

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 6, 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 and Julia Griffin, Town Manager. Absent: Athos Rassias, Selectman.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Walsh asked for any Public Comment. There were no comments from the public.

2. RECOMMENDATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, JUNE 27 TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE PROPOSED RATES AND FEES SCHEDULE FOR FY2011-2012.

Chairman Walsh noted that the Board is scheduled to meet on June 20th and the Board members discussed scheduling conflicts of having the meeting on the 20th or the 27th.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to set a public hearing for Monday, June 20th to Consider and Adopt the Proposed Rates and Fees Schedule for FY 2011-2012. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, JUNE 20TH TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE PROPOSED RATES AND FEES SCHEDULE FOR FY 2011-2012.

3. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST.

Chairman Walsh invited Betsy McClain to speak to the Board regarding the abatement request. Ms. McClain stated that this was the result of a collaborative effort and the issue came down to the size of the meter and the charges are based on the number of fixtures. Mr. Naples lives at a single family residence with a larger pipe into the system that has nothing to do with a larger amount of wastewater going into the facility but is simply used to provide adequate water pressure to that property.

Chairman Walsh had no further questions and felt that the request makes sense. He asked about the Memo from Betsy McClain regarding the revised balance of \$576 but they are abating \$532. Ms. McClain stated that the balance due is the total of these numbers and they are abating \$532.

Chairman Walsh asked about the Memo and whether Mr. Naples has a private well. He asked if there are residents that have both private wells that are also on public water. Ms. McClain stated that there are residents that have private wells but utilize the town sewer.

Chairman Walsh felt that the situation wasn't clear and whether the issue was about the pressure available from the Hanover Waterworks Company pipes or from the private wells.

Selectman Christie asked how the private wells feed into any of this. Ms. McClain stated that she could not speak to the mechanics of this. Ms. Griffin stated that they are being asked to abate the amount.

Chairman Walsh stated that the Board will be tasked with this in the near future and he wants to make sure that they understand all of the variables.

Ms. McClain stated that the private wells feed to the facility and they measure the amount of water. When there are pressure issues, a larger pipe coming into the house provided resolution to that issue. Selectman Christie noted that the charges are based on the pipe size so that is the issue.

Mr. Naples explained that the smaller pipe did not work and even today if there are multiple appliances going there are problems with the flow. He received his bill and it was a lot of money to pay for 7 feet of pipe. Selectman Christie asked Mr. Naples if the solution works for him. Mr. Naples stated that this is a good resolution and all of the staff have been great.

Chairman Walsh wanted to make sure the Rate & Fee Schedule is written so that it is understandable. Ms. Griffin stated that in the world of Water and Wastewater works on water meter calculations so it is the water meter that counts.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adopt the sewer abatement request as recommended by staff. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ADOPT THE SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.

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

Ms. Griffin stated that there are 5 abatement recommendations. Chairman Walsh wanted to make sure that the wording is clear in the Board of Assessors Minutes that the Board of Selectmen are not *approving* the abatements, but they are adopting the recommendations. The Advisory Board of Assessors are making the recommendations.

Vice Chairman Connolly felt that the Board of Selectmen make the final decision. Ms. Griffin stated that the Board of Selectmen are not another source of appeal. Selectman Christie stated that the Board could choose not to adopt the recommendations and then it goes back to the Advisory Board of Assessors.

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Mike Ryan, Town Assessor, stated that this is the last appeal for 2010. Mr. Ryan stated that the total assessed valuation came in at over \$25 million but less than \$30 million. Ms. Griffin stated that the Thayer Dining Hall came in at a higher rate than anticipated.

Chairman Walsh stated that he did not have any questions about the recommendations. The Board did not have any additional questions for Mr. Ryan.

Chairman Walsh MOVED to ADOPT the abatement recommendations made by the Advisory Board of Assessors in their May 12th and May 23rd meeting Minutes. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ADOPT THE ABATEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS IN THEIR MAY 12TH AND MAY 23RD MEETING MINUTES.

5. ADOPTION OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

Ms. Griffin stated that she worked on this to incorporate the Board's wishes after the last meeting. It is envisioned that this will be recited at a ceremony on July 3rd at Rollins Chapel. She is still working on getting the font to look similar to the original.

Chairman Walsh would like to list the three Selectmen from 1961 at the bottom next to the current Select Board's names. Selectman Doherty felt that Ms. Griffin accomplished what the Board had asked of her with the changes to the Proclamation.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adopt the Proclamation Declaring a Day of Public Thanksgiving. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ADOPT THE PROCLAMATION DECLARING A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

**6. BANNER REQUESTS:
- Opera North**

Ms. Griffin advised that they will need to move the requested dates forward a week or the week after but they can work with Opera North to accommodate time for the banner.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the Banner Request of Opera North as it fits into the schedule. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUEST OF OPERA NORTH AS IT FITS INTO THE SCHEDULE.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
- May 10, 2011 Town Meeting**

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- May 16, 2011

Chairman Walsh MOVED to approve the Town Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2011. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE TOWN MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2011.

Selectman Christie had a change to the Minutes of May 16th.

Selectman Doherty MOVED to approve the Minutes of May 16, 2011, as amended. Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2011, AS AMENDED.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin stated that she has been tracking the Legislature's work on the Retirement System. The challenge and concern is that the issues that were good for municipalities such as increasing the number of years of service and the retirement age, averaging the top 5 years instead of 3 years. In crafting their budget bill, the Committee of Conference made assumptions that if they increased the employee contributions, they could eliminate the State subsidy for contributions. If the Town is now committed to make the full contribution, they will inform the State of what the impact would be for the Town of Hanover.

Ms. Griffin stated that she is trying to keep daily track of what is going on but things change daily. It looks like the Retirement System bill is aggressive but it is up for House approval on Wednesday. If the Legislature continues to downsize the State budget aggressively, they may be more aggressive in cutting other areas such as social service agencies. She has asked Betsy McClain to start a spreadsheet so they can start tracking what this would look like on the school budget side as well as municipal so the Town will know what the impact could be for the taxpayers.

Vice Chairman Connolly asked if the Legislature has changed the Retirement calculations to just base pay. Ms. Griffin stated that they have not but there is a limit on special duty pay at 120% which has been lowered by 5%.

Ms. Griffin stated that the 250th Celebration planning is going strong. Muster Day was very nice with patriotic songs being played by the Hanover High School Band. The Memorial Rock was unveiled. The Pig and Wolf statues were put in place on Friday and sadly the Appalachian Trail Wolf was taken in the early morning hours on Sunday. Ms. Griffin noted that the artist of that wolf was in her office in tears today. Ms. Griffin stated that Frank Moran wisely went out first thing Friday morning and documented where each Pig and Wolf were located, taking pictures and noting where each was located. He suspected that this might happen. The Dartmouth Real Estate Office was the sponsor of this wolf at a cost of \$1,200.

Selectman Christie noted that the original Pig and Wolf were taken in the past. Ms. Griffin stated that they were found at a location along I-91 and were gone for months. She stated that one of the places that was searched for the Appalachian Trail Wolf was along Velvet Rocks.

Chairman Walsh asked what it would take to put GPS in some significant number of these statues so that if they disappear, the Town could go find them. Ms. Griffin stated that they are looking into this but it is not inexpensive. Chairman Walsh felt that they could put these devices in a few of them and if people knew that they could possibly be traced, it might deter people from taking them.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Town is getting ready for the Hanover Center Old Timer's Fair. The History of Hanover from 1961 to the present will be out on Friday. They will sell copies at the Fair, the Bookstore and the Co-op. The Town will then prepare for the July 2, 3, 4th weekend with all day events on The Green. The parade will be much larger for this year's celebration. There are an amazing number of groups getting involved.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Public Works Department was given the task of clear coating the Pig and Wolf statues and although perhaps skeptic at first, the staff really took to the project and when the Appalachian Trail Wolf was stolen, one of the workers was clearly upset about it. The Police Department is hoping to have fun finding her. Residents have been coming in to get the maps for the treasure hunt.

Vice Chairman Connolly asked whether the Valley News had been alerted. Ms. Griffin stated that they have not yet alerted the press and didn't want to make a big deal out of it. Selectman Christie was confident that she would be found.

Selectman Christie stated that other community members were skeptical about the project but have enjoyed them now that they are on display.

9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Peter Christie

Selectman Christie reported that the Finance Committee continues to meet. Kristi Fenner is now the Chairman of the Committee. They have some openings and they are close to filling one. There have been discussions regarding the process by which the Finance Committee reviews the school budgets and what role the Committee should play in the process.

Ms. Griffin reported that the moderators did appoint John Ruth as a new member of the Finance Committee. Chairman Walsh asked who the moderator is for the School District. Ms. Griffin reported that it is Michael Mayor for both Dresden and Hanover.

Kate Connolly

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Vice Chairman Connolly stated that the Planning Board has been working on the Residential Project and will be meeting tomorrow.

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that she attend the Howe Library for the first Sunday opening and acted as an official counter. She noted that in the first half an hour they had nearly 100 people come in and almost 200 in the first hour. There are many people thankful that the Library is open on Sundays.

Judy Doherty

Selectman Doherty reported that the Affordable Housing Commission will meet on Thursday, June 16th at 7:30 in the Hanover Board Room and the Howe Library Trustees meet on June 22nd at 3:30. Both are in discussion about not meeting in July but it depends on agenda items.

Selectman Doherty noted that members of the Affordable Housing Commission have met with the Planning Board to see how they can best work together. The Affordable Housing Commission is shifting gears a little bit to better understand where changes in the Residential Project could make changes in influencing initiatives they may undertake. She noted that Jonathan Edwards provided the Commission with the Residential Plan which was helpful.

Brian Walsh

Chairman Walsh reported that the Chamber of Commerce met and are actively working with the Downtown Marketing Association.

Chairman Walsh made note that Streetfest is July 23rd and invited all to attend.

Chairman Walsh reported that there was a wonderful ceremony at the Howe Library where the Town became a member of the Appalachian Trail Community. He noted that Willem Lange spoke and the Dartmouth Student who put together the AT in a Day program which included more than 800 people. The signs are up now and it was another great celebration in this community.

Chairman Walsh thanked Willy Black for the creation of Pig & Wolf because without her there would be no statues throughout Town.

10. OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no Other Business reported.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

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

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. Doherty, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

1. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to set a public hearing for Monday, June 20th to Consider and Adopt the Proposed Rates and Fees Schedule for FY 2011-2012. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, JUNE 20TH TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE PROPOSED RATES AND FEES SCHEDULE FOR FY 2011-2012.

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5. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the Banner Request of Opera North as it fits into the schedule. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUEST OF OPERA NORTH AS IT FITS INTO THE SCHEDULE.

- 6. Chairman Walsh MOVED to approve the Town Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2011. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE TOWN MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2011.

- 7. Selectman Doherty MOVED to approve the Minutes of May 16, 2011, as amended. Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2011, AS AMENDED.

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

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:18 P.M.