided detailed reviews of individual town departments' budgets, concluding with a summary board discussion of and vote on the FY13 budget. Before these budget hearings began, the Finance Committee was briefed by Julia Griffin, Hanover Town Manager, Jessie Levine, Assistant Town Manager and Betsy McClain, Director of Administrative Services. Finance Committee members also attended the Board of Selectmen meetings.

Majority Opinion

In light of the uncertain financial environment and rising costs in many areas of the budget, the majority commends the Board of Selectmen, town administrators, department heads and their staff for their diligent efforts to cut costs while maintaining essential public services.

The majority framed its assessment of the impact of the town's budget in terms of a “blended tax rate,” an artificial rate that incorporates combined general fund and fire fund tax rates proportionally distributed across the three fire districts. No property owner actually sees this rate; it is a benchmark for the Finance Committee and the Select Board and town administration.

The majority supports the general principle that the Board of Selectmen constructs the town's budget to meet town needs, given reasonable assumptions about revenues – including revenues from the state – rather than cut the budget in anticipation of potential state impacts or other circumstances wholly out of the town's control. That is, the majority supports the notion that the town's leadership crafts budgets to meet the town's needs for services, and not make up for other entities' (namely, the state and county) issues. The majority also feels it is not wise to skip expenses in one year just to postpone them to future years.

The majority notes that the Board of Selectmen, in preparing the town's FY13 budget, was attentive to potential contraction in revenues given the degraded financial environment -- for example, short-term interest rates -- and the significant uncertainties regarding the state's finances: appropriations, downshifting of costs, reduction in revenue sharing, and grant monies combined with rising costs related to the escalation in oil prices. During budget planning, the town administration prepared a budget based on the 3.5% target tax rate increase set by the Board of Selectmen. In addition, the Town administration prepared a list of potential expense

reductions and add-backs for the Select Board to consider that could adjust the increase in the property tax rate from 3.5% all the way down to 1.02%.

Total proposed FY13 appropriations for the General Fund, the major tax-supported fund, are \$721,093 less than the current FY12 approved budget, a 5.2% decrease. This reduction in expense is artificially high, as it includes the elimination of a one-time FY12 amount of \$700,000 budgeted in both expenditures and non-tax revenues for the undergrounding of utilities along Lebanon Street that was funded by outside sources. This reduction in total appropriations is offset by a reduction in non-tax revenues, resulting in a 3.5% budget-to-budget increase of the General Fund tax levy and a 3.54% increase in a General Fund and Fire Fund “blended” tax rate. Growth in the Fire Fund tax levy is 4.2%, or \$108,525. A blended tax rate is used because there are three distinct Fire Districts and the rate will vary depending upon the Fire District.

Minority Opinion

The minority (minority of 1) feels that increase to the tax rate is not a meaningful metric as it is highly dependent on changing assessed property valuations. As a result of rising assessed property values, the tax rate increase understates the total increase in town taxes levied (i.e., excluding school and county taxes) against Hanover residents, which will rise by roughly \$470,000 or 4.5% and further noted that:

- 1) From FY03 to FY12 the total town taxes levied has increased by 5.3% per year, a rate of growth that is **2.6%** per year greater than inflation in New England for the same time period.
- 2) Total town staffing levels have increased by 12% over the last 10 years during a time with little or no population growth.
- 3) The Etna Library renovations should be funded solely with private donations and/or user fees. The proposed budget will allocate \$205,000 of taxpayer funds that is not warranted given the small portion of the population served.

It is the minority view that no increase in town taxes levied is warranted.”

Ms. Postupack was available to answer any questions and apologized for reading the lengthy document but it was prepared for the Town Report for people to read at home at their leisure.

Bill Young had a question related to the Hayes Farm project and the Pig and Wolf Auction that was held. It was his understanding that some of the money from the Auction was going to be designated for that project and wanted to confirm that money was included in the budget presented.

Ms. Griffin stated that the bulk of the funds that were raised from the Pig & Wolf Auction went to purchase a new playground at Thompson Terrace but there is about \$5,000 to \$10,000 left over that was included in the Hayes project.

Kim Perez stated that she is having a hard time following the budget numbers. Every place she looks in the Town Report shows a total which seems to indicate decreases in each column so she is trying to see where the increase is and is it the \$700,000 that was mentioned in the budget presentation.

Chairman Christie stated that one of the problems in following the numbers year to year is the handling of capital expenses. The capital expenses need to be included in the expenditures line but in essence the tax impact is the amount of money that goes into the reserves. For example: The \$700,000 for the work on Lebanon Street to put power underground was all supported by Dartmouth College and it shows up as a revenue item and it shows up as an expense. Budget to budget it goes away but then appears to be a decrease of \$700,000. A lot of the confusion has to do with changes in the capital purchases year to year and he agrees it's not easy to follow.

Ms. Perez asked about the table on page 57 and asked whether it is the property tax line that she should be looking at.

Chairman Christie stated that the Board has focused on the tax rate and it's comparison to CPI because that's what consumers pay and that's what taxpayers can associate that they are paying the increase with. They had to fund the \$300,000 for the Etna Project but managed it against the tax rate and he hopes that this rides above all the detail. Ms. Perez stated that the question is whether they should manage this against the tax rate or look at the total expense which was the minority Finance Committee member's opinion. Chairman Christie stated that this is the information that he provides in his budget presentation and tonight he stated that the tax rate went up 3.5% and the total expenditures went up 4.5%; the difference being that they have \$18 million more in the Grand List offsetting the 4.5%; they feel that the number most meaningful to residents is the tax rate increase.

Kari Asmus asked about the discussion regarding the Undesignated Fund Balance. It was decided to use \$150,000 for the Etna Project and she was wondering if the remaining balance is still in the range recommended for fiscal health and if it is, whether they could have used even more to reduce the balance.

Chairman Christie stated that the Town has a good policy for use of the Undesignated Reserve Funds which is the cumulative amount of tax money that has been raised but not spent over a number of years. The guideline is to maintain the balance at 5% to 10% of the General Fund; it is currently at 13% and will go down to 11% with the use of \$150,000 in this budget. The Board and the Finance Committee has discussed changing the range to 10% to 15%. There will be further discussion this year but he anticipates raising the number in the next fiscal year.

Chairman Christie stated that they also do not use Undesignated Fund Balance to fund recurring expenses because this would come back to bite them in the years that follow. The \$150,000 is a one-time expense and the policy does allow for the Town to use this fund as long as the balance remains at 5 to 10%.

Moderator Black asked for any additional comments. There were no further comments. Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Fourteen.

The motion PASSED and Article Fourteen was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the optional Veterans' Tax Credit in the amount of \$100. The optional Veterans' tax credit shall replace the standard Veterans' Tax Credit of \$50 currently in place and shall not be in addition thereto. The optional Veterans' Tax Credit shall be subtracted each year from the property tax on the veteran's residential property or, for a surviving spouse of a resident who suffered a service-connected death, they may have the same amount subtracted from the property tax on any real property in the same municipality where the surviving spouse is a resident. Persons shall qualify for the optional Veterans' Tax Credit based on the requirements outlined in RSA 72:28 IV. The optional Veterans' Tax Credit shall take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2012.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to adopt the optional Veterans' Tax Credit in the amount of \$100. The optional Veterans' Tax Credit shall replace the standard Veterans' Tax Credit of \$50 currently in place and shall not be in addition thereto. The optional Veterans' Tax Credit shall be subtracted each year from the property tax on the veteran's residential property or, for a surviving spouse of a resident who suffered a service-connected death, they may have the same amount subtracted from the property tax on any real property in the same municipality where the surviving spouse is a resident. Persons shall qualify for the optional Veterans' Tax Credit based on the requirements outlined in RSA 72:28 IV. The optional Veterans' Tax Credit shall take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2012. SECONDED from the floor.

Robert Chambers, Etna resident, MOVED to amend Article Fifteen to change the amount of the proposed optional Veterans' Tax Credit from \$100 to \$500. SECONDED from the floor.

Mr. Chambers stated that he is a Vietnam War Veteran; he went into the Navy in 1962 and served aboard the USS Kitty Hawk so he felt that he should disclose that if this tax credit is changed, he would benefit from it. Mr. Chambers stated that during the year that he was on the USS Kitty Hawk, he was paid \$45/month in hazardous duty pay.

Mr. Chambers stated that he has done a lot of research on the Veterans' Tax Credit and he wanted to share this information with the audience. In 1955, the State of NH approved a bill that was signed in to law to honor veterans that risked their lives serving our country. This law requires the town to offer a \$50 tax credit that can be increased to \$500 should the Town elect that option. The Town of Hanover hasn't changed the amount since 1955.

Mr. Chambers noted that the median national income in 1955 was \$4,137 per year. A \$50 tax credit would have provided a 1.2% honor to the veterans out of their median income at that point in time. The average family income in Hanover, New Hampshire in 2011 was \$127,397 and this \$50 credit would provide an honor to our veterans at .039% of today's median income. This award has dropped by 307 times in 57 years.

Mr. Chambers reported that he called a number of communities to find out how they are honoring their veterans. In researching 25 towns, he learned that the Town of Hanover has the lowest benefit of any Town of the 25 towns that he surveyed. There were only 2 towns out of 25 that had a benefit that was lower than \$150; 17 of the 25 towns that he spoke to provide the

maximum of \$500; Haverhill, NH provides a \$500 benefit and they have 150% more veterans on their tax rolls than Hanover; Newport and Lyme also provide the benefit at \$500.

Selectman Rassias stated that the Select Board has considered this issue several times over the years and they did consider alternatives for the increase however several issues led them to the proposed increase from \$50 to \$100. This credit is not need based but is a recognition and acknowledgement of service to our country. While it may seem like these are relatively small numbers, increasing the credit to \$500 is a 1% increase on the tax rate. Due to these and several other reasons, the Board decided to raise the credit to \$100.

Doug McIlroy, Hanover Center, stated that he was very disappointed in the reasoning in the flyer that was handed out. It compared a median income to an average income and he felt that this was deceptive advertising. He also agreed with Selectman Rassias that this is not need based and the argument that Hanover has a very high income and thus it should have a very high payout is quite strange to him. He stated that this has nothing to do with disparaging veterans; it has to do with the way this particular amendment was presented.

Kari Asmus asked about the voting results published in the Town Report indicating that there were 4 Selectmen in support, 1 against and 1 absent. There are only 5 Selectmen. Ms. Griffin stated that this was a typo and the vote was 3 in favor, 1 against and 1 absent.

Kevin Knuuti stated that he moved to the area about a year and a half ago. He stated that an article in the Valley News mentioned a comment in some of the discussion that the Board had which stated that the Board didn't feel that they needed to raise the tax credit higher because it's not need based. Ms. Griffin was quoted in the paper as saying that this would effectively amount to about a \$10 increase per tax bill for a home valued at \$490,000 in the Town of Hanover. Mr. Knuuti stated that he is also a veteran so he would personally benefit from this as well but he feels that if the cost is about \$10 per household, if that is the average household price, it is really a small price to pay to say thanks for your service to the veterans in the Town of Hanover.

Ms. Griffin offered some statistical information regarding the optional Veterans' Tax Credit. The Department of Revenue Administration has made this information available on their website. There is a full spreadsheet with information about the 3 Veterans' Tax Credits that are available to communities in New Hampshire. One is the optional Veterans' Tax Credit with a minimum of \$50 and the Town can then adopt a maximum of \$500. Another is the Total Disability Tax Credit and the Surviving Spouse Tax Credit. In terms of the optional Veterans' Tax Credit, out of the 259 total towns in NH, 35 towns have adopted the \$50 credit; 33 towns have adopted between \$51 and \$100; 25 towns adopted a credit of \$101 to \$200; 27 towns adopted a credit of \$201 to \$300; 6 towns adopted a credit of \$301 to \$400 and 133 adopted the credit at the \$401 to \$500 level. A much smaller number of communities have adopted the Total Disability Credit which is a maximum of \$2,000 and the Surviving Spouse Veterans' Tax Credit in the amount of \$2,000; 94 communities in the State have adopted the maximum of those two and Hanover is one of those 94.

Rich Howarth, Hanover Center, asked how many people would receive the optional Veterans' Tax Benefit. Ms. Griffin stated that 162 veterans participate in the optional Veterans' Tax Credit currently so they assume that it would be 162 that would take advantage of the credit. By increasing the tax credit by \$50 to \$100, this would result in the loss of tax revenue in the amount of \$16,200; an increase to \$250 would result in a loss of revenue of \$40,500 and if they increase the credit to \$500 they would lose \$81,000 in revenue that needs to be made up. She noted that \$81,000 is approximately equal to a 1% tax rate increase. She calculated that if you look at the median household value of \$490,000, this would be a \$9.80 increase in their tax bill per year.

Mr. Chambers asked how a 1% tax rate increase equals \$80,000 when the overall budget is over \$20 million. Ms. McClain stated that Mr. Chambers is comparing the percentage to the total cost of expenditures but the discussion is really about the percentage of the taxes. Ms. Griffin stated that if Town Meeting adopts the \$500 tax credit, the Town would see a reduction in revenue that it receives of approximately \$72,000; currently there is a loss in revenue of \$8,100 from the \$50 tax credit so the net increase would be \$72,000. This is a little bit less than losing 1% of the taxable value. The Town would then need to raise additional tax revenue to support the entire appropriation of the budget. Ms. Griffin stated that anytime the Town loses revenue, there needs to be an offset increase in the tax rate.

Mr. Chambers stated that he heard the term 1% of the budget which caused the confusion. He also offered that he served with people in the US Navy that were millionaires and he knew some that lost their lives. When this law went into place in 1955, it was designed to honor the veterans and had nothing to do with being needs based.

Bob Strauss asked what RSA 72 states; is it a means qualification or is a no means qualification? Ms. Griffin stated that there is a procedure for veteran's to apply for the tax credit and the application is available on the State and Town website; any qualifying veteran has to be able to provide representation of service in a specific set of qualifying war or armed conflicts. Specifically, WWI between certain periods of time; WWII, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam Conflict, a secondary Vietnam Conflict if the resident earned the Vietnam Service Medal or Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Persian Gulf War and any other war or armed conflict that has occurred since May 8, 1975 in which the resident earned an Armed Services Expeditionary Medal or Theater of Operations Services Medal.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Town simply requires that the applicant provide them with service paperwork that they can use to verify eligibility for the credit. It is not needs based, its service based. Moderator Black stated that a Veteran can apply with a discharge certificate with the Assessor's office.

Kim Perez, Etna, asked how many veterans receive the disability tax credit; she is wondering about the proportion between the 162 qualifying for the optional tax credit versus the disability tax credit. Ms. Griffin stated that she does not have those figures with her but it is a significantly smaller number. Ms. McClain stated that she recalls seeing 1 or 2 that take advantage of the \$2,000 Total Disability Credit.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on the Amendment to raise the amount of the optional Veterans' Tax Credit to \$500. There was a split among the audience so a paper ballot was required. Moderator Black asked for a paper vote.

Moderator Black announced the results on the Amendment to Article Fifteen; 62 in favor, 41 against. The amendment passed.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to adopt the optional Veterans' Tax Credit in the amount of \$500. The optional Veterans' Tax Credit shall replace the standard Veterans' Tax Credit of \$50 currently in place and shall not be in addition thereto. The optional Veterans' Tax Credit shall be subtracted each year from the property tax on the veteran's residential property or, for a surviving spouse of a resident who suffered a service-connected death, they may have the same amount subtracted from the property tax on any real property in the same municipality where the surviving spouse is a resident. Persons shall qualify for the optional Veterans' Tax Credit based on the requirements outlined in RSA 72:28 IV. The optional Veterans' Tax Credit shall take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2012. SECONDED from the floor.

The motion PASSED and Article Fifteen was ADOPTED as amended.

Moderator Black thanked a Veteran present in the audience for his service.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to support the services provided the residents of Hanover by the Goose Pond Lake Association with water quality sampling protocols (DES-VLAP and UNH-LLMP) and invasive species screening (Lake Host Program). This is the first time this article has appeared on the warrant.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to support the services provided the residents of Hanover by the Goose Pond Lake Association with water quality sampling protocols (DES-VLAP and UNH-LLMP) and invasive species screening (Lake Host Program). This is the first time this article has appeared on the warrant. SECONDED from the floor.

Joan Garipay, Hanover Resident, MOVED to table Article Sixteen.

Ms. Garipay stated that in previous years this has been part of the Hanover budget and last year was the first year that they didn't include it; residents signed a petition to have it included and it is part of the budget that has already been voted on.

The motion to table Article Sixteen PASSED.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: (By Petition) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to support Mascoma Valley Health Initiative services provided for the residents of Hanover.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to support Mascoma Valley Health Initiative services provided for the residents of Hanover. SECONDED from the floor.

Dr. Bill Boyle, Hanover resident and Chairman of the Mascoma Health Initiative, stated that he has been a pediatrician since 1970 and has been the Health Officer in Hanover and a member of the Hanover Water Company for a long time. The Mascoma Valley Health Initiative is a non-profit 501(c) (3) public health organization serving the Upper Valley since 2003. The initiative was initially meant to serve the 5 towns in the Mascoma Valley but expanded at the request of the State and now includes 13 towns that make up Public Health Region 4.

Dr. Boyle stated that Region 4 stretches from Cornish in the South to Piermont in the North and as far east as Orange, Dorchester, Grafton and includes Grantham. The request is to help support a public health development project and apply a partial match to a grant to MVHI from the NH Charitable Foundation. The State has designated the 13 Towns as a regional health district and the project will help coordinate a public health structure that will help many entities that provide public health services to respond to emerging needs and sustain existing services.

Dr. Boyle stated that the Region does a nice job coordinating emergency response but other public health activities are very spotty. For example, each town has to have a health officer. There are 13 health officers in this region but they are not supported by anything, there are no requirements to be a health officer other than to agree to be one. There are no resources available to them to work together and he said it is a lonely job at times when trying to figure out what is going on. There are oral health programs and other health programs around the Region that exist but they need to put this all together to have a reasonable regional health system. The plan would be to weave the existing resources together to create a blanket that will more effectively and more efficiently cover the local public health services. Six towns in the region have already supported MVHI with money at their Town Meeting. The Select Board also recommends that taxpayers support this and he hopes that they will.

There was no further discussion. Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Seventeen.

The motion PASSED and Article Seventeen was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town vote to transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting.

Maris Noble stated that she would like the Select Board to study the pros and cons of having Town Meeting to take place in March.

Bill Baschnagel wanted to congratulate the Board and the Staff on the Town Report this year stating that it is a remarkable document and they should be proud of it. He would like to congratulate the Board on sending out a smaller mailer but he would like the Board to seriously consider their policy of not mailing out the Town Reports to the citizens of the Town.

Mr. Baschnagel stated that the Town Report has valuable information about what is going on in the Town and it's a good educational piece as well. It really needs to be sent out to people. If sending them out to the taxpayers is a problem, the Town should look at the voting list to get it out to the residents of the Town. There will be more participation if that document gets out there.

Moderator Black noted that Jessie Levine, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director, did the Town Report this year and should be congratulated for it.

Moderator Black thanked all the voters for coming out to vote, all the volunteers who worked at the election and the staff that has put in countless hours. She also recognized the Supervisors of the Checklist who are required to be at the polls for 12 hours.

A resident from the audience MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED from the floor. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Garipay, Town Clerk

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.