

**FINAL**

**2011 TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF HANOVER  
Tuesday, May 10, 2011  
Hanover High School Gymnasium**

The annual Town Meeting of Hanover, New Hampshire convened on May 10, 2011 at 7 a.m. by the Town Moderator, Daniel Nelson, at the Hanover High Gymnasium. Moderator Nelson 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 Five of the Town Meeting Warrant.

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

Two Selectmen, each to serve for a term of three (3) years;  
Brian F. Walsh 325 (Re-elected)  
Peter L. Christie 308 (Re-elected)

One Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years;  
Kim P. Wilson 311

One Trustee of Trust Funds to serve for a term of three (3) years.  
Paul B. Gardent 140  
Jeffrey M. Harris 101

**ARTICLE TWO** (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover 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 Sections 201 and 204 to establish a new “GP” Goose Pond zoning district and would amend the zoning map to place a portion of the current “F” Forestry and Recreation zoning district located around Goose Pond into the “GP” Goose Pond Zoning district.

**RESULTS: YES 287 NO 49 ARTICLE PASSED**

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

The following is on the official ballot:

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

Amendment No. 2 would amend Section 317.1 by stipulating that no signs, other than official street signs or traffic directions, would be allowed in street rights-of-way without approval of the Board of Selectmen or the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, depending on which jurisdiction applies to the particular street.

**RESULTS: YES 300 NO 46 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 petition 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 petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 3 would amend Table 204.5 “GR” General Residence zoning district by deleting Student Residence from the list of uses allowed by Special Exception.

At a public hearing held on February 22, 2011, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

**RESULTS: YES 277 NO 63 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 petition 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 petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 4 would amend Section 404.1, the schedule of off-street parking requirements, by specifying that the minimum parking spaces required for Downtown Commercial uses would be only one parking space for 400 gross square feet of building floor area and by deleting requirements for additional required parking spaces for interior or exterior restaurant seats.

At a public hearing on March 22, 2011, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously not to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

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**RESULTS: YES 215 NO 131 ARTICLE PASSED**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Moderator Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting would begin with music provided by the Hanover High School Wind Ensemble.

Moderator Nelson invited Norman Wolfe, Hanover High School Concert Band Director, to introduce the Hanover High School Wind Ensemble.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Wind Ensemble is a smaller group of students that are selected from the Concert Band. The Wind Ensemble is about one-third of the 90 players in the Concert Band. A lot of these talented players also compete in Regional and State Festivals. He noted that they hosted exchanges from Germany in October and then went to Germany in March to play 3 concerts. The Ensemble would be playing the song that they played at the end of each concert featuring Emily Muller on piccolo. Mr. Wolfe noted that Emily was the high scorer for piccolo in the State of New Hampshire.

Moderator Nelson asked Lt. Michael Evans to lead the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Moderator Nelson asked the Select Board to introduce themselves. Judy Doherty, Brian Walsh, Kate Connolly, Peter Christie, and Athos Rassias introduced themselves to the audience.

Moderator Nelson asked Julia Griffin, Town Manager, to introduce the department heads that were present. Ms. Griffin introduced Betsy McClain, Administrative Services Director, Jonathan Edwards, Planning and Zoning Director, Barbara Prince, Etna Librarian, Corey Stevens, IT Director, Mike Ryan, Town Assessor, Peter Kulbacki, Public Works Director, Roger Bradley, Fire Chief, Nick Giaccone, Police Chief, Vicki Smith, Senior Planner, Hank Tenney, Recreation Director and Jessie Levine, the new Assistant Town Manager and Human Resources Director.

Moderator Nelson asked Bill Young to come forward for an announcement.

Mr. Young made the following statement:

“Good evening, Mr. Moderator, members of the Select Board and citizens of the nearly 250 year old Town of Hanover. It is my pleasure to invite you to join in the 250 year commemoration of our fair city. Dozens of volunteers and staff employees of the Town have been working for weeks and weeks in preparation for this particular event. We have 3 goals for the 250<sup>th</sup> commemoration.

The first of those goals is to remember our history. The second is to build some community and the third is to have some fun. I can assure you we’re accomplishing all

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of those so far however, I wish to make two quick points tonight, we need your help as volunteers. As Patrick Henry during the colonial period charged his citizens, ‘our brethren are already in the field, why stand you here idle?’ Please do not remain idle. Please volunteer; please join us in all of these activities. There’s room for everybody to make big hats, to march in the parade, to paint pigs, a multitude of tasks and the more people involved, the more we’ll celebrate our history, build our community, and also have fun.

The second important point is that the partying and the history are starting right now. Tomorrow night at the Howe Library Jay Barrett, whose pictures are on the back of the program, will be telling you about those pictures in a series of 4 lectures at the Howe and at the Etna Library and Jere R. Daniell will be talking about the regions before those times to help us all remember what our history is.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, we would like to invite you to the preview party for Pig and Wolf. You saw them unpainted – there are almost 20 of them painted by artists around the area including 601 artists on one pig at the Ray School. May 25<sup>th</sup> is the “coming out” party or preview party before they wander out of the Parks & Recreation building and head out onto the streets of Hanover where they will reside for the rest of the summer until the auction in the fall. Lots of things coming up after that with Muster Day on May 30<sup>th</sup> and then the Hanover Center Fair in June and then on July 2, 3, 4 there will be big hoopla around Hanover with big fireworks on Saturday night, concerts on The Green on Sunday, and on Monday a phenomenal parade. I invite all of you; please join me in celebrating Hanover’s 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Thank you very much.”

Moderator Nelson invited Brian Walsh to speak. Chairman Walsh presented flowers to Penny Hoisington and announced that she would be retiring in November and recognized her for her tremendous work on the Annual Report every year and thanked for her work over the past 16 years.

Moderator Nelson noted that there are displays outside the gymnasium from the Bike & Pedestrian Committee including information on “hot spots” that are areas that are not bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

Moderator Nelson went over the voting procedures for the night and then asked for business under Article 6.

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

**Vice Chairman Connolly 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;

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Joe Roberto

Two Fence Viewers, each for a term of one (1) year;

William Garrity  
Robert Morris

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.

**Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED and the nominees were ELECTED.**

**ARTICLE SEVEN:** 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.

Moderator Nelson asked for business under Article 7.

**Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers as printed in the 2010 Town Report be accepted, as well as any Special Resolutions. Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED and Article Seven was ADOPTED as written.**

Chairman Walsh asked Nancy Collier, President of the Conservation Council, Carolyn Tenney and Bob Norman to stand before Town Meeting. Chairman Walsh read a RESOLUTION of thanks for Carolyn Tenney and Bob Norman.

**RESOLUTION**

Robert Z. Norman and Carolyn C. Tenney

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, at the 1961 town meeting, Hanover citizens voted to adopt a set of zoning ordinances based on a comprehensive plan prepared by the firm of Adams, Howard, and Greeley, entitled Hanover Plans Ahead; and

WHEREAS, the new ordinances omitted one recommendation for a “green belt” around the core urban part of Hanover, describing this land “adjacent to the built-up parts of town consisting largely of land too wet, too steep, or otherwise not suited for intensive urban development”; and

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WHEREAS, this omission of the green-belt concept to “provide recreation and breathing space,” raised concern by some citizens who felt it should have been included in the voted plan; and

WHEREAS, this group of citizens, led by Robert Z. Norman and Carolyn C. Tenney, and including George Wrightson, Ted Hunter, and Jean Hennessey, investigated the constitutionality of including a “natural area” zoning; and

WHEREAS, finding evidence that such protective zoning was constitutional, then prepared a draft amendment to include a Nature Preserve zone in the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, this amendment presented by Robert Z. Norman at the 1962 town meeting passed with an overwhelming majority; and

WHEREAS, this citizen movement to preserve natural characteristics of open space grew into a private organization, called the Hanover Conservation Council, incorporated in 1963;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Selectmen for the Town of Hanover, along with the Board of Directors of the Hanover Conservation Council, warmly and gratefully recognize Robert Z. Norman and Carolyn C. Tenney for their bold actions, begun 50 years ago, to establish a Natural Preserve Zoning for the town; for their commitment to land conservation in Hanover; and for their role in establishing the Hanover Conservation Council, so read into the record on Tuesday, May 10, 2011.

Gail McPeck presented Bob Norman and Carolyn Tenney with an aerial photo of Hanover on behalf of the Hanover Conservation Council.

Moderator Nelson announced the results of the voting earlier in the day.

Vice Chairman Connolly asked Jeff Graham to step up to the podium for the Hanover Recreation Volunteer of the Year award. Mr. Graham called Aharon Bogoshian and Jeff Goodrich to present the volunteer of the year award.

Mr. Graham stated that these fellow Hanover High classmates are unaware of it; they are co-recipients of the Hanover Volunteer of the Year award.

Mr. Bogoshian expressed his appreciation for the award. He stated that he and Jeff have been working together for the last several years working on the football program but more importantly to help develop young people. If you were to ask Jeff what the objective of the football program is, he'll tell you it's not for a winning season – the objective is to raise young men and to teach them to have a sense of community, discipline, comradery, and teamwork. It takes a community years to raise a child and Jeff really takes this to a whole new level; they get these kids moving and to work together; showing kids what it means to be part of a greater community than just yourself. Jeff has

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worked tirelessly to this end and he has had the pleasure of working beside him for the past 11 years (skipping 2005 while Jeff was in Iraq) and he has thoroughly enjoyed this.

Mr. Goodrich stated he was also surprised to be receiving this award and had prepared a short statement for Aharon. He's known Aharon for a long time and it's his pleasure to acknowledge him in this year's Volunteer of the Year Award. Mr. Goodrich stated that he's known him most of his life, he was a handful of years ahead of him at Hanover High and he helped coach his football team as a recent strapping graduate of UNH. They crossed paths many times and reconnected to coach 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade football in 1998. He couldn't imagine a better friend, co-coach, mentor than Aharon. He's caring, compassionate, and committed to the well-being of every single young man who steps on the field. Football and coaching in general is a great analogy for life. Aharon has done a tremendous job of teaching many young men what it means to be a man, to care about others, to participate in the greater purpose for the benefit of others, and to love and accept teammates and other people alike. If you think about 10 years times 30 kids equals 300+ lives. Mr. Goodrich stated that he knows the impact Aharon has had on many young lives by the expression of affection and respect he sees when any of his former player's greet him with 'Hey Coach'. The bond that accompanies the greeting is evident and it says something like 'thanks for caring about me, for helping me to care about others, and to help me grow into a man.' While he knows that Aharon has committed many volunteer hours and days at other venues, he also acknowledged his long term role as a Deacon at his church and his capacity on the Board of the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce for several years. Aharon is truly deserving of this recognition he is proud to know him as a friend and fellow citizen.

Chairman Walsh noted that he attended Professor Michelle Clark's class at Dartmouth this afternoon, Democratic Theory is the name of the class and the conversation was about "What is Town Meeting?" Many members of the class were present and he would like the Town Meeting to welcome them.

Moderator Nelson announced Articles Eight through Fifteen which would be voted on all together but anyone can ask to have the Articles taken up separately.

Selectman Doherty read through Articles Eight through Fifteen.

**ARTICLE EIGHT:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50 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 2009-2010. 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 NINE:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50 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

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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 2009-2010. 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 TEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,600 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 2009-2010.

**ARTICLE ELEVEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$710,425 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	\$ 60,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$265,000
Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 46,710
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 89,500
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 25,000
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 56,215
Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 15,000

**ARTICLE TWELVE:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the ongoing necessary capital maintenance of and improvements to the plant and equipment comprising the Town's water utility system, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$113,050 for deposit into this fund.

**ARTICLE THIRTEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$855,521 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:



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Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund <i>River Road bridge repair</i>	\$ 72,100
Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund <i>Roof replacement at Richard Hauger Public Works Facility; HVAC capital maintenance at Police Station</i>	\$ 86,300
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Replace 4 Highway maintenance vehicles (3 with plows)</i>	\$446,100
Parking Vehicles and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Replace Pay and Display ticket kiosk at Lot #7 (near intersection of Lebanon and Crosby Streets)</i>	\$ 9,000
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Replace patrol cruiser fleet (4 full size cruisers, light bars, radios, laptop computers and related policing equipment)</i>	\$193,501
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Replace truck and cement mixer</i>	\$ 23,520
Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund <i>Contracted labor for Town-wide property revaluation program</i>	\$ 25,000

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, 2016, whichever is sooner.

**ARTICLE FOURTEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$105,000 for substantial funding of the anticipated bike lane widening and sidewalk improvements along Park Street, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2016, whichever is sooner.

**ARTICLE FIFTEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to terminate the Howe Library Building Repair and Equipment Fund created in 1985, and to deposit any remaining balance in this fund with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal (projected to be \$9,200 at June 30, 2011) into the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance. And, further, to see if the Town will raise and appropriate said funds (estimated at \$9,200)

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from the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance for deposit into the Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

**Selectman Doherty MOVED that the Town vote to approve Article Eight through Article Fifteen jointly as written. Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion.**

Moderator Nelson asked for questions or discussions. There were no questions.

**The motion PASSED and Articles Eight through Fifteen were ADOPTED as written.**

**ARTICLE SIXTEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$21,208,081 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2011-2012 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.

Moderator Nelson asked for business under Article 16.

**Selectman Christie MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$21,208,081 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2011-2012 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. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

Selectman Christie stated that this is an excellent budget and to a certain extent it felt like déjà vu when going through the process to prepare it. Everyone has read that the recession is over but somehow it still doesn't feel like it. There are still concerns about jobs and security, there are concerns about small, if any pay raises, concerns that there has been no increase in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements for two years, we know that our home prices are stable at best, and other than the stock markets coming back a little, it just felt like this was another year where they needed to tighten their belts and tow the line. That's what this budget ended up doing. This budget comes in at an overall tax rate increase for both the General and the Fire Funds of just under 1% which is a real tribute.

Selectman Christie stated that the Board also had concerns about the overhang from the State and knowing that there are other taxes that they can't control. Selectman Christie stated that they asked Ms. Griffin to come to the Board with a budget with a tax rate increase in the 1% to 3% range. With true professionalism and efficiency, the Board received a budget with a 2% tax rate increase. Selectman Christie stated that through some policy decisions they were able to reduce the increase to less than 1% but for all intents and purposes the budget was pretty much adopted as it was presented.

Selectman Christie pointed out a few items of interest in the budget. The transition of the Hanover Water Company to having a municipally supplied water system has gone extremely well. The benefits anticipated have been achieved, the amount of money it

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cost to conduct that change has been paid for and they have been able to reserve so they can go after the distribution system improvements. In 1 year they have achieved the objectives that they have set out to and they have been able to create a reserve fund. The Trescott Company is up and running, there are 3 directors each from the Town and the College, they have received a forestry management plan and are working through the course of management. There are issues surrounding invasive species and overpopulation of deer. There's a lot of work to be done and there are no easy answers. Selectman Christie stated that rarely does a change of that magnitude go as smoothly as this transaction did.

Selectman Christie stated that they learned a few things about the management of the Undesignated Fund Balance. The Town has two funds of reserve; the Capital Reserve Fund which they are putting money into in this reserve, this is for rolling stock, major pieces of equipment, police cruisers, etc. to maintain an even flow in terms of the tax rate. Over the past 5 years, between the high and the low of what has gone into the reserve has been about \$250,000; what has come out of the reserve over that 5 year period is over \$1 million. By having these reserves the Town is better able to manage the tax rate impact of what amounts to about 10% of the entire budget; this continues to go well.

The Town has 5 Undesignated Fund Balance accounts and this is an accumulation of funds resulting from budget surpluses over the years. The Town has a policy that says that these funds need to be kept in the range of 5 to 10% of the underlying budget; if it drops below 5% they will tax to get the rate back up, if goes above 10% they have put the requirement on themselves to get this back down. When they are in the 5% to 10% range, they don't want to touch that reserve to pay for recurring expenses. In the Fire Fund, they have been able to use Undesignated Fund Balances for the past several years but don't know how long that benefit will last because at some point it will run out. The policy is sound but there is a nuance that they have come to appreciate.

Selectman Christie stated that there is a 600 lb. gorilla in Concord and the amount of downshifting from the State. Approximately 2% of the Municipal Tax Rate is attributed to the downshifting from the State. This is becoming a significant piece of the budget each year and they will continue to remind residents every year as to where this increase comes from. Interest income on Town invested cash in the proposed budget is \$40,000 lower than last year and over \$240,000 lower than its high in 2008. This year's decrease of \$40,000 has about a 1/2 % impact on the tax rate.

Selectman Christie reported that the Grand List is forecasted to grow by \$25 million in this budget which is the same as last year, but on the low side of the \$25 to \$40 million range that they have seen in the past.

Selectman Christie stated that over the past years the Town has invested in sustainability. He feels that they have done a good job in consciously trying to reduce the carbon footprint with a lot of projects including changes in interior and exterior lighting, high efficiency water heaters, furnace modifications, window replacements, insulation

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upgrades and re-roofing that are now starting to see a payback. Selectman Christie reported that the Town was able to reduce budgeted electricity costs by almost \$18,000.

Selectman Christie reported that the improvements at the Water Reclamation Facility have already resulted in a 33% reduction in energy consumption. Improvements this year will cut in half the oil needed to heat the wastewater digesters as we will be able to use the methane produced by the plant as fuel rather than discharging it into the atmosphere as we do now.

Selectman Christie stated that Town staff are finding better and less expensive ways to deliver services. As an example, the Howe Library implemented a new open source management software system which resulted in \$20,000 less in expenditure.

Selectman Christie stated that this year's major construction project will be the reconstruction of North and South Park street to enable the addition of safer bicycle lanes as well as the construction of a new sidewalk.

Selectman Christie reported that the Town will be able to put utilities underground on Lebanon Street between Crosby and South Main Street. The cost for this project is \$800,000 which will be paid for by Dartmouth College as part of the new Visual Arts Center.

Selectman Christie noted that some residents got hit pretty hard by the ice storm in Etna. He recalled seeing an e-mail asking for people to check in on seniors and others at risk in those areas with offers for people to stay where beds were available throughout town. This is a very caring town and the people that work for us day in and day out are very caring people. Selectman Christie wanted to thank the workers of the Town. Selectman Christie also thanked the residents who serve the Town on Boards, Commissions, Task Forces, Committees and study groups.

Moderator Nelson asked for any questions on the budget.

**The motion PASSED and Article Sixteen was ADOPTED as written.**

**ARTICLE SEVENTEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 4, 2011, between the Town of Hanover and the American Federation of State and County Municipal (AFSCME), Local 193, which calls for the following increases in salaries at the current staffing level. These salary increases are offset by a reduction in employer health care costs.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2011-2012	\$-0-
2012-2013	\$47,053
2013-2014	\$55,545

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And further to raise and appropriate the sum of zero dollars (\$0) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

**ARTICLE EIGHTEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 4, 2011, between the Town of Hanover and New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), Local 27, which calls for the following increases in salaries at the current staffing level. These salary increases are offset by a reduction in employer health care costs.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2011-2012	\$-0-
2012-2013	\$39,476
2013-2014	\$42,036

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of zero dollars (\$0) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

**ARTICLE NINETEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 4, 2011, between the Town of Hanover and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local 3288, which calls for the following increases in salaries at the current staffing level. These salary increases are offset by a reduction in employer health care costs.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2011-2012	\$-0-
2012-2013	\$24,259
2013-2014	\$31,107

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of zero dollars (\$0) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

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Chairman Walsh spoke to Articles Seventeen, Eighteen and Nineteen. He stated that these Articles came together after the budget was set. The Board set the budget with no cost of living adjustment and then completed negotiations with the 3 unions (Police, Fire and Public Works).

Chairman Walsh stated that the Town has been having conversations with the Unions about Total Compensation and not just merit increases and cost of living adjustments. These conversations have been going on for over 5 years. Roughly 70% of the Town's compensation costs are in salaries and roughly 30% are benefits. There has been increasing stress on the taxpayers. The Town also has a policy to treat all employees the same way relative to compensation. The National and State climate issues surrounding public employee unions are ugly. The Town's negotiator, Matt Upton, Betsy McClain and Gloria Lacasse sat down with the Unions after the budget was set to discuss ways to make the Total Compensation work.

Chairman Walsh reported that in the fall, the Town brought together a policy statement that had four themes 1) focus on total compensation, 2) competitive compensation, 3) need to present budgets to the Town voters that reflected the Town's ability to pay and, 4) maintain total expense at no more than 70% of the total operating budget. Each year, each employee is shown their total compensation including health care costs and retirement contributions. The budget originally included no cost of living adjustment for Town employees with steady benefit levels. In conversations with the Unions, because they were willing to talk with a Total Compensation focus, the Town was able to move to a contract looking at a 1 ½% cost of living increase but with a change in the base health care plan which will be less expensive for the taxpayer. Chairman Walsh thanked the employee Union members for their cooperation and understanding in this area.

Chairman Walsh stated that he will read the Articles and they are complicated and noted that the Department of Revenue Administration in the terms of Town Warrants look only at Cost of Living Increases and don't consider Total Compensation. The DRA also doesn't allow for negative increases. Chairman Walsh noted that the savings in health insurance in subsequent years will more than make up for the expenses that they are committing to. The economic changes are the same for the three contracts and for all non-union employees and the base health care plan will change to a less expensive option.

Chairman Walsh invited any questions from the audience. There were no questions from the audience.

Chairman Walsh extended his thanks and praise to Julia Griffin, Betsy McClain, Gloria Lacasse, Peter Kulbacki, Roger Bradley and Nick Giaccone for their work with the unions.

**Chairman Walsh MOVED that the Town vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 4, 2011, between the Town of Hanover and the American Federation of State and**

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**County Municipal (AFSCME), Local 193, which calls for the following increases in salaries at the current staffing level. These salary increases are offset by a reduction in employer health care costs.**

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2011-2012	\$-0-
2012-2013	\$47,053
2013-2014	\$55,545

**And further to raise and appropriate the sum of zero dollars (\$0) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.**

**Chairman Walsh MOVED that the Town vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 4, 2011, between the Town of Hanover and New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), Local 27, which calls for the following increases in salaries at the current staffing level. These salary increases are offset by a reduction in employer health care costs.**

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2012-2013	\$39,476
2013-2014	\$42,036

**And further to raise and appropriate the sum of zero dollars (\$0) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.**

**Chairman Walsh MOVED that the Town vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 4, 2011, between the Town of Hanover and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local 3288, which calls for the following increases in salaries at the current staffing level. These salary increases are offset by a reduction in employer health care costs.**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2011-2012	\$-0-
2012-2013	\$24,259

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2013-2014

\$31,107

**And further to raise and appropriate the sum of zero dollars (\$0) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.**

**Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**The motion PASSED and Articles Seventeen, Eighteen and Nineteen were ADOPTED as written.**

Moderator Nelson noted that at the time that Article Sixteen was voted on, there were 79 voters present which means that they were each responsible for \$268,456.72.

**ARTICLE TWENTY:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the swap of a small portion of Town-owned property, Map 33, Lot 38 located at 6 West Wheelock Street for a comparably sized small portion of property, Map 33, Lot 44 located at 5-7 Allen St., owned by Stephen and Raymond Buskey as authorized by the Board of Selectmen on January 24, 2011.

Selectman Rassias read Article Twenty and noted that there is a correction to the motion to show Map 33, Lot 38 which was previously and incorrectly listed as Lot 6.

**Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to approve the swap of a small portion of Town-owned property, Map 33, Lot 38 located at 6 West Wheelock Street for a comparably sized small portion of property, Map 33, Lot 44 located at 5-7 Allen St., owned by Stephen and Raymond Buskey as authorized by the Board of Selectmen on January 24, 2011. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

Selectman Rassias stated that this Article involves the swap of a very small piece of land and if approved, the land would be swapped with a similarly sized parcel of land owned by the Buskey family. The Town owned parcel of land is encumbered by a couple of parking spaces utilized by the Buskey property on Allen Street (EBA's and the office building adjacent to it). No funds will exchange hands for this swap of land and for more than 20 years, a lease between the two parties has achieved this swap in principle and practice.

Moderator Nelson asked for any questions. There were no questions from the audience.

**The motion PASSED and Article Twenty was ADOPTED as amended.**

**ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE:** To see if the Town will authorize the purchase of a conservation easement to protect from development the 3.196 acre property owned by Peter and Caroline Storrs, Tax Map 5, Lot 58, at the corner of Hanover Center Road and



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Ruddsboro Road, for a price not to exceed \$208,000, and to raise and appropriate that sum for this purpose by a withdrawal of \$150,000 from the Conservation Fund; and by raising \$58,000 in private donations. Expenditure of these funds will be contingent on execution of a purchase and sales agreement enabling the Town to conserve a large portion of the adjacent 30 acre parcel in the future.

**Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to authorize the purchase of a conservation easement to protect from development the 3.196 acre property owned by Peter and Caroline Storrs, Tax Map 5, Lot 58, at the corner of Hanover Center Road and Ruddsboro Road, for a price not to exceed \$208,000, and to raise and appropriate that sum for this purpose by a withdrawal of \$150,000 from the Conservation Fund; and by raising \$58,000 in private donations. Expenditure of these funds will be contingent on execution of a purchase and sales agreement enabling the Town to conserve a large portion of the adjacent 30 acre parcel in the future. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

Selectman Rassias stated that Article Twenty concerns the possibility of preserving one of the last working farms in Hanover. The property is prominently located at the corner of Hanover Center and Ruddsboro Road and this land would remain in private ownership while the proposed acquisition of a conservation easement by the Town would ensure a scenic and historic treasure, significant options for local agriculture, protection of a long segment of Mink Brook and adjacent flood plains and wetlands.

In the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, this property was owned by the family of Laura Bridgman who lived from 1829 to 1889. She was the first known deaf, blind and mute person to be taught the use of language through her sense of touch. Now called the Storrs Farm, its cattle are familiar to hundreds of residents and commuters, its seasonal roadside stand offers blueberries, maple syrup, eggs, bags of manure for vegetable and flower gardens.

Key to the success of this farm and its agricultural future are the underlying soils classified as being of national, state and local importance. The proposed conservation easement will guarantee continued capacity for food production by the current and future owners as well as other conservation and recreation activities.

Conservation of this farm is consistent with the following Town goals:

- 1) To keep land open for agricultural, conservation and outdoor recreation use consistent with the 2000 *Open Space Priorities Plan* and the 2003 *Master Plan*.
- 2) To protect important natural resources.
- 3) To conserve the character of Etna Village.
- 4) To assist landowners in achieving their financial and conservation goals, while providing significant long-term benefit to the Town.

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As is noted, this project consists of two phases. Phase One is to conserve the 3 acres and if this Article passes, this will take place this year and financing will come from the Conservation Fund with private donations to be raised. No money will be raised through tax revenues for this phase of the purchase. Phase Two will be considered in the future and concerns the protection of approximately 20 acres adjacent to Phase One.

Moderator Nelson asked for questions or comments.

Bob Russell asked for the sense of time that this will take. Ms. Griffin stated that the intention is to raise the remaining \$53,000 in private donations and then the closing can take place. With regard to the additional 30 acres, it could be another 20 years for that transaction.

Bob Keene asked about the expectation that the property would be mowed every 4 years. He believes that the conservation easement he has on his property states that they have to mow it every 2 years and wondered where the Town came up with every 4 years.

Vicki Smith, Senior Planner, stated that this was part of the conversation about how long it would take before the property could no longer be mowed. The point of the easement is to leave that land open and they figured it could still be brush hogged every 4 years.

**The motion PASSED and Article Twenty-One was ADOPTED as written.**

**ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO:** (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to instruct the New Hampshire congressional delegation to take a fresh look at climate change and carefully consider the importance of science, not politics, in United States climate change policy.

Moderator Nelson asked for business under Article Twenty-Two.

**Selectman Rassias MOVED move that the Town vote to instruct the New Hampshire congressional delegation to take a fresh look at climate change and carefully consider the importance of science, not politics, in United States climate change policy. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

Michael Hillinger, Etna, spoke to this petitioned Article. Mr. Hillinger stated that he is a Town Meeting traditionalist and a Moderator for 10 years as well so he does not take motions like this lightly. The proposed Article is in accord with the recommendations of a February 1, 2011 letter sent to all members of the Congress by 18 distinguished scientists in climate related fields. In their letter, the scientists drew attention to the findings of a series of reports requested by Congress and issued in the spring of 2010 by the National Academy of Sciences. The findings were unambiguous. Climate change is occurring; it is caused largely by human activities, and in many cases is already affecting a broad range of natural human systems. The stakes are very high. We have already put enough carbon into the atmosphere to ensure a 2 degree centigrade increase in global

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temperatures before the end of the century. This temperature prediction could easily be exceeded if the anticipated climate feedback process isn't taken into account. Continuing the business as usual approach now favored by Washington could move us into an irreversible tipping point that would have profound environmental, social and political consequences for our children, and our children's children. Unfortunately as the February 1<sup>st</sup> letter notes 'the debate about climate change has become increasingly ideological and partisan.' Climate change is not the product of a belief system or ideology. Instead it's based on scientific fact and no amount of argument coercion or debate among talking heads in the media can alter the physics of climate change. How to deal with climate change is a political issue. The science and reality of climate change are not. As our elected representatives, you must educate yourselves about the scientific issues and then act with dispatch to address this problem.

Robert Strauss is hopeful that this conversation and effort is being made in every Town. The Town of Hanover cannot carry the Senate.

**The motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Two was ADOPTED as written.**

**ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE:** To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting.

Moderator Nelson asked Chairman Walsh to bring forth Article Twenty-Three.

**Chairman Walsh MOVED that the Town transact any other business that may legally be brought before Town Meeting. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED.**

Debra Nelson wanted to make a statement about the state of Concord and she wanted to report that the Town is fortunate to have two State Representatives who are enduring extraordinary problems on the taxpayers' behalf down in Concord. She felt that it was time to at least say to Sharon Nordgren and David Pierce for what they are doing to try to keep the Town budget more manageable. She wanted to thank the democratic legislators for what they are trying to do for the State of New Hampshire.

**Chairman Walsh MOVED to dissolve the meeting. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Garipay, Town Clerk

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.