

**FINAL**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**July 25, 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 Vice Chairman Katherine Connolly. Present were: Katherine Connolly, Vice Chairman; Peter Christie, Selectman; Judy Doherty, Selectman and Julia Griffin, Town Manager. Absent: Brian Walsh, Chairman and Athos Rassias, Selectman.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order and asked for Public Comment. There were no comments from the Public.

**2. DISCUSSION REGARDING 2011 TAX RATE IMPACT OF ADOPTED STATE BUDGET FOR FY2011-2012.**

Ms. Griffin stated that she is waiting on the School District and County Budget tax rate impacts with regard to the recent changes in the State budget. In September, Ms. Griffin will draft a letter for the Board to review that will be sent to residents explaining the increase in their taxes due to the State budget.

Ms. Griffin invited Jessie Levine, Assistant Town Manager, to speak to the Board regarding the information that was sent to the employees explaining the reasons for decreases in take home pay. The feedback from employees so far is that they are aware that they are not bringing home as much money due to the 2% increase in contributions to the Retirement System which wipes out the 1.5% COLA. Selectman Doherty stated that this is really a shame because of all of the work that was done to make sure that everything was transparent and now to have this kind of surprise is unfortunate for both employees and taxpayers.

Ms. Griffin stated that because of all of the back and forth during the legislative process with the State budget people may tune it out until they see it impact their paychecks. Several of the actions at the State level are being called into question and hospitals have filed lawsuits against the State for some of the changes. There may be additional issues regarding the Retirement System as well.

Selectman Doherty clarified with Ms. Griffin that with the HB 2 elimination the tax impact noted could get worse. Ms. Griffin stated that the increase shown is only reflective of the Town's portion and not the School or the County increases. Ms. Griffin stated that they have asked the School and County officials to provide an estimate for their increases so that the Town can offer an explanation.

Selectman Christie stated that construction aid was cut and there will be large impacts on the school tax rate. Ms. Griffin stated that in the past, the Town has done a letter shortly before tax

bills go out. Ms. Griffin felt that they would have a better sense about what they are dealing with in mid September and after meeting with the new School Superintendent.

Vice Chairman Connolly noted that the tax rate hike is larger for the Fire Fund then the General Fund and asked if this was due to the Retirement Fund. Ms. Levine noted that Fire and Police are the highest because they have to pay at 100%. Ms. Griffin stated that the impact on Fire is higher but also the impact the Police have on the General Fund budget is neutralized a little bit because they are just a portion of the total number of employees so it feels like it's less of a hit to the General Fund than it is for the Fire Fund.

Ms. Levine noted that there were questions from employees about how this impacts a person's retirement. She noted that for the most part the changes don't really alter the employee's retirement. Selectman Christie clarified that this does not incentivize long term employees to retire. Ms. Levine confirmed that these changes would affect a decision either way.

Ms. Griffin stated that there were changes to the Retirement System that Municipalities feel are good changes and she didn't want that to get lost.

Vice Chairman Connolly stated that wiping out the State's entire contribution is not helpful to employers and this would have neutralized any good work that they may have done. Ms. Levine stated that the Senate's response was to wipe out the Retirement contribution during the budget crisis and this was not part of the original proposal. Ms. Griffin stated that she is thinking about how to communicate this change to the voters. The issue is confusing and she does not wish to confuse the voters further and things could change at the Court level. The Court did decide that the State walking away from their 35% contribution to zero was not in violation of Article 28-A.

Ms. Griffin wanted to give the Board an early preview of this issue and she will come back to them with an update in September.

### **3. REVIEW OF CHaD HALF MARATHON STREET CLOSURE.**

Ms. Griffin stated that the organizers work closely with Michael Evans at the Police Department to make sure that this runs smoothly and a lot of volunteers work to make this happen. The goal is to have 2,000 superheroes on The Green to break the Guinness Book of World Records.

**Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the street closure request for the CHaD Half Marathon. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FOR THE CHaD HALF MARATHON.**

### **4. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE LEASE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT COPIER.**

**Selectman Christie MOVED to authorize the Town Manager to execute the lease for the Public Works Department copier. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE LEASE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT COPIER.**

- 5. BANNER REQUESTS:**
  - CHaD Hero Half Marathon
  - Howe Library

**Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the Banner Request for the CHaD Hero Half Marathon. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUEST FOR THE CHaD HERO HALF MARATHON.**

**Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the Banner Request for the Howe Library. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUEST FOR THE HOWE LIBRARY.**

- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - June 20, 2011

The Board decided to defer the approval of the Minutes of June 20<sup>th</sup> until the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Ms. Griffin stated that the staff are busy implementing Capital Improvement Projects all around town. The River Road Bridge should be open by the end of this week; this was a bridge that the State required to be narrowed.

Ms. Griffin reported that there is an area near Stinson's which is being created as a better alternative for smokers in order to avoid impacting the pedestrians on Main Street. The money was raised by Jack Stinson for that project and it will be done by the end of this week.

Peter Kulbacki, Mike Chase and Ms. Griffin will be looking at the Etna Library parking lot with regard to handicap access. By knowing what the Etna Library Trustees wishes are, they can work toward those goals. This will require some fundraising and Ms. Griffin recognizes that they have done a lot of fundraising out in Etna. It is not the Town's intention to have any funds coming from taxes. There will be more information about this project for the Board in September.

Ms. Griffin also reported that the Town has been trying to get all of the deeds finalized regarding the Grasse Road Phase III playing fields. They will be coming to the Planning Board for a lot

Board of Selectmen  
July 25, 2011

line adjustment in the near future. Ms. Griffin also noted that they were able to close on the 3 acres at the Storrs Property.

Ms. Griffin stated that Hank Tenney is working with a Playground committee to come up with some structures for the Thompson Terrace Park. It's been cleaned up and he has done a tremendous amount of work fixing up the little building and painting lines. They have raised some private funds for play equipment.

Selectman Christie asked about the Park Street Improvements. Ms. Griffin stated that this project will be starting in August.

## **8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.**

### **Peter Christie**

Selectman Christie had nothing new to report.

### **Judy Doherty**

Selectman Doherty reported that the Affordable Housing Commission did not meet last Thursday. The Commission will recess for the month of July and start up again in August.

### **Kate Connolly**

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that the Planning Board met in early July and the only thing they are considering is a house on the corner of Park Street and the entrance to Thompson Arena in which someone wants to install a dentist office and raise the building from one story to three.

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that the Residential Project continues. The Planning Board also had a discussion with a gentleman who owns property in Lebanon that had questions regarding his property located in Hanover which is zoned for Forestry.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS.**

Vice Chairman Connolly wanted to offer congratulations and thanks for everyone involved in the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. She also wanted to specifically thank Bill Young, Willy Black, Tom Byrne and Julia Griffin for their efforts in this event. She stated that it was remarkable from beginning to end.

Ms. Griffin stated Bill Young has also been sending out thank you letters to many people post event. Ms. Griffin stated that they took down the banners throughout the Town after the event was over and people asked that they be placed back up as they were made by the Middle School students. There were no other banners up during this time so they did re-install them.

Ms. Griffin asked the Board to execute the Dog Warrant. There are 47 dogs that have not been registered.

**Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the Dog Warrant. Selectman Christie SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE DOG WARRANT.**

Ms. Griffin stated that Hypertherm is sponsoring the Special Olympics this year and there has been a policy question that has come up. Ms. Griffin noted that it is the Town's policy not to allow banners that appear to be advertising. Hypertherm wanted to add wording indicating that they are sponsoring the Special Olympics to the banner and she wanted to make sure that the Board was comfortable with this. The Board viewed the proposed addition and determined that it would be allowed and not against policy.

**10. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Selectman Christie MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:05 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. Doherty, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

**SUMMARY**

- 1. Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the street closure request for the CHaD Half Marathon. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FOR THE CHaD HALF MARATHON.**

- 2. Selectman Christie MOVED to authorize the Town Manager to execute the lease for the Public Works Department copier. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE LEASE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT COPIER.**

3. **Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the Banner Request for the CHaD Hero Half Marathon. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUEST FOR THE CHaD HERO HALF MARATHON.**

4. **Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the Banner Request for the Howe Library. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUEST FOR THE HOWE LIBRARY.**

5. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the Dog Warrant. Selectman Christie SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPROVE THE DOG WARRANT.**

6. **Selectman Christie MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Doherty SECONDED the motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:05 P.M.**