

FINAL

**2013 TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF HANOVER
Tuesday, May 14, 2013
Hanover High School Gymnasium**

The annual Town Meeting of Hanover, New Hampshire convened on May 14, 2013 at 7 a.m. by the Town Moderator, Marilyn (Willy) Black, at the Hanover High Gymnasium. Moderator Black explained that the polls would be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. for the purpose of voting for candidates for Town Offices and for all other articles requiring vote by official ballot as set forth in Articles One through Six of the Town Meeting Warrant.

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

One Selectman to serve for a term of three (3) years;
Athos Rassias 545

One Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years;
Elizabeth L. Cornell 336

One Town Clerk to serve for a term of three (3) years;
Elizabeth (Betsy) McClain 565

One Trustee of Trust Funds to serve for a term of three (3) years.
Brian C. Doyle 533

ARTICLE TWO (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed 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 petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No.1 would amend Section 204.7 by adding Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Research and Education as a use allowed by Special Exception in the “RR” zoning district; amend Section 204.8 by adding Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Research and Education as a use allowed by Special Exception in the “F” zoning district; and amend Section 902 by adding a definition of Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Research and Education.

*At a public hearing held on March 12, 2013, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting **adopt** this zoning amendment.*

RESULTS: YES 529 NO 77 ARTICLE PASSED

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

The following is on the official ballot:

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

Amendment No.2 would amend Section 902 Definition of Essential Service to include “private institutional utilities” in the definition and limit the inclusion of buildings in the definition to “municipal” buildings.

*At a public hearing held on March 12, 2013, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting **adopt** this zoning amendment.*

RESULTS: YES 523 NO 75 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FOUR (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed 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 delete Section 317.2(E); add a new Section 330 Athletic Scoreboards which specifies information that may be displayed on such a structure; modify Section 317.1(E) to allow animation on athletic scoreboards subject to certain restrictions and as permitted as a Special Exception and amend the definition of sign in Section 902 to make clear that athletic scoreboards are not signs.

*At a public hearing held on March 12, 2013, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting **adopt** this zoning amendment.*

RESULTS: YES 495 NO 117 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FIVE (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed 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 210.1. C by replacing “domestic animals” with “non-household or farm animals”, and modifying that section to allow these animals to be kept on a lot of any size in the “F” district, but only on lots of at least three acres in the “RR” district, except in the case of poultry which can be kept on a lot in the “RR” district less than 3 acres in size only by Special Exception.

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*At a public hearing held on March 12, 2013, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting **not adopt** this zoning amendment.*

RESULTS: YES 124 NO 481 ARTICLE FAILED

BUSINESS MEETING

Moderator Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the Hanover High School Band and the Hanover Fire Department Honor Guard would start the meeting. Moderator Black thanked the band for their performance and the Honor Guard for presenting the flags.

Moderator Black introduced the Town Staff including Julia Griffin, Town Manager; Peter Kulbacki, Public Works Director; Roger Bradley, Fire Chief; Mary White, Howe Library Director; Hank Tenney, Parks & Recreation Director; Corey Stevens, IT Director; Betsy McClain, Administrative Services/Finance Director; Frank Moran, Detective Captain; and Michael Evans, Lieutenant. Moderator Black and the audience thanked the Department Heads and Town staff.

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

Selectman Buckey 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;
Jay Pierson

One member of the Pine Park Commissioner for a term of three (3) years:
Linda Fowler

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

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

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

The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor. 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.

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Selectman Buckey MOVED that the reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers as printed in the 2012 Town Report be accepted, as well as any Special Resolutions. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Selectman Buckey asked Hank Tenney, Parks & Recreation Director, to make his presentation for the Volunteer of the Year.

Mr. Tenney stated that it was a real pleasure to present the Hanover Parks & Recreation Volunteer of the Year award. He asked Amy Vienna from the Parks & Recreation Board to present the award to this year's recipient.

Ms. Vienna made the following presentation to Jeff Graham:

"This year's recipient started volunteering when he was in middle school and hasn't stopped yet. His mother, Jane Graham shared that when he outgrew the Hanover Recreation Summer day camp as a camper, he decided he would offer his time as a "volunteer" counselor.

As a lifelong resident of the Upper Valley he has given time to numerous groups and organizations. Like most, the motivation for his more recent volunteer efforts has been rooted in his son Casey's interests. But for many years before this, it was his strong desire to help youth of the upper valley to have similar positive experiences as his own growing up in this great community. His father, John Graham, also a dedicated volunteer in youth organizations in Hanover many years ago was his earliest mentor.

Every year since 1999 Jeff can be found at the Hanover Center Church fair volunteering doing everything from cleaning up after the oxen pulls to helping run concession.

He spent a year as a parent volunteer for the Hampshire Cooperative Preschool assisting with clean-up events, and various classroom activities and as an avid hockey fan Jeff was not afraid to venture to our rival neighbors to be the volunteer head coach of the Lebanon High School girl's hockey team before it became a varsity sport. He also assisted the girl's hockey team in volunteering for the Winter Special Olympics for 4 years. He has served as a Board Member for the Hanover Hockey Association. In that role he has worked as the fundraising chair, on planning and programming, coach coordinator, recruiting, training, managing, coordinating the Learn to Play clinics, and has coached on and off the ice since 1984 (even in the old Davis Rink).

Most recently he has been having fun as a volunteer coach for Hanover's Cal Ripkin baseball. Starting in 2007 he joined the Recreation Board where he stepped right in volunteering at special events like the Turkey Trot, Pond Party and 4th of July.

When Hank Tenney asked for someone to join him as co-chair of the Annual Muster Day Event Jeff took the lead. He has served as the MC for the Muster Day ceremonies for the past 5 years. In 2009 he became the Recreation Chair providing leadership on developing new policies and taking on new events such as the 250th Commemoration.

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His role on the Board has offered leadership in providing volunteers for several of our programs and special events. It is with great pleasure that I present this award to Jeff Graham for his years of dedication to this community.”

Ms. Vienna presented Mr. Graham with the award which read: *Hanover New Hampshire Volunteer Service Award, the Hanover Parks & Recreation Board's Annual Volunteer Service Award is presented to that individual who contributes their time above and beyond ordinary service to the citizens of Hanover ~ Jeff Graham.*

Mr. Graham stated that Mr. Tenney is good about sending out e-mails with the information about what he is supposed to read in front of Town Meeting but when he didn't see one around 5:30 he started to get suspicious. Mr. Graham stated that it's a joy to volunteer and there are times when he wishes that they had many more people to help but it's a wonderful thing. Mr. Graham thanked everyone for the award.

Moderator Black introduced Patricia Higgins, the newest elected State Representative. Representative Higgins stated that she wanted to introduce herself to the residents that are present. She is the most recently elected Representative serving Hanover and Lyme residents. She serves on the Public Works and Highways Committee and stated that it is the best committee there. She stated that Bernie Benn, Beatrice Pastor and Sharon Nordgren are the other three Representatives for Hanover and Lyme. She stated that she hopes that residents will contact them with any thoughts and concerns about State government. Representative Higgins also pointed out that State Senator David Pierce was present and in the audience.

Moderator Black provided the results of daytime ballot voting: Athos Rassias won the election for the 3 year term for Select Board; Elizabeth (Betsy) McClain won the election for Town Clark; Elizabeth Cornell won the election for Etna Library Trustee; Brian Doyle won the election for a 3 year term for the Trustee of Trust Funds; Article Two passed with a vote of 529 in favor, 77 opposed; Article Three passed with a vote of 523 in favor, 75 opposed; Article Four passed with a vote of 495 in favor, 117 opposed and Article Five failed with a vote of 124 in favor, 482 opposed.

Moderator Black stated that any warrant article presented may be amended by the group of the house but asked residents to raise their pink cards for the vote.

Moderator Black recommended that the Selectmen read the Articles once and asked Town Meeting if they were in agreement. Town Meeting agreed with this approach.

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,203 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 2011-2012. 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.

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Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$15,203 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 2011-2012. 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. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Moderator Black asked if Town Meeting wished to read through Articles 8 through 13 and vote for them all at once. Each one can be discussed after it is read. Town Meeting agreed to this proposal.

Moderator Black asked for comments and discussion regarding Article 8. There were no comments from the public.

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,203 for deposit into the Conservation Fund created as authorized by RSA 36-A:5.I, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2011-2012. 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.

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$15,203 for deposit into the Conservation Fund created as authorized by RSA 36-A:5.I, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2011-2012. 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. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

David Vincelette stated that he has lived in Hanover for 32 years. He stated that he is concerned about the conservation group because he is facing foreclosure on his home. The Upper Valley Land Trust and conservation groups have called him to ask about purchasing his land and force him off the land next to it. He stated that the Town has already forced him off other land that he owned and removed all of his papers and effects and he noted that there hasn't been a word from any member of the community. He stated that he is not running for anything and he's not running from anything. He stated that he came here (to Hanover) with a golden invitation from a College on a hill after he served 3 years in the military. He stated that he's not sure why he has been treated this way by the Town. He stated that he lives simply and has very little money. He stated that he owes a debt of appreciation to Kate Connolly who helped him with his purchase of a run-down camp near the Tanzi Brook. He stated that he was badly injured in the Army and served his family, God and his country. Mr. Vincelette went on to state that he's a flawed man but that they are all citizens and deserve the rights to citizenship. Mr. Vincelette stated Kate

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Connolly and Mike Chase tried to prove that his water was contaminating the brook; the Town tried to put him in prison for a year for violating the zoning ordinance.

Moderator Black asked Mr. Vincelette if he wished to speak to Article Nine.

Mr. Vincelette stated that he's not a public speaker but he's trying to lay out what has been done to him and his family for no good reason that he can think of. He stated that the Town is raising funds; they are taking his property and he didn't see a thank you from the Town. He stated that he hopes they all enjoy his 35 acres with a brook running through it. Mr. Vincelette outlined his complaint that the brook used to be pristine but then the Town took him to court stating that he is polluting the brook. Mr. Vincelette stated that nothing wrong was found. He stated that the pipe in question was his drinking water pipe and noted that there was no septic system in the building. They drank water from the brook and then after the Town placed a \$35,000 lien on the property and took him to court again, where he stated he was found innocent.

Moderator Black asked Mr. Vincelette to speak at the end of Town Meeting or speak to Article Nine. Mr. Vincelette decided to wait and speak again later on at the meeting.

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$33,925 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 2011-2012.

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$33,925 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 2011-2012. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$21,900 for substantial funding of mid-block pedestrian crossing signage and/or lighting, 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, VA and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2018, whichever is sooner.

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$21,900 for substantial funding of mid-block pedestrian crossing signage and/or lighting, 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, VA and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2018, whichever is sooner. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

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ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$875,800 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	\$51,000
Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund	\$54,500
Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund	\$50,000
Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$56,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$270,000
Parking Operations Vehicles & Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$65,000
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$67,000
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$41,000
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$130,000
Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000
Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund	\$56,300

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED Article Twelve; that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$875,800 and authorize payment into existing capital reserve funds in the following amounts for the purposes for which such funds were established. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Mr. Robert Chambers stated that it is his understanding that the Town and Dartmouth College jointly own the water system so he questioned the need to put aside money in the reserve for this and asked if the College would be matching this. Ms. Griffin stated that the Town and the College jointly own the watershed property but the actual water treatment and distribution system is a municipal utility which this reserve fund serves and not the watershed land owned by the Trescott Company.

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ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,563,003 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:

Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Defibrillators</i>	\$75,000
Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Hanover Center Rd bridge temporary repairs and additional work on Ruddsboro Rd bridge repair 300' west of Chandler Rd</i>	\$37,200
Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Town Hall doorway and elevator repairs, RW Black Community Center carpet replacement, Police Department replacement of roof and air handling units</i>	\$165,785
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Replace Engine 03 at the Etna Fire Station and the departmental pick-up truck</i>	\$354,100
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Replace three Highway maintenance trucks</i>	\$206,150
Parking Vehicles and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Sweeper for the Parking Garage, Parking system meter replacements and technology upgrades</i>	\$340,322
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Replace traffic signal at Summer and Park Streets</i>	\$128,800
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Vehicle replacement, mower/bagger, building HVAC and other improvements</i>	\$176,646
Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Contracted labor for Town-wide property revaluation program</i>	\$10,000
Water Utility Fund Capital Reserve Fund ➤ <i>Dump-truck with trailer</i>	\$69,000

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, 2018, whichever is sooner.

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED Article Thirteen; that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,563,003 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Mr. Robin Carpenter asked about the bridge on Ruddsboro Road and noted that the Town just built a brand new bridge on this same road. Mr. Kulbacki stated that there are 7 bridges on Ruddsboro Road and noted that the Town appropriated money last year but there wasn't enough money to complete the project.

Mr. William Lewis asked for a further breakdown of the \$340,000 for the parking garage and new parking meters.

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Ms. Griffin stated that the lion's share of this expense is for the meter upgrades. She noted that the Town is pursuing the replacement of the downtown parking meters with meter heads that can accept credit cards. She noted that this is a growing trend in the parking industry and the Board has not made a decision whether to pursue this but the money would allow for the replacement of these meters. She noted that \$65,000 of this amount is for a dedicated sweeper and vacuum for the garage to extend the life of the protective membrane as recommended by the manufacturer. She stated that the sand and salt during the winter takes its toll on the membrane coating.

Mr. Lewis wanted to confirm that the Town is asking for \$265,000 to replace the parking meters. Ms. Griffin confirmed that this was true. Mr. Lewis asked about the benefit in doing this. Ms. Griffin responded that there are close to 850 parking meters and many of them are over 10 years old; at some point in time the mechanical parts to those units are no longer repairable. They have talked with the Parking and Transportation Board (PTB) about upgrading the technology to have meters that accept credit cards based on requests by many visitors to Hanover. She noted that the Board will explore this further in their May and June meetings and may opt not to buy into this new technology but it is a potential upgrade.

Mr. Dean Madden asked about the process for Town Meeting and if they vote on the articles, whether it will bind the Town as it appears that it is conditional on the outcome of the budget vote. He asked if the budget was amended substantially, whether this would have an impact on Articles Twelve and Thirteen.

Chairman Christie stated that the main budget article is Article Fourteen so voting on these Articles now would commit those funds to the budget. Mr. Madden asked if the budget were substantially modified, would the Town reconsider the funds for the parking meters if the budget were adjusted in other areas.

Ms. Griffin stated that with the respect to the parking meters, they would be paid for through the Parking Fund which is a separate enterprise fund and is fully funded by the money collected through the Parking operation. This would not affect the tax rate or the General Fund.

Mr. Madden asked if the personnel for the Parking Division are paid for out of the General Fund budget. Ms. Griffin stated that they are funded out of the Parking Fund, just as the Water Reclamation Plant, the Fire Fund and the Water Utility is a separate fund. Mr. Madden confirmed with Ms. Griffin that the money from these funds can only be used for these purposes.

Ms. Griffin explained that reducing the appropriation of a capital reserve draw down wouldn't benefit the tax rate or lower the appropriation of the General Fund.

Kari Assmus wanted to clarify that for Article Thirteen, those funds can't be spent on anything besides what that fund allows but this isn't the same for Article Twelve. For example, if an amendment was made later to take \$120,000 out of the main budget article, the Board of Selectmen may decide not to set money aside in the reserve fund. She proposed acting on Article Twelve after the main budget article.

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Martha Solow stated that there are now enough reasons to reconsider voting for the Articles as a package. This was done as a general agreement at the start of Town Meeting and she asked about the procedure. Moderator Black stated that they would need to ask her to vote for the Articles individually. Ms. Solow asked that Town Meeting separate the Articles for a vote.

Rich Howarth asked whether there was a rule that allows the Moderator to decide whether to vote individually or separately by majority rule. His impression is that any member of the meeting can call for a separate vote on each item. Moderator Black stated that this was true and announced that they would vote for the Articles individually.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Eight.

Article Eight: The Motion PASSED and Article Eight was ADOPTED.

Article Nine: The Motion PASSED and Article Nine was ADOPTED.

Article Ten: The Motion PASSED and Article Ten was ADOPTED.

Article Eleven: The Motion PASSED and Article Eleven was ADOPTED.

Kari Assmus asked to delay the vote on Article Twelve until after the main budget article. Ms. Assmus wanted to make sure that the Board of Selectmen had the most flexibility and felt that they should delay the vote on Article Twelve.

Moderator Black stated that the items being considered from the Capital Reserve Fund do not affect the budget. Ms. Assmus stated that the Town may reconsider the amounts going into the Capital Reserve Fund if they needed it to pay for salaries and determine the highest priority if there is a decrease in the overall budget.

Robert Russell asked if it was possible that they could reconsider Article Twelve. Moderator Black stated that it is possible.

Rich Howarth MOVED to Defer Article Twelve until after the Budget Discussion. Danielle Goodwin SECONDED the Motion.

Moderator Black asked for further discussion.

Mr. Howarth stated that the purpose is not to vote yes or no on the Article but they may need to amend the main budget and then the payments into the Capital Reserve Funds should be discussed instead of pre-judging how much to put into these funds before agreeing on the budget.

Dean Madden felt that it would make sense to table Articles Twelve and Thirteen.

Mr. Madden Amended the motion to Table both Articles Twelve and Thirteen until Article Fourteen has been discussed and resolved. Mr. Howarth SECONDED the Amendment.

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Mr. Howarth stated that the intent of the motion is to defer consideration of Warrant Articles Twelve and Thirteen until after the budget Articles are voted on. Moderator Black stated that Town Meeting is going to vote on the amendment to table Articles Twelve and Thirteen.

Elsa Garmeyer asked where the money comes from in Article Twelve. Ms. Griffin stated that there are multiple sources of funds for these multiple reserve funds; Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund is money that goes into the Ambulance Fund but the General Fund makes a contribution toward the operation of the Ambulance Fund. The Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund is funded from the General Fund; the Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund comes from the General Fund; Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund comes from the General Fund; Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund comes from the Fire Fund. She noted that the Fire District Taxes collected go into that fund. Highway Construction and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund comes from the General Fund; Parking Operations Vehicles comes from the Parking Fund; Police Vehicles and Equipment comes from the General Fund; Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund comes from the General Fund; Sewer Equipment comes from the Water Reclamation Facility Fund; Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund is General Fund and Water Treatment and Distribution is from the Water Utility Fund.

Ms. Garmeyer stated that the wording for the Article states “to raise and appropriate” so she asked where they are raising the money from. Ms. Griffin clarified that the Article Fourteen is the Town Budget without including the Capital Reserve contributions. These are taken as separate Warrant Articles.

Ms. Garmeyer asked whether their taxes will be raised if they vote yes on Article Twelve. Ms. Griffin stated that it will because they have to budget for the contributions into the reserve. Ms. Garmeyer asked if the increases would be in next year’s budget. Ms. Griffin stated that this budget is for FY2013-2014 which starts July 1. Ms. Griffin clarified with Ms. Garmeyer that this is not an increase of this year’s budget. The Town makes annual capital contributions to all of the reserve funds and they budget for this year after year. Ms. Griffin stated that they are not budgeting over and above the contribution made this year.

Ms. Garmeyer stated that an option for Town Meeting would be to lower the amount in the main budget that goes to reserve funds. Ms. Griffin confirmed that this is true which is why Article Twelve has been tabled. Ms. Griffin stated that if the budget were reduced by a certain amount, the Board would need to decide what to do about the expenditures but it is unlikely that they would reduce the Capital Reserve Contributions. Ms. Griffin stated that voting for this does commit the Town to that level of contribution.

Tim Pillsbury stated that he heard from the floor that they consider voting on these articles in a different order than the way that it was printed in the Warrant. He didn’t feel that they needed to have an amendment to discuss them in a different order.

Moderator Black stated that there has been a motion and an amendment which can be voted on to move forward. Mr. Howarth withdrew his original motion.

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Moderator Black asked for a vote on the Amendment to vote on Article Twelve and Article Thirteen after the discussion and vote of Article Fourteen and then a vote on the original motion.

The Amendment PASSED to defer the vote on Article Twelve and Article Thirteen after the discussion and vote of Article Fourteen.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on the Motion to defer the vote on Article Twelve until after the discussion and vote of Article Fourteen.

The Motion PASSED to defer the vote on Article Twelve until after the discussion and vote of Article Fourteen.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$21,586,052 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, for the purposes set forth in the Town budget. This sum does not include the funds voted in any of the preceding or succeeding articles.

Chairman Christie MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$21,586,052 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2013-2014 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. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Chairman Christie made the following presentation to Town Meeting:

“Town Staff and the Select Board are proud of the budget we present to you this evening.

Creating the town budget each year is as much an art as it is a science. Each year seems to present its own unique challenges and set of hard choices as we try to balance our wants and needs against a reasonable tax rate increase.

At the macro level, this budget season saw the culmination of several longer term trends. To a certain extent we have been able to work around these, but their annual recurrence and cumulative effect may well have signaled a new normal that will have to be reckoned with.

The trends I am referring to include:

- The contraction of general fund fee income;
- The loss of interest income on our cash accounts;
- The extent of State downshifting, and
- The slowing of the rate of growth in our Grand List.

As I talk about each of these keep in mind the magic number or \$84,000, the amount that represents a 1% change in the tax rate.

Let's quantify these trends. General fund fee income:

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The general fund has several income line items that have been on the decline, most notably: planning fees and car registration fees. The proposed budget assumes a \$70,000 decline in these combined revenues.

Interest income: The Town invests its cash, by law and common sense, in highly secure assets. In FY 2008 the town earned over \$376,000 on its invested working capital. The proposed budget assumes only \$50,000 in interest income as interest rates continue to hover near zero. Over the years, the budget for interest income has been ratcheted downward, this year by another \$20,000.

State Downshifting: The subject of State Downshifting is one you have heard me talk about many times. As I have discussed in the past, the State of New Hampshire *does* have a broad based tax - it is called the town property tax. Here is how it works. The State, without a formal broad based tax directly at its disposal, struggles to balance its budget. One approach they take is to downshift to the towns. This takes the form of no longer sharing revenue to the extent they did before (think rooms and meals tax) or by sending the town a bill for expenses that previously were supported at the state level (think retirement funding).

This year alone the State downshifted over \$200,000 to the town in the form of increases in the employer portion of the state retirement fund. Over the past four years the state has downshifted nearly \$550,000 which represents \$.27 cents, or 5%, of the proposed \$5.69 blended tax rate.

Growth in the Grand List: Due in part to the recent recession but primarily due to a slowing down in Dartmouth's spending on taxable buildings, this year's increase in the grand list is forecasted at only 10 million dollars - down from a budgeted increase of \$18 million last year and a five year high in FY 2010 when the grand list increased by over \$38 million.

In spite of these negative trends, the Select Board was able to adopt a budget with a 3.8% increase in the General Fund tax levy resulting in a 3.4 % increase in the general fund tax rate. Of this 3.4 %, 1.6% was the result of State downshifting and 1.8 % was due to town decisions. When you include the activity in the Fire Fund, the projected increase in the "Blended" General Fund and Fire District Tax Rate is 2.8%. Of this 2.8%, 1.8% was the result of State downshifting and only 1.0% due to town decisions.

This is a tight budget and meets the Select Board's goal of limiting the increase in the tax rate due to town decisions to the CPI.

It was not easy to get there. Many line items in this budget were level funded, which really means they were reduced in inflation adjusted terms. We were not able to adequately fund our long term paving program, which we shorted by \$40,000 compared to what we needed to be doing. There is also no money in this budget to increase the funding of our capital reserves, which we now realize are not as healthy as we originally thought.

Let me not fail, however, to highlight what this budget *does* fund, as all is far from doom and gloom: we maintain our roads, buildings and equipment well, we have vibrant recreational programs and libraries, we produce superior quality water and return very clean water back to the

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Connecticut River and we have first rate police, fire and ambulance services that receive many thank you letters each year.

We have professional, friendly and knowledgeable staff town-wide, who continue to find ways to operate the town as efficiently as possible. There is a lot to be proud of and thankful for.

I know you think (perhaps hope) that I am done but there is one other topic I feel compelled to address. We were sorry and disappointed to lose the support of the Hanover Finance Committee this year which we have enjoyed for as long as I can remember.

But let me take another step back. In December the Board drafted a budgeting guideline document, that while still in Draft form, states the basic principles that have driven our budgeting decisions for the last decade at least.

All of the guidelines may not be achievable in any given year, but they serve as reference points in our deliberations.

These guidelines talk about our desire to *not* kick the can down the road but rather to adequately fund long term liabilities, to do projects right and be willing to pay a bit more now for a higher quality and longer lasting outcome .

The guidelines talk about our belief that carefully selected new initiatives can add significant value to the town, but that we want to adequately fund current programs before adding new ones.

The guidelines also talk about our belief that the town should *not* automatically absorb state downshifting as we believe that would be a race to the bottom and require a serious lessening of town services.

We also try *not* to use reserve funds to manage the tax rate, especially when they offset recurring expenses. Most importantly, we focus on your tax bill when setting our budget guideline.

It is in these last three areas that, this year, we had a fundamental difference in approach than that recommended by the finance committee.

Of the three - setting the actual budget target is the most subtle. The Finance Committee asked the Board to limit this year's growth in spending to last year's tax levy (the amount raised in taxes) multiplied either by the Municipal Price Index (the MPI) or the Consumer Price Index (the CPI), in essence taking one measure of spending and adjusting it with an inflation factor. The difficulty we have with this approach is that neither the MPI nor the CPI is an accurate inflation factor for the town. The MPI specifically does not measure salary and benefit cost increases which are 72 % of our total budget, and the CPI is a measure of an individual's cost index, not a municipality's, as the town does not buy clothes, food, housing, or much of what is in the CPI bucket of goods and services.

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Interestingly, I can remember several years ago Betsy McClain and I spent a good bit of time trying to come up with what we called the Hanover Inflation Index, but with the lack of meaningful data it was a lost cause, and we eventually threw in the towel.

Without a good municipal inflation index, it is difficult to use the recommended finance committee approach.

The Board, in contrast, has historically focused on the growth in your tax bill, and has tried to limit that growth to the CPI. The Select Board uses the CPI in this context not because it reflects the inflation in the town's costs (which it does not), but because it reflects the overall inflation in what you purchase. By limiting tax rate increases to the CPI, we are, in essence, managing town spending such that the increase in your tax bill is in line with the increase in all of your other expenses. The goal is to have the cost of town services as a percentage of a tax payer's total expenses remain constant. This approach has been supported by prior finance committees and I believe has been well received by the voters over many years.

Relative to state downshifting, the finance committee has suggested that we absorb all of this year's downshifting. Following that policy would require significantly decreasing town services, which we believe is not desired by the town or in the best interest of the town. As mentioned earlier, total downshifting this year was \$200,000 and has been over half a million dollars since it started, with every reason to believe that there is more to come. We are not talking about tens of thousands, but hundreds of thousands that would have to come out of current spending to meet the finance committee's request.

The other HFC request was for the Board to use the total \$240,000 in available undesignated fund balances to offset this year's budget. While that would feel really good this year, it would make next year's budget almost impossible and we accordingly decided to split the difference and accepted some delayed gratification.

I know that this stuff gets a bit technical, so I guess that my take home message is that the Select Board did seriously consider the suggestions by the finance committee, but just had some fundamental differences in approach.

We invite you to attend the Select Board meeting when we formally review the draft budget guidelines.

As I wrap up, I want to thank Julia and Betsy for the exceptional job they do in preparing the budget, the budget book and guiding us through the budget process and the Department Head's who sometimes have to take it on the chin budget wise, but who do so with good humor and an understanding that this is a team sport, and to all of our wonderful town employees who do a great job day in and day out. And let me not forget to also thank the many volunteers (yes, including the finance committee) who serve on over 50 committees, sub-committees, and commissions in invaluable service to the town."

Moderator Black asked for discussion on Article Fourteen.

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Ellis Rollett stated that he had a question about the large increase in revenue (on page 54) from \$60,000 to \$650,000.

Ms. McClain stated that this is due to a gift in the amount of \$625,000 which will be discussed in an upcoming separate Warrant Article and noted that it is a one-time only increase.

Kristi Fenner, Hanover Finance Committee Chair, stated that Chairman Christie went over some of the items of disagreement with the Hanover Finance Committee. Ms. Fenner stated that the majority of the Finance Committee did not support the budget this year on several factors. She stated that the Committee did ask the Board to keep the tax levy at inflation. They felt that there had been too steep an increase in spending. She stated that the Committee's guidelines could have easily been achieved as they were only off by \$125,000. She noted that there is an internal policy when the Undesignated General Fund Balance is over 10%. The Board wanted to return this balance over two years so instead of returning the whole \$240,000 so essentially they only wanted to return half which left \$120,000 on the table.

Ms. Fenner further stated that Chairman Christie mentioned the fee revenue is way off in this budget. She noted that fees on Town services haven't been raised in quite a while so if they had raised fees \$50,000 in this budget, they would have met the Committee's guidance. Ms. Fenner stated that the full statement from the Finance Committee could be found in the Town Report.

John Schiffman stated that he was impressed with the Finance Committee's letter to the Valley News a couple of days ago and simply on the strength of that letter he would be voting against the budget. He wanted to express his support of the Select Board but felt that the letter was compelling and it would be the only time that he's supported the Finance Committee over the Board of Selectmen.

Robert Russell asked whether Chairman Christie had a response to the majority opinion of the Finance Committee. He is in favor of the budget but would like to hear more.

Chairman Christie stated that he tried to highlight this in his address to Town Meeting. He stated that to use a model to set a budget guideline (tax levy) and multiply it by an inflation factor when that inflation factor does not in any way represent the inflation in the costs of the Town, he didn't find this a logical approach to setting a budget target.

Chairman Christie stated that if there was such a cost inflator, then they would have to look at it but neither the MPI nor the CPI represents an inflation factor for a municipality. So to take the tax levy and multiply it by an inflation factor, it does not represent an inflation index for a municipality.

Chairman Christie stated that they also differed when the Finance Committee asked the Town to absorb the full \$200,000 of State downshifting. Chairman Christie stated that if they had absorbed this in this year's budget or the previous years, it would be a race to the bottom. He stated that he can pretty much guarantee that there is going to be more downshifting in the years to come. He stated that the State cannot get their act together for a broad base tax and the costs are pushed down to the municipalities; the towns will have a hard time trying to absorb this.

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Chairman Christie stated that if the amounts were \$10,000, \$20,000, they would try to absorb it but it's not, its \$200,000 this year and if they had done this in previous years it would add up to \$550,000.

Chairman Christie stated that the Town has taken the position, with the support of the Finance Committee in prior years that they would not automatically accept and try to absorb all of the State downshifting.

Chairman Christie stated that another issue is how the Town manages the reserve funds. He stated that the Town has a guideline and there are years in which they don't feel that it is in the best interest to follow it. In this budget, there were very few if any one time expenses. If they use reserve funds to support recurring expenses in a budget, those expenses don't stop so if the Town has accepts \$120,000, it may be a manageable amount going into the future but to accept \$240,000 means that going into this budget there is \$240,000 of recurring expenses that haven't been funded in the tax rate. This would result in the Town being the hole going into next year's budget. Chairman Christie stated that the expenses are going to be there next year and the Board felt that the number was too big and they wanted to try to limit it out over periods of time. Otherwise, next year's budget will be absolutely impossible.

Chairman Christie stated that each item at issue was a judgment call and the Board didn't feel that they could follow the Finance Committee's advice.

Heidi Postupack, Finance Committee member, stated that the Hanover Finance Committee has tremendous respect for the work of the Town Administrators and the Select Board. She stated that the conversation seems to be going in the direction of voting either with the Select Board or the Hanover Finance Committee. She noted that they are voting for or against a budget that includes revenues and costs that the Town is about to incur. The fact that there is \$200,000 worth of State downshifting this year does not mean that it's \$200,000 more than last year. She wanted to know what the downshifting was last year because the percentage growth in the downshifting may be small and if it was \$200,000, the growth in that expense line would be zero.

Ms. Postupack stated that the Select Board set guidance on the amount for the General Fund Undesignated Reserve Fund Balance (which is used as a savings account for the Town) which is not to exceed 5% to 10% of the budget. If the fund exceeds 10% the funds are supposed to go back to the taxpayers. She noted that it has been 3 consecutive years that the funds have not been returned to the taxpayers.

Ms. Postupack stated that expenses grew by 7.2% this year for the Town of Hanover's proposed budget which far exceeds the MCI and CPI. The Finance Committee are volunteers that are charged with looking at the numbers and trying to understand them and share them with the Town.

Mr. Chambers asked about the \$200,000 of downshifting and also the increase in the police department budget.

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Ms. Griffin stated that the \$200,000 downshifting from the State are mandatory increases in the employer's contribution to the New Hampshire Retirement System on behalf of each employee. She noted that because of past poor management of the Retirement System, the State now has to recoup on a lot of years of bad investments and funds that were siphoned off to the Special Account which were used to fund additional retirement benefits for State, Municipal and School District employees. Effective July 1, the Town of Hanover has to come up with an extra \$200,000 in retirement contributions on behalf of all of the Town's employees which comes to about a 2.3% tax rate increase. This is a new cost to the Town this year.

Ms. Griffin stated that the increase in the police department budget is due to the acceptance of 3 grants from Homeland Security. There are key padlocks for the police department for increased security, additional portable radios and the Emergency Management Plan overhaul. She noted that the department is not adding any additional staff.

Danielle Goodwin asked if would be possible to take the \$200,000 needed for the parking meters and apply it toward the downshifting costs. Ms. Griffin stated that the parking meter costs would come from the Parking Fund and the Town can't use that fund to pay for a General Fund expense.

Ms. Goodwin asked Moderator Black if she could make a motion to take \$200,000 from the Parking Fund to cover the downshifting costs. Moderator Black stated that this would be illegal under State Law.

Kari Assmus noted that there have been comments about the steep increase in spending in the amount of 7.2%. She was trying to figure out where this came from. She noted that one of the biggest contributors appears to be the expenditures out of the reserve funds. She stated that last year they took out around \$500,000 and this time they are looking at \$1.5 million. She noted that this is money that has already been collected from the taxpayers so it wouldn't increase the taxes this year.

Ms. Assmus stated that the money that they have saved and they are already spending is not part of the core budget. If they took \$1 million out of the proposed reserve funds, they would see the increased spending at 3.1% which is quite a bit closer and reasonable. She stated that when she considered the downshifting that has occurred; she doesn't think that they can make up locally for what is happening at the State level. She felt that it might be helpful to look at what is happening at the core part of the budget and then look at the big picture with the ins and outs of the capital reserve funds.

Ms. Assmus noted that she liked the comment that this isn't about supporting the Finance Committee or the Select Board but more about what the taxpayers think is best. She stated that the Select Board for many years has had a goal of saving 5% to 10% of the budget in the Undesignated Fund Balance so that if there is a big storm such as the one they had a few years ago, there are funds available to fix the roads and get them where they need to be.

Ms. Assmus stated that if the Town decides to put the entire \$240,000 toward next year's budget, the Town can do that. This will save 12 cents per thousand but that means that next year, the

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Select Board will need to start with a tax rate increase of 2.8% so the residents just need to understand that this is part of the package.

Chairman Christie stated that Ms. Assmus' points are exactly right. The Town could take it all this year but this will make next year that much more difficult. The reason they did not use the reserve fund last year was because they were talking about increasing the amount from 10% to 15% particularly in light of recent natural disasters.

Chairman Christie stated that the reason Articles Twelve and Thirteen are separate from Fourteen is because they do try to separate out the capital spending from the on-going operating expenses. The money going into the reserve is the taxable event. The money coming out of the reserve is not a taxable event. Chairman Christie noted that Article Twelve is the money going into the reserve which is the taxable event; Article Thirteen is the money coming out of the reserve which is not a taxable event.

Chairman Christie noted that the reserves are carefully scrutinized; they know every asset in the Town and they try to set the reserve to plan for the replacement of them. The more that they discuss the replacement of equipment, the more they see that they are behind and the Board was not able to fund any additional reserves in this budget. He stated that the 7.2% increase includes the capital spending but that's not the taxable event.

Kristi Fenner wanted to clarify that the Town used \$150,000 out of the General Fund to fund the Etna Library and when they did that the Undesignated Fund Balance was at 12% and this year it's back at 12% again. She stated that they can't automatically assume that if they use the \$240,000, they would be in a dire position from a budget perspective.

John Chamberlain asked what would happen if Article Fourteen does not pass and what happens next. Moderator Black explained that Town Meeting would need to provide a number that the Select Board would need to work with.

Bernie Waugh asked for someone from the Finance Committee to make a motion to amend Article Fourteen.

Darryl Press, Finance Committee member, stated that he has lived in Hanover for 14 years. Mr. Press wanted to state why he was one of the 5 that voted not to support this budget and noted that it is not a criticism of the Select Board. He stated that the more he works with the Select Board, the more impressed he is with the Town leadership.

Mr. Press stated that his reason for voting against this is different than the issues that have been brought up so far. He has been in the discussions regarding MCI and CPI and noted that it is confusing and there is no magic number. His reason for opposing the budget and encouraging taxpayers to vote for a smaller one is more about the trends of the Hanover municipal budget.

Mr. Press stated that the fraction of the Town spending that will come from the municipal levy is about \$11.38 million. He stated that if they go back 10 years and look at the same number from FY2003, the number was \$6.5 million. So in the course of 10 years, the annual difference per

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year is just under \$5 million which is a 75% increase. He stated that there has been a little bit of inflation but it has been a low inflation decade. There has been zero population growth although there has been downshifting. The total amount of downshifting this year is \$500,000 per year.

Mr. Press noted that he didn't see anything outrageous in the budget but the overall trend with a decade of growth at 75% with no population increase seems to be too much. His sense is that the Select Board is doing a great job spending the resources that the Town is giving them but the Town needs to constrain them by giving them spending increases that are more appropriate for the static increases and the slow rate of inflation.

Mr. Press stated that he didn't have a specific motion to decrease the budget but if there were a 2% increase instead of a 3.3% increase in the levy, he would support that. He stated that he would look for opinions from the audience.

John Ruth, Hanover Finance Committee member, MOVED to Amend the Budget to Increase the Property Tax Levy to no more than 2%.

Kari Assmus asked Moderator Black if they needed to have a specific number to be approved. Dean Madden stated that this sounds like it would result in a \$100,000 reduction in the overall appropriation. Mr. Ruth stated that it would be around \$170,000 which would be about the State downshifting amount so the Town would have to level fund from there.

Mr. Madden asked about the whole \$240,000 out of the Undesignated Fund Balance. He stated that he thought that the fund was already above 10% but his understanding is that they would put \$120,000 of additional money into the General Fund.

Chairman Christie clarified that they are not putting money into the Undesignated Fund Balance; the reserve target is to remain between 5% and 10% of the General Fund. When the amount is over 10%, the Town looks at returning this to the taxpayer over several years. This money is the difference between the tax rate and the expenditures. He clarified that they are not putting money into the reserve but they are talking about taking the amount down from 12% to 10%.

William Lewis stated that he is a new resident from Lyme and he used to serve on the Lyme Budget Committee. He stated that it is his understanding that at the end of the year, if they have not spent the money, instead of giving it back to the taxpayers it can go into the reserve fund.

Chairman Christie confirmed that this was true that the money automatically goes into the reserve to be used by the Select Board and the guidance is to keep it at 5% to 10% of the General Fund.

Mr. Ruth stated that the range is 5% to 10% and the \$240,000 would bring it to the top end of the range. The Select Board's own guidance is that they would return that to taxpayers over 2 years and the reason that they want to do this is to return it to the taxpayers that were overtaxed to begin with. Mr. Ruth stated that to keep deferring it, the people who paid too much in prior years

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never get it back and this is another way to kick the can down the road and not give the money back.

Jeff Acker asked about the balance in the reserve fund. Ms. Griffin stated that the balance is \$1.6 million in the Undesignated Fund Balance. She stated that each year when the auditor's look at the books as of June 30th, they look at the amount of surplus in the General Fund, then this money is set aside in the Undesignated Fund Balance. As of June 30, 2012, there is \$1.6 million which is roughly 12% of the total General Fund budget. The Board had suggested taking \$120,000 to balance the budget for next year.

Mr. Acker stated that the \$1.6 million is surplus so if they took the whole \$240,000 out this year, Chairman Christie's concern is that there wouldn't be any money to level next year's budget but there would still be \$1.34 million accumulated in the surplus fund. He felt that they could still use another \$200,000 next year without getting to close to 'the danger zone' so he felt that they could take the whole \$240,000 out for this year's budget and still be above the 5% minimum. This also assumes that they don't put anything into the fund this fiscal year which would not be consistent with the prior years.

Ms. Sandra Hoeh stated that she returned to Hanover 11 years ago and she has chaired a Finance Committee in a major city. She stated that she's not sure she could follow all of the numbers that are being thrown around but there are certain basics that communities need to follow and one of them is not funding recurring expenses with one time money. She noted that 72% of the budget is salaries and they can cut the budget but they will also be cutting services. She noted that they can't use the money from the parking meters to pay for expenses. She stated that they are going to continue to see less and less money coming in. She stated that they can cut services; they can lay off people, which she does not recommend, but they can't fund recurring expenses with one-time money. Ms. Hoeh stated that they will regret this and the situation is going to get much worse.

Robert Chambers SECONDED the Amendment.

Mr. Robin Carpenter asked if the dollar figure has been determined so that they can move forward.

Ms. McClain stated that she took the total tax levy and limiting the increase to 2%, the current year tax levy is just over \$11.382 million. The change to 2% amends the total tax levy to \$11,239,000, so from the current levy into a 2% increase gives them \$220,000 which is just enough to cover the incremental State downshifting through the increases in the NH Retirement system. Ms. McClain noted that the reduction would be \$143,000.

Robert Russell stated that he would like to speak against the amendment because he wanted to speak for the original budget. He wanted to be very careful about a number. He noted that someone stated that the Town of Hanover hasn't grown in the last 10 years but that's not true and people present numbers that go unchallenged. Services gradually increase and there is a running cost of living increase of 2% to 3%. He stated that they can't have quality staff and not give them raises.

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Mr. Russell stated that he trusts the people running the Town to care about the level of the staff that they have. Mr. Russell noted that the State is downshifting costs because they don't have the courage to deal with finances properly. There are employee benefit costs/medical costs that are rising and if they don't meet these, they will lose quality staff. Mr. Russell stated that Hanover is not a poor Town and although many are disadvantaged, many are not. He would speak in favor of the original budget and intent.

Ms. Garmeyer asked about the 7.2% cost increase. Ms. Griffin stated that if they look at page 56 in the Town Report, there is a grand total for all funds which shows an increase of 7.2%. This includes the increase in expenditures from all of the reserve funds. The net number, when you strip out the capital reserve fund expenditures is 2.4%. Ms. Garmeyer asked what would be removed to get to the 2.4%. Ms. Griffin stated the items that would be removed are the capital projects funded from capital reserves and other reserve funds.

Chairman Christie stated that Article Fourteen would appropriate \$21,586,052 and the new amendment would reduce the amount by \$143,398 for a total of \$21,442,654.

Moderator Black called for a vote on the amendment to reduce the amount by \$143,398.

RESULTS: YES 55 NO 80 AMENDMENT DEFEATED

Moderator Black asked for further discussion on Article Fourteen.

Dean Madden stated that he wanted to express his appreciation for the Select Board's work and he doesn't want the discussions to reflect poorly as a lack of appreciation for their efforts. He stated that the discussions about the rate of increase are similar to the discussions regarding the Dresden School District budget a few years ago and at that time the budget was voted down. The School was then forced to do a ground up analysis of all services that are provided.

Mr. Madden asked about the last time that the Select Board zero based the budget and surveyed the Town citizens to ask what level of police, fire and parking services are necessary. Mr. Madden stated that if this hasn't happened, this can lead to incremental increases that add up over time. He stated that this may be a time for the Town to step back and consider significant adjustments up or down. He would like to see a tighter budget target and have the Town drill down into the services provided in this budget. He asked if there have been discussions with citizens about the services provided in the last 5 years. Moderator Black stated it was done in the '90s.

Dean Madden wanted to move to amend Article Fourteen to return the full amount of \$240,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Fund with the request that the Town reevaluate the services that can be adjusted. Moderator Black asked Mr. Madden for the specific wording for his motion.

Dean Madden MOVED to Amend Article Fourteen to reduce the budget by \$120,000 by returning the full surplus from the Undesignated Reserve Fund. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

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Ms. Hoeh asked how this is different from what they already voted on. Moderator Black noted that the amount is different.

Dick Nordgren asked for the percentage of this number. Ms. Griffin stated that if Town Meeting agreed with the amendment to use \$120,000 of Undesignated Fund Balance, it would decrease the tax rate by 1.3%.

Moderator Black called the question.

RESULTS: YES 36 NO 79 AMENDMENT DEFEATED

Moderator Black went back to the original Article Fourteen as presented.

A member from the audience called the question from the floor.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Fourteen as presented at \$21,586,052.

RESULTS: YES 93 NO 30 ARTICLE FOURTEEN PASSED.

The Motion PASSED and Article Fourteen was ADOPTED as written.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Twelve.

An Audience Member MOVED Article Twelve. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Twelve was ADOPTED as written.

Moderator Black asked for a discussion on Article Thirteen.

An audience member called the question. Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Thirteen.

The Motion PASSED and Article Thirteen was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the purchase of a .4 acre parcel located at 44 Lebanon Street, Tax Map 34, Lot 82, for the purchase price of \$600,000, and to raise and appropriate that sum for this purpose by an already committed private donation of \$600,000. No funds raised in this article will come from taxation.

Selectman Geraghty MOVED that the Town vote to authorize the purchase of a .4 acre parcel located at 44 Lebanon Street, Tax Map 34, Lot 82, for the purchase price of \$600,000, and to raise and appropriate that sum for this purpose by an already committed private donation of \$600,000. No funds raised in this article will come from taxation. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

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Selectman Geraghty stated that this is an opportunity that comes up every 50 to 100 years; the position of this lot against property already owned by the Town opposite the high school will give them an opportunity to seriously consider building a gymnasium which will be up to the community to decide on later. Selectman Geraghty stated that all they are voting on at this time is to accept \$600,000 for the purchase of the property. There will be further discussion in the coming year to decide what to do with the property. Meanwhile, it is a rental unit and the Town will collect the rent on 4 apartments and put the funds toward its future use.

Bob Strauss read the following statement into the record:

“I’m Bob Strauss. I was the founder of the Hanover Affordable Housing Commission, but I am not a member of the Commission at this time. I am speaking as a resident of nearly 21 years.

Our nation is in the midst of a retirement crisis. I didn’t make that line up. That comes from an op-ed piece in the Valley News on March 8th of this year. We all know that the baby boomers have started to reach retirement age and will be looking for suitable housing. For personal reasons, I’ve looked closely at the retirement communities in our area to see how much is required to live there. There are seven options in NH Upper Valley only one of which is suitable for a retiree of moderate income. Essentially all require that you use income from the sale of your present home as an entry fee to the retirement community. Your total costs thereafter usually run at least \$60,000 per year and that includes the necessary private costs that are not covered in the monthly fee or a good example is your income tax.

The combination of high unemployment, low savings, decaying pensions, decreased home values, increasing college costs, higher health care costs, and longer lives means that too few people today can accumulate a sufficient retirement nest egg. The median household headed by a person aged 60 to 62 with a 401(k) retirement account has less than one quarter of what is needed to maintain their standard of living in retirement. Overall, only 8% of retirees have the means to maintain their present life style.

Some forty years ago, Hanover saw the need to provide affordable housing for people of retirement age who could not afford ordinary rentals or were handicap. Three buildings of eight units each were constructed under the Federal Section 8 program in the piece of land we call Summer/Park; i.e., that is the land bordered on the north by Summer Street and on the east by Park Street. These units have been fully occupied since they were opened in 1976. To qualify as a resident, income can be no higher than the median for our county which is about \$45,000. The proposed acquisition is located within Summer/Park as is the Black Center.

We have limited space within the Summer/Park triangle. Certainly, all of the privately owned rental properties in the triangle, of which the proposed acquisition is one, should be purchased whenever they are offered at a fair market price. Over the coming years, hopefully, we will be able to acquire the others. So, of course, we want to approve this Article at this time. Thank you.”

Moderator Black asked for further discussion.

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Gordon Spade stated that it seems that the proposed use of this land is for a gymnasium and he asked if there is an estimate of the costs for demolition of the current building and to build a new facility. He stated that he understands that they can get a property for free but depending on what the plans are, if what they are planning down the road is not free, that needs to be made apparent as well.

Ms. Griffin stated that the estimated demolition cost is under \$20,000 although they don't have a plan to demolish it any time soon. The estimated cost to construct the gymnasium that they would like to see built is around \$1.5 million and then the Town will do several things over the next year; they will work with the architect who designed the original community center because this building would be attached to the building through a lot line adjustment; obtain cost estimates; receive feedback from the community as to what they would like to see incorporated in a potential gym; and to figure out how to finance it. She noted that one of the things that they did with the Richard W. Black Community Center was that they raised half of the money beforehand and then asked the Town to consider bonding for the other half. She stated that ultimately it will be up to Town Meeting to decide if this is a project that they should explore funding but they can't explore this if they don't have the property.

Martha Solow asked if there has been a commitment to the gymnasium proposal. Moderator Black stated that there has not been a commitment. Ms. Solow asked if they could do what they want with the funds if they were accepted.

Selectman Geraghty stated that the donor of the \$600,000 donated the money with the anticipation that the Town would pursue building a gymnasium with the name following it. If the Town chooses not to build a gymnasium, the Town would need to see if the donor would require that they pay the money back. The donor is aware that this is not a done deal but there is no legal requirement. The Town could just sell it but to get the process going, they need to own the property and then the community can decide what to do.

Martha Solow stated that there has been misleading discussion about this proposal. She is distressed to hear that the Selectmen believed that it would be appropriate to give the money back. She felt that they need to decide either to follow through on the suggestions or not make suggestions until they have the money in hand and let the Town decide what to do with it.

Mr. Robert Chambers stated that he is a member of the Affordable Housing Commission although he is not speaking on their behalf. He wanted to reinforce Mr. Strauss' comments. This property is located in the area of other senior citizens and a gymnasium might be disruptive to the environment.

Jeff Acker stated that he wanted to make sure that he understood that if they vote to accept the money and buy the property and then they decide not to build a gym, the donor could ask for their money back.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Town asked the donor to purchase the property on behalf of the Town to hold it while they took the time to explore the possibility of adding a gymnasium to the Richard W. Black Center. The donor came back and indicated that they didn't want to purchase

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the property and hold it for the Town but wanted to give the money to the Town with the desire to pursue the construction of a gymnasium. If it is determined in the next year that it is not feasible to build a gymnasium or that the community does not wish to do this, the Town would need to sit back down with the donor to discuss whether they can retain the property with those donated funds.

Mr. Acker asked what would happen if the donor decided that they wanted the money back after the property was purchased. Ms. Griffin stated that they could sell the property or pursue an alternate proposal. Mr. Acker asked if the donor has a legal right to demand their money back if the gym is not approved. Ms. Griffin stated that there is a memo of understanding that the Town would purchase the property to pursue the construction of a gymnasium. If they decide not to go forward, they will sit back down with the donor to discuss possible future uses of the property.

Mr. Acker stated that he originally thought that this was the greatest proposal in the Town and now he feels that it is the worst one ever. The Town is going to commit to buying a property that they then may need to give the money back and he stayed to vote in favor but he's just changed his opinion.

Harold Frost asked if the donor would hold a document giving him or her legal rights based upon what the Town does for reclamation of the donated funds or there would be a deed restriction on the property to elucidate that arrangement. He asked if there will be a letter obligating the Town to either build the gym or return the \$600,000.

Ms. Griffin responded that there is no legal commitment but there is a letter of understanding which simply outlines the Town's desire to utilize the property to construct a gymnasium addition to the Community Center. The Town has an obligation to sit back down with the donor if they decide not to pursue the gymnasium for whatever reason.

Mr. Frost asked what the obligation is. Ms. Griffin stated that the obligation is to pursue the construction of a gymnasium and if for whatever reason they choose not to, they will sit back down with the donor to discuss where they go from there. Ms. Griffin stated that they can't pursue this opportunity if they don't purchase the property.

Mr. Frost stated that they heard a discussion about the desirability to use this for housing for retirees and asked if this was irrelevant because of the commitment to use it for another purpose. Ms. Griffin stated that the donor's agent indicated to her that if there is a higher purpose or better use for the property other than a gym, then the donation would remain in the Town's hands.

Mr. Frost asked who judges what the better purpose is since he would prefer that they make it into a parking lot. Ms. Griffin stated again that the legal obligation is to receive a donation from an individual so that the Town can explore the possibility of constructing a gymnasium on that property.

John Schiffman encouraged the residents to vote in favor for the Article. He stated that the key issue is to preserve this piece of property for the citizens of Hanover.

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Erin Knuuti asked if there are real estate agents involved and if so are they getting a commission on this transaction and will they be involved if the Town has to sell the property. She also asked about the property taxes.

Ms. Griffin stated that there are no brokers as it is for sale by owner and noted that the Town doesn't have to pay taxes on properties that it owns. This would take it off the Grand List and the value of the property is \$482,000.

Moderator Black noted that the Town can collect the rent until something is done on the property.

Danielle Goodwin proposed an amendment to call out the donor since there are potential naming requests and it may be a name that is egregious to the community so that should be considered. She asked if the Town has the donation currently.

Ms. Griffin stated that the donor wants to remain anonymous and she needs to respect that. The name won't remain anonymous forever because of potential naming rights. The Town has received \$25,000 so far for a refundable deposit on the property and the remaining \$575,000 will be received before the end of May if approved by Town Meeting.

Ms. Goodwin wanted to Amend the Article to include that the Town will commit to using the property for a gymnasium. Martha Solow SECONDED the Motion.

Martha Solow stated that she seconded the amendment because she is opposed to it and she wanted to have Town Meeting to decide whether they want a gym or whether they want to have freedom to choose whatever they want for any property that the Town acquires.

Ms. Elsa Garmeyer stated that she didn't feel that now is not the time to decide about the gym. This is an extremely valuable piece of property and the Town should own it and they can worry about what they can do with it later. She is against making a decision about the use now.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on the Amendment; that if the Town accepts the \$600,000 that they are doing so to build a gym on the property.

The Amendment was DEFEATED.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Fifteen.

Mr. Ruth asked how much rental income is coming from the properties. Ms. Griffin stated that it is around \$4,100/month or approximately \$48,000/year.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: Article Fifteen was PASSED as presented.

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ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for architectural services to design a gymnasium addition to the Richard W. Black Community and Senior Center for further consideration, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Land and Capital Improvement Fund. This expenditure is dependent on passage of Article Fifteen. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until this work is complete or June 30, 2018, whichever is sooner.

Selectman Geraghty MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for architectural services to design a gymnasium addition to the Richard W. Black Community and Senior Center for further consideration, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Land and Capital Improvement Fund. This expenditure is dependent on passage of Article Fifteen. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until this work is complete or June 30, 2018, whichever is sooner. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Selectman Geraghty noted that this is money that the Town has in the Land and Capital Improvement Fund. This Article would be used to allocate money for a project of which there is still going to be debate in the community so he asked Ms. Griffin to clarify the process.

Ms. Griffin stated that periodically they appropriate funds from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund which is a special reserve fund. In order to advance the planning and community planning about the viability of a gym attached to the Community Center, the Town needs to pay for an architect and engineer to help evaluate the project. She stated that the hope would be to come before next Town Meeting with a concrete proposal for the property. This appropriation does not increase the tax rate.

Martha Solow asked why the people who are proposing this continue to say that the Town wants a gym. Ms. Griffin stated that it's the assessment from Town staff, the Recreation Board and feedback received from a lot of parents. The biggest shortcoming of the Community Center is that they didn't have enough land originally to build a full size gym. Ms. Griffin stated that the Recreation program has had challenges attempting to get enough gym time for their programs.

Ms. Solow asked about the school's position on this. Ms. Griffin stated that the school is excited about the prospect of a new gym. She has had conversations with the Schools indicating that the need to use their gyms will not be eliminated but it will be reduced.

Ms. Solow felt that they were not receiving information but that they have been receiving opinions so she is not in favor.

Mr. Frost spoke in favor of this and noted that since they have approved the purchase of the land, the Town now needs professional services and they need to have the ability to pay for them.

A member from the audience called the question which was seconded from the floor. The majority of Town Meeting voted in favor of calling the question.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Sixteen.

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ARTICLE SIXTEEN: Article Sixteen PASSED as presented.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a gift from Crystal Farr of 21.9 acres of land, Tax Map 1, Lot 15, located on Greensboro Road with the understanding that the Town agrees to the name, David Farr Memorial Field, in honor of David, and the Town agrees to commemorate David with a stone installation to be located prominently on the property identifying the David Farr Memorial Field.

Selectman Buckey MOVED that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a gift from Crystal Farr of 21.9 acres of land, Tax Map 1, Lot 15, located on Greensboro Road with the understanding that the Town agrees to the name, David Farr Memorial Field, in honor of David, and the Town agrees to commemorate David with a stone installation to be located prominently on the property identifying the David Farr Memorial Field. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Rich Howarth stated that he would vote yes on this as he appreciates the donation but he asked if there will be any future taxes for facility upgrades such as what has been done behind the Etna Fire Station. He also wanted to know how much money is being spent to maintain the playing field behind the Etna Fire Station.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Etna Library project included the improvements to the parking lot and enhancements to the playing field. The total cost for the field improvements was under \$25,000 and Town crews are performing the labor. Ms. Griffin stated that they don't have a specific plan for David Farr's field as most of it is in the flood plain and is a preserved wetlands area. Ms. Griffin stated that if they were to pursue a playing field, they would look at the area of Highway Shed 2.

David Vincelette stated that he was friends with David Farr and is friends with his wife. He supports it but the highway parking area is where the Town holds the asphalt waste. Mr. Vincelette asked for confirmation on this.

Ms. Griffin stated that they store a number of items at the site including crushed asphalt.

Mr. Vincelette asked how many people know that presently near the Gile Tract there is huge machinery that the Town uses to collect asphalt waste. He noted that the obligation of the Town is to be open and honest with all of the voters and put out the information. He wanted to know how long it was before the Town's people were notified that asphalt waste was being spread on the uphill roads all over Hanover.

Moderator Black stated that the asphalt waste is on Town property and not on the David Farr property.

Mr. Vincelette stated that the brook travels through David Farr's property and there is an intent to make a ball field in an area that has been contaminated with asphalt waste. There is a Junior High School that is contaminated with TCE waste. He stated that it is going to be expensive if

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this is going to be cleaned up for playing fields. Mr. Vincelette wanted to know if the townspeople were aware of where their wastes are going and where they are coming from.

Ms. Griffin reported that the Town takes asphalt products from projects within the Town, some are Town projects, some are private projects and some are Dartmouth projects. They receive the asphalt waste; they crush it and reuse it on their gravel roads. She noted that he has argued his position on this issue before the Superior Court and before the Department of Environmental Services (DES) and in every case what the Town is doing has been deemed to be an appropriate use. Mr. Vincelette stated that this is incorrect.

Moderator Black informed Mr. Vincelette that they are now discussing the motion to receive a donation of land from the Farr family.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article 17.

The motion PASSED and Article Seventeen was ADOPTED as presented.

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

Dr. Bill Boyle MOVED that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to support Mascoma Valley Health Initiative services provided for the residents of Hanover.

Dr. Boyle stated that last year they discussed the development of a public health advisory council and they are now in the implementation phase; 12 towns have gathered to address public health issues in this region. The 12 towns start in Piermont and go down as far as Plainfield, extend from the river out as far as Dorchester, Grafton and Grantham. They are trying to address common problems and this will help with the implementation of that. There are 9 towns that approved funding for this at \$0.75 per person. This proposal requests a lot less from the Town of Hanover.

The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Danielle Goodwin asked what the Mascoma Valley Initiative does for Hanover. Dr. Boyle stated that it's a public health initiative that convenes the 12 towns together to work on emergency responses and other areas of public health interests. Ms. Goodwin asked specifically in Hanover, who has utilized their services.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative is a non-profit agency made up of a number of health officials and they convene the towns to focus on specific areas of concern. She noted that this summer they will probably look at H9 and H7 issue which is something they need to plan for regionally.

Bob Keane stated that he works in the dental field and they need all of the help that they can get as there are a lot of sick children even if Hanover doesn't directly need these services.

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Tim Pillsbury asked why the Select Board supported this last year but this year they voted against it.

Chairman Christie explained that this request didn't meet the criterion that has been established for social service agencies and this was a tight budget year. He noted that requests of this kind that require regional activity don't currently have a specific place within the budget.

Robin Carpenter asked about the criteria and the specifics for supporting or not supporting this kind of project.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Town has a Social Service Agency Funding policy which can be found on-line. She stated that they set this up a few years ago to try to better steer money toward social service agencies and determine which ones serve Hanover residents. There have been previous conversations at Town Meetings that the Town shouldn't just be making donations to agencies from the General Fund. In response to this concern, the Town developed a policy to determine if there is a correlation between the amount of money being requested and the percentage of the clients being served that are Hanover residents. She stated that because the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative (MVHI) is still in its infancy, it doesn't have direct individuals served in Hanover yet.

Martha Solow felt that the Select Board should be endorsing and promoting this initiative. She recommended that residents support the vote.

The Motion PASSED and Article Eighteen was ADOPTED as presented.

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

Chairman Christie MOVED that the Town vote to transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting. The Motion was SECONDED by the Floor.

Bob Strauss stated that somebody talked about the population changes in Town and noted that it depends on how the students declare their residency. Mr. Strauss also stated that it depends on when the census takers take their readings and the last time they did it in April and May so he suggested that they not get too serious about those figures.

Elsa Garmeyer MOVED that the Town thank the anonymous donor of the \$600,000 for the opportunity to purchase the property located at 44 Lebanon Street. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED to thank the donor of the \$600,000 for the purchase of 44 Lebanon Street.

Mr. Vincelette stated that the first core principal in the Master Plan is to preserve the quality of Hanover's waters. He stated that the Town didn't seem to understand the health issue in putting

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asphalt waste in areas where it goes into the Town's water. He wanted to know if the Town warned riparian owners prior to the use of crushed asphalt with known carcinogens where it ends up in the Mink Brook.

Moderator Black stated that there isn't anyone here to answer his question. Mr. Vincelette wanted an answer from Peter Kulbacki or Julia Griffin. Mr. Vincelette disputed the facts that the case was decided against him. Mr. Vincelette continued to express his concerns over the use of crushed asphalt.

Mr. Vincelette MOVED to have the Town of Hanover stop using asphalt waste or use funds to clean up Mink Brook for the asphalt waste that has already been deposited into it. Mr. Schiffman SECONDED the Motion.

Mr. Schiffman stated that he understood Mr. Vincelette's sense of outrage and indignation. He asked whether the Town can address Mr. Vincelette's concern outside of the legal process; whether a citizen of Hanover that has these grievances that may not be able to afford legal counsel can come before some fact finding body to provide a balanced response to some of these accusations. Mr. Schiffman stated that he is troubled because he has seen Hanover change over the decades and is concerned for those who can no longer afford to live here. He wanted to know if Mr. Vincelette's complaints can be dealt with in a non-judicial manner so that there can be a balanced assessment to protect the quality of the community.

Ms. Griffin stated that Mr. Vincelette has already filed suit in Superior Court and he was not successful. The Town had the DES opine as to whether the Town's use of crushed asphalt was done appropriately and they concurred with the Town's utilization.

The question was called from the floor. The majority of Town Meeting voted to call the question.

The Motion was DEFEATED.

Mr. Keane stated that he is very excited with the action of the Town and the College to get rid of the telephone poles on Lebanon Street and it is a pure joy to drive down that road.

Moderator Black thanked Town Meeting for their patience and encouraged residents to run for office or serve on a committee or volunteer and thank the staff for the wonderful job they do.

Town Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Garipay
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.