

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 16, 2011

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

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice Chairman; Peter Christie, Selectman; Judy Doherty, Selectman; Athos Rassias, Selectmen; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Walsh noted that Athos Rassias would be a little late to tonight's meeting.

Chairman Walsh called the meeting to order and asked for any Public Comment.

Lorraine Pfefferkorn, 24 Rope Ferry Road, approached the Board and read the following letter into the record:

“Prior to a Hanover Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing, I examined the records sent out by Judith Brotman in March, 2011. Everything I found was also in my record with one exception. There is an August 7, 2003 letter that came out of the blue. It is a letter to Paul Glover which even Paul did not receive. It appeared when the Zoning Department needed evidence to back up its position about matters from 2003. For 8 years, no one ever mentioned this letter. In three instances in 2010, Jonathan (Edwards) related a different story from the letter. The story Jonathan related in 2010 is the one that has been the accepted story for the last 8 years.

There is a question about this letter and its appearance at this time. There are questions about the record-keeping system and the way evidence is prepared by members of the Zoning Administration.

I ask the Selectmen to request Jonathan Edwards' records between August 1 and September 1, 2003 to see if there is anything in them to back up this newly found letter.

I ask the Selectmen to request Walter Mitchell's record on the 2010 story, as he was part of it. Walter's records may confirm Jonathan's 2010 recollection.

I also ask the Selectmen to see to it that an omission from Zoning's record is corrected. The omission is an e-letter dated 07/01/2010 containing Jonathan's relating of the story to me. (RSA 91:A 2008 NH Supreme Court Ruling made electronic communications part of the record).

Perhaps I am overestimating your oversight responsibilities. If so, I apologize. But if there is something you can do, I will supply you with copies, etc. Thank you for your attention.”

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Chairman Walsh confirmed that this is the same letter that she e-mailed to him over the weekend. Ms. Pfefferkorn wanted to add that Ms. Griffin contacted Judy Brotman about the e-letter and she said that she would enter it into the record.

Chairman Walsh informed Ms. Pfefferkorn that the Board would look into this.

Jeff Hafner, Etna, stated that he is an '02 Dartmouth Alum who has moved back to the area with his wife. He stated that he is working for the Dartmouth College Fund and part of his job is undergrad education for philanthropy. He went into fundraising and this has become a big part of his work. The Senior Class would like to do a raffle and needs a permit approved by the Board.

Ms. Griffin stated that she provided the permit to the Board. Mr. Hafner stated that they will be supporting Hanover businesses with the raffle.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR 2011-2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN.

Vice Chairman Connolly NOMINATED Brian Walsh as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Christie nominated Kate Connolly as Vice Chairman. Chairman Walsh nominated Judy Doherty as Secretary.

Chairman Walsh MOVED to approve the nominations by one vote. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATIONS OF BRIAN WALSH AS CHAIRMAN, KATE CONNOLLY AS VICE CHAIRMAN AND JUDY DOHERTY AS SECRETARY.

Chairman Walsh noted that no one has asked him about making changes to their liaison assignments. The Board felt that the current assignments were appropriate.

Chairman Walsh MOVED to keep the liaison appointments the same as the 2010 assignments.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO KEEP THE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS THE SAME AS THE 2010 ASSIGNMENTS.

3. TOWN MEETING UPDATE.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Board has been provided with the ballot with the final votes which have also been posted on the website. This was the first year that they used new voting booths which the Town purchased but the school will be storing. The Town will share the voting booths with the school and they hope to retire the last of the old voting booths before the next election.

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Selectman Christie (jokingly) noted that Brian Walsh in an unopposed election outpolled him yet again but this time by a lower amount than the last 3 years. Mr. Christie asked the Board for a recount. The Board respectfully declined. Ms. Griffin stated that there were 17 voters that voted for Brian Walsh and did not vote for Peter Christie.

Chairman Walsh invited Jessie Levine to introduce herself. Ms. Levine introduced herself as the new Assistant Town Manager and the Human Resources Director for the Town of Hanover.

Chairman Walsh noted that the low turnout at Town Meeting might have been the lack of notice. He had one person suggest that the Town send out an e-mail. Chairman Walsh had concerns that the Town did not do themselves or the citizens of Hanover a service by failing to send out multiple notices.

Ms. Griffin stated that one of Jessie's assignments is to begin to develop an e-mail list. They will need to determine who would want to be on the list and to start creating the list. Ms. Griffin stated that the new website would make it fairly easy to get people to sign up for the list but the older generation wanted a post card notice. Chairman Walsh mentioned the option of using Code Red (the reverse calling system). Ms. Griffin stated that they wanted to make sure to only use the system to emergencies or the effect becomes watered down.

Ms. Griffin stated that they could send a shorter version of the Town Report which is another option. Selectman Christie stated that he had received feedback that a lot of people did watch it on TV. Chairman Walsh stated that when the Town has had bond issues in the past that needed to be voted on, there were people who watched it at home and then came down for the vote.

Chairman Walsh noted that Selectman Doherty did a great job presenting the Consent Agenda. Selectman Doherty felt that commenting on the Dartmouth government class that was present was beneficial and they should make a point of recognizing other groups that attend. Chairman Walsh noted that Professor Clark had a course on Democratic Theory and this was her idea. Professor Clark's response was that it was an object lesson to the students that some of the things that are important in life are not very exciting.

Chairman Walsh welcomed Jessie Levine to the Town.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT ABATEMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

Chairman Walsh invited Mike Ryan, Town Assessor, to speak to the Board.

Chairman Walsh noted that the Board received recommendations from the Advisory Board of Assessors. Some abatement requests resulted in no change and some had significant changes based on fact and circumstance.

The Board did not have additional questions.

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Selectman Doherty MOVED to accept the Board of Assessors' recommendations for abatements. Selectman Christie SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ACCEPT THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ABATEMENTS.

Mr. Ryan noted that there are another set of abatements coming to the Board in June. The 2013 re-evaluation is coming up and letters to the taxpayer/property owners will be going out soon. Jack McCarthy, who worked for the Town last time, will be the point person for this process and they will update the website with his picture (along with Mike Ryan's picture) and the areas that they will be working.

Chairman Walsh asked if Jack and Mike have any kind of badge or ID. Mr. Ryan stated that they have IDs around their necks and they have purchased two placards with the Town seal that will be placed on the cars. The letters are helpful for the residents so that they to expect they will be coming around.

Selectman Christie asked how many homes they actually get to walk through. Mr. Ryan stated that they get about 83% out of 100%.

5. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY PROCLAMATION.

Ms. Griffin stated that they need to thank Larry Litten for his work on this. He came to Ms. Griffin about a year ago asking why the Town isn't part of the Appalachian Trail Community. Mr. Litten completed the paperwork necessary to become part of the community.

Ms. Griffin read the proposed Proclamation:

WHEREAS, Appalachian Trail founder Benton MacKaye's vision included opportunities for recreation, recuperation, and employment through "...a series of recreational communities throughout the Appalachian chain...to be connected by a walking trail"; and

WHEREAS, communities along the Appalachian Trail corridor are important partners for the sustainability of the Trail and its corridor for an estimated four million visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding recreational trail, scenic overlooks, and remote wilderness areas present opportunities to attract visitors to Appalachian Trail communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, this designation will act as a catalyst to support sustainable economic development, to engage community residents as Trail users, stewards and supporters, and to elevate the visibility of the Trail as a resource and local asset; and

WHEREAS, Hanover is highlighted, recognized and are taking steps to ensure the ongoing protection of their natural and recreational resources while investing in their future as memorable destination along the Appalachian Trail; and

WHEREAS, Hanover's sense of place and protection of the cultural, historical, and natural assets in the Appalachian Mountain Region can benefit through the use of resources such as signage, communications, and new partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Hanover has been recognized and designated as an Appalachian Trail Community and desire to continue its efforts to support this effort for no fewer than five years.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, Selectman Brian Walsh and Town Manager Julia Griffin, do hereby proclaim that Hanover accept the designation as an Appalachian Trail Community and urge the citizens to support the Appalachian Trail through appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, we hereunto set our hand this 24th day of May, 2011.

Ms. Griffin stated that there is a celebratory event scheduled on Tuesday, May 24th at the Howe Library at 7:00 p.m. Willem Lange will be speaking to the group about the history of the Appalachian Trail and representatives will be there from the Appalachian Trail conservancy to make a presentation.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town of Hanover proclaim itself as an Appalachian Trail Community. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED THAT THE TOWN OF HANOVER PROCLAIM ITSELF AS AN APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY.

Chairman Walsh stated that Larry Litten needs to be thanked for this and he will be saying a few words at the event. Vice Chairman Connolly noted that it is a pleasure to see the residents of the Appalachian Trail outside the post office during the summer.

6. COUNTY BUDGET UPDATE.

Ms. Griffin stated that she wanted to make sure the Board was up to date on the latest information coming out of the County budget. Ms. Griffin stated that she was approached by Representative David Pierce who is on the County Delegation that adopts the county budget at the very end of June. He contacted her with concerns about the rate of increase and he acknowledges that the largest portion is the County Jail bond issue. The first bond has already been voted on and the County has committed to this expenditure. Ms. Griffin stated that she would attend the County budget hearing and wanted to get any input from the Board to be shared with the delegation. The hearing is usually the last Monday in June. They are figuring for the average Hanover household valued at \$490,000 would result in about a \$70 increase in their tax bill for the county portion of their tax rate. It is not clear that they will have any success in getting the Commissioner's to reduce the rate.

Ms. Griffin stated that even by delaying the hiring of staff by 3 months would save significant money for the next tax year. Vice Chairman Connolly stated that they are committed to filling

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that building. Ms. Griffin stated that the projections from 2 years ago are not far off from the expense they will see starting July 1.

Chairman Walsh stated that he read that 30% of the increase is the bond issue and 20% is additional staff for the jail; so 50% of the increase is the county jail. He believes that a careful look at the county jail and what it's doing is picking up the fact that the State is going out of the business of dealing with substance abuse and Mental Health issues. He was disappointed in the cover letter from the County that there was not discussion about the drivers of the increases. He would like his disappointment conveyed that the drivers of the increase are not being dealt with.

Ms. Griffin stated that while there are funds for additional guards, there is a substantial amount of money being used for mental health counselors and substance abuse counselors. This is not just a holding cell for prisoners and the County's feeling is that they have some obligation to care for these people when they are in their custody. This is a good portion of the expense.

Selectman Rassias arrived at 8:03 p.m.

7. REVIEW OF DRAFT PROCLAMATION DECLARING A DAY OF PUBLIC PRAYER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 250th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION.

Ms. Griffin noted that this is a request that came from the Committee that is preparing the 250th Commemoration. There will be a non-denominational service of commemoration on July 3rd at Rollins Chapel. This same kind of proclamation was done 50 years ago. Chairman Walsh was struck by how the words from 50 years ago are applicable to today.

Selectman Christie stated that the heart of the message is correct but it is problematic to have a proclamation of a day of public prayer. A day of Thanksgiving would be fine but there could be portions that could be offensive to some. Selectman Christie stated that the highly religious aspects of it are no longer appropriate. While the message itself remains strong, he thinks the way it is framed is no longer appropriate. Vice Chairman Connolly agreed with Selectman Christie and liked the suggestion of a day of Thanksgiving which could avoid controversies that might arise.

Selectman Doherty agrees that the references to God and prayer are probably not appropriate. Selectman Doherty asked if there is someone who could rework this so it is all encompassing. She felt it might be good for someone to craft this. Selectman Rassias was in agreement and felt that it shouldn't be that difficult to re-write.

Ms. Griffin would ask someone from the clergy that is working on the service to craft something that has the same sentiments but more appropriate for the governmental atmosphere.

Chairman Walsh feels that there's something really attractive about recognizing and affirming the Proclamation of 50 years ago. The Board could consider affirming the Proclamation from 50 years ago with a Proclamation of a day of Thanksgiving. Chairman Walsh felt that there was a lot of good in this and he didn't feel that they needed to make huge changes to it.

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Vice Chairman Connolly felt that the term "Thanksgiving" was appropriate. Selectman Christie made some recommendations for changes and Ms. Griffin stated that she would work on this and e-mail the Board to confirm its contents. Chairman Walsh felt that they should add a footnote that they have plagiarized the work of Fletcher Low, Niles Lacoss and John Neale to keep the thread of history there. Selectman Christie felt that this might be a good beginning point.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
- April 25, 2011

Vice Chairman Connolly noted an addition to the Minutes to include a sentence regarding the fact that the State of NH owns the Connecticut River which may change its status with the EPA.

Selectman Doherty MOVED to adopt the Minutes of April 25, 2011, as amended. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2011, AS AMENDED.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin noted that there are a lot of events coming up in the next few weeks so she has written a few of them on the white board to make the Board aware of them.

The Appalachian Trail Community Event will be held at the Howe Library, May 24th at 7:00 p.m. Willem Lange will be the guest speaker. A committee of about 20 people worked very hard to put this together.

The Pig & Wolf Opening Celebration is scheduled for May 25th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Richard Black Community Center. There are 10 pairs of Pig & Wolf that have been fully decorated by their artists. They will then be placed out on the street. John Hochrieter and David Cioffi have sold 18 of the Pig & Wolf statues. Willy Black, Kathy & Bill Geraghty and Bill Young have worked tirelessly on this venture.

The Muster Day Ceremony will be held on May 30th (Memorial Day) at 4 p.m. at the Hanover Center Green. This will be the 100th year anniversary of that event. There will be a dedication to honor Lillian Bailey who was very active in supporting this event. There will be a monument and benches dedicated in her name.

Chairman Walsh asked to have these events posted on the first page of the Town website. He would like to see a banner on the web in addition to a transaction ad with these events and then another one with the July events. He'd like to see pictures of some of the Pig & Wolf statues posted.

Vice Chairman Connolly noted that she was told that the artwork on the Pig & Wolf statues are spectacular and the outcome is wonderful to see. Ms. Griffin stated that there are some really well known artists that have taken this on and in speaking with them, they've indicated that this

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was a fun project. Ms. Griffin noted that the Pig & Wolf statues were crafted in New Hampshire to try to keep the project local.

10. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Peter Christie

Selectman Christie had nothing new to report.

Kate Connolly

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that the Planning Board approved a small outdoor café for the new Gelato business in the Nugget Theater building. The Planning Board also approved a subdivision on Great Hollow Road. Vice Chairman Connolly announced that Dartmouth is creating a softball field at the back end of Chase field.

Vice Chairman Connolly invited the audience to drive along the Park Street side of the Black Center because there are figures from the colonial days through the present that were decorated by the Senior Citizens. Ms. Griffin stated that they depict changes every 25 years.

Judy Doherty

Selectman Doherty reported that the Howe Library Board of Trustees meets on Wednesday at 3:30 at the Howe Library and the Affordable Housing meets on Thursday at 7:30 in the Board Room at Town Hall.

Athos Rassias

Selectman Rassias had nothing new to report.

Brian Walsh

Chairman Walsh reported that the Chamber of Commerce meets tomorrow.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

Bruce MacDonald from ILead presented the Board with a banner proposal for an upcoming event. This summer's topic is corruption. He wanted to show the Board the graphics of the banner that they are hoping to use this year. He stated that their view is that people are not aware of the subtleties of corruption. This is a great subject and they are excited about it.

Selectman Rassias felt that the banner was tastefully done and will attract attention.

Chairman Walsh expressed interest in the list of speakers. Mr. MacDonald stated that they have a couple of Dartmouth Grads; one spent 25 years in the NFL Commissioner's office and another is the General Manager for the New York Mets who know about corruption in sports. They also

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have Gretchen Morganson who is a senior writer for the NY Times and Martin Marty who has written book and can speak about corruption in religion. Mr. MacDonald will send the Board a copy of the upcoming program.

12. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. Doherty, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

- 1. Vice Chairman Connolly NOMINATED Brian Walsh as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Christie nominated Kate Connolly as Vice Chairman. Chairman Walsh nominated Judy Doherty as Secretary.**

Chairman Walsh MOVED to approve the nominations by one vote. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

- 2. THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATIONS OF BRIAN WALSH AS CHAIRMAN, KATE CONNOLLY AS VICE CHAIRMAN AND JUDY DOHERTY AS SECRETARY.**

- 3. Chairman Walsh MOVED to keep the liaison appointments the same as the 2010 assignments.**

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO KEEP THE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS THE SAME AS THE 2010 ASSIGNMENTS.

- 4. Selectman Doherty MOVED to accept the Board of Assessors' recommendations for abatements. Selectman Christie SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ACCEPT THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ABATEMENTS.

- 5. Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town of Hanover proclaim itself as an Appalachian Trail Community. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED THAT THE TOWN OF HANOVER PROCLAIM ITSELF AS AN APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY.

- 6. Selectman Doherty MOVED to adopt the Minutes of April 25, 2011, as amended. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2011, AS AMENDED.

- 7. Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:32 P.M.