

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

September 30, 2013

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

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Peter Christie. Present were: Peter Christie, Chairman; Athos Rassias, Vice Chairman; Bill Geraghty, Selectman; Nancy Carter, Selectman; Jay Buckey, Selectman; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Christie asked for Public Comment.

Martha Solow introduced herself and wanted to ask the Board to address the issue of roadside dumping. She stated that there is a small stretch of road between #9 and #11 Rayton Road that has no vegetation. She noted that she spoke with the police department a few years ago when a neighbor was dumping snow in that area. This is an undeveloped stretch of land and people put their yard waste there in the summer and snow in the winter. She stated that whenever they try to plant something there, it gets smashed by whatever debris has been dumped. It looks like a mess so now people are dropping trash in that area. Ms. Solow reported that she previously suggested to Peter Kulbacki and Julia Griffin that the Town send a letter to all residents in the area to ask that they not dump their waste there. She is asking if the Board of Selectmen could propose a solution and noted that she does have a couple of different ideas.

Ms. Griffin stated that she and Peter Kulbacki spoke about this recently after Ms. Solow approached the Town. They discussed sending letters to residents to instruct them not to dump yard waste in that area and specifically to target the snow plow operators. Ms. Griffin explained that there is a sewer easement through this area. Ms. Solow asked about the easement because she has lived there for many years and she is not familiar with a sewer easement. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they can look at her property and assist in showing her where the easement is located. Ms. Griffin noted that they dealt with a similar issue on a different road in Town in the past and are looking at addressing this in the same way.

Ms. Solow reported that there is no vacant land in between the neighbors. She suggested that the Town try again with planting a row of shrubs in the area. She doesn't know who has been dumping the yard waste but she suspects that it is coming from the house across the street. She also noted that the Town could also put in some steel stakes at that location to indicate that there shouldn't be anyone crossing that boundary. Chairman Christie felt that the Town has a mutual interest in solving this problem.

Bryan Smith introduced himself as the manager of IDVD and Poster located at 44 South Main Street. He would like to ask the Board to consider a request and answer a question with regard to parking in Hanover. He stated that since July of 2012, he has been asking the parking officials why they aren't ticketing meter feeders. He was told that they couldn't enforce it while they are having the survey done.

Mr. Smith noted that the survey was finished in February so he approached Lt. O'Neill and asked why they weren't ticketing meter feeders at that time. He stated that Lt. O'Neill indicated that the Select Board felt that because there were no other parking options available, they didn't want them to ticket them.

Mr. Smith reported that he has gone to other businesses/restaurants and spoke to the managers to have them address the issue with their employees. He is requesting that if they aren't going to ticket them on the weekdays, ticket them on Saturdays when there is plenty of parking available and he would like the Board to reconsider the fines. The offenders are young and lazy and can't be bothered with parking elsewhere. He noted that he rides his bike in from Lebanon and the owner of the business rides his in from Norwich as well in order to save spaces for customers.

Mr. Smith stated that he would also like the Board to consider the day passes for the parking garage. He noted that during the Telluride movie events, people triple parked in Lot 6. He noted that he looked in the parking garage at 7:45 at night and there were over 45 spaces available and at that time people were driving around looking for spaces.

Ms. Griffin noted that the meter rates are about to go up which will make it more expensive to meter feed. They hope that raising the cost of meter feeding and adding the spaces on Hovey Lane will shift the employees to another area.

Chairman Christie stated that one of the issues is getting the downtown businesses to manage their own staff but he noted that it sounded like Mr. Smith had some luck when he approached them. Mr. Smith stated that it did work but then there is so much staff turnover that it happens again. He stated that the Town would make revenue by addressing these meter feeding issues and the owners would have more customers.

Mr. Smith asked if there was a way to designate areas that are only reserved Monday through Friday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to indicate that they would be available after 5 p.m. Mr. Smith noted that he has offered to go to a Parking & Transportation Board meeting and offer assistance but he was told that they haven't met since April. Ms. Griffin advised that this was true and that they are waiting to meet again after they implement the new meters.

2. OVERVIEW OF EPA'S GREEN POWER COMMUNITY PROGRAM.

Ms. Griffin invited David McManus, Chair of the Sustainable Hanover Committee, and Yolanda Baumgartner to approach the Board. She stated that last spring Ms. Baumgartner did research on the EPA's Green Power Community Program and challenged the Sustainable Hanover Committee and Town staff to work toward becoming New Hampshire's first Green Power Community. Ms. Griffin stated that there are some Green Power Partners in Hanover but there are no "Communities" so far. Ms. Griffin stated that they formed a subcommittee of Sustainable Hanover to focus on the EPA Program to gain an understanding of what it means to make a commitment to become a Green Power Partner. She noted that the timing is important because the Town's electricity contract expires at the end of December.

Ms. Griffin stated that they would be requesting information from several brokers to get pricing on a mix of energy that the Town could purchase. She stated that the group committed to determine what it would take for the Town to purchase RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates) in order to sign on as a Green Power Community.

Ms. Baumgartner stated that she became excited about renewable power and thought that the only way to do this would be through solar panels. She did some research and found that there are more ways to achieve this and to do this as a community is exciting.

Ms. Baumgartner stated that to become a Green Power Community, the Town needs to become a Green Power Partner. The minimum to qualify as a Green Power Partner is to have 10% of the Town's electricity come from Green Energy. Currently, the Town uses 3 million kilowatts of electricity per year. Over the summer, they spoke with some of the larger electricity users in Town. There are two other organizations that have achieved the Green Power Partner status; Hypertherm and Colby Sawyer College and they are both 100% green. She noted that they came to the group to share their experiences. Ms. Baumgartner stated that one strategy to go forward is to use Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

Mr. McManus stated that when they are talking about becoming 100% green; out of the 3 million kilowatt hours/year they would need to purchase RECs to offset the brown power with green renewable electricity that is produced from a green power source. The RECs are pooled and traded every day and power could come from somewhere else across the country. The study group brought together large groups to discuss creating a community to get to the partnership level.

Chairman Christie asked whether in addition to buying the RECs, the Town would still be paying an electric bill. Ms. Griffin confirmed that they would still pay an electric bill. Ms. Griffin stated that Hypertherm consumes 15 million kilowatts/year and they use the services of an energy broker to bid their electricity purchases and offer to buy green power. They were able to buy 100% green power buy spending an additional \$15,000. They are investing additional funds in the green power renewable energy sector. The goal would be to ultimately wean the Town from using fossil fuels.

Ms. Griffin stated that in comparison to Hypertherm, the Town would be looking at a cost of approximately \$4,000 to invest in green RECs. The Town would have to buy a minimum of 10% RECS and they may be able to go 100% green; they are looking for savings in other areas in Town to find the funding for this, working toward becoming a Green Power Partner. As a Green Power Community, the Town could offer programs to residents. The energy is mixed into the National Grid and the money is used to invest in the companies that provide renewable sources of energy to the Grid.

Selectman Carter asked who does the buying and selling in the private market. She also asked if people would be buying more than the green energy being provided. Mr. McManus stated that when the renewable energy is available, a REC is produced. Those RECs are then taken by private entities and traded. The generation of the REC could be the government or a private developer and the REC goes into a pool that is traded. There is tracking of RECs so that there is

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no double dipping. Mr. McManus noted that some people are not satisfied that there is enough tracking of the RECs to some degree.

Chairman Christie asked what happens if they purchase a REC; where does the money go and how does the money get to the energy generator.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that in conversations about the possibility of Hanover potentially developing their own solar farm, they would need investors. He stated that to make it profitable, the investors would put money in to make money back. At this point, green power can't compete with brown power so the incentive of selling a REC is to generate revenue which will pay for upfront capital costs. He noted that Colby Sawyer created a solar farm that cost around \$550,000, they don't own it for 7 years and then they can buy it for \$75,000 at market value. The RECs are sold by the investors to pay for the equipment. This fills the gap in cost to put up a facility. The Town wouldn't initially get the money but after a period of time they could buy the facility and own it.

Chairman Christie asked whether the Town would get a piece of paper when they purchase a REC. He asked if they could then sell it later. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they would receive the paper for the REC but they can't resell it because they are using the REC for energy. Chairman Christie asked how they would use it. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they would be buying it to offset their energy usage and once they use the energy, they can't resell it.

Chairman Christie stated that he doesn't see this as an investment; it is a straight subsidy for renewable energy providers. Ms. Griffin stated that she wouldn't define this as a subsidy but an investment in the renewable energy sector. Chairman Christie stated that if they are spending \$10 more than they have to, he characterizes this as a subsidy.

Mr. McManus stated that this is a subsidy to help the energy providers develop the project. Chairman Christie understands that the goal is to reduce the Town's carbon footprint but he wondered if they would be better off working toward cutting their own carbon footprint by taking the same amount of money and instead of investing in a solar farm, invest it in Hanover.

Ms. Griffin felt that they really wanted to do both but the key is what they can do that's affordable. They would like to accomplish two things; 1) to gain green power designation for New Hampshire and 2) as a stepping stone to offer residents the ability for them to invest in green power. She noted that both PSNH and Liberty Utility are ending their green energy program because the take rate is extremely low; part of the problem is explaining the program to consumers. She feels that there may be a fair amount of capacity for people in Hanover willing to invest in renewable energy if they can provide the vehicle for this to happen.

Ms. Baumgartner stated that she doesn't think of this as a subsidy. She stated that when a generator creates energy, they create the electricity and the REC at the same time. The REC represents the benefits of green power. She stated that for some people, this is of value and it could have an economic value. She stated that after looking at the programs that Liberty had in place, they were charging \$.05/kilowatt and found that they could purchase energy at a lower rate avoiding the emissions.

Ms. Griffin noted that they also found prices that were \$.01/kilowatt hour. Ms. Baumgartner stated that they should start putting money toward the kinds of technology that they would like to see. She noted that RECs are an easy step to take which is also very flexible. It seems like RECs represent something they can do now for a relatively low price and they can discontinue using them if something else comes along unlike if they put up an installation.

Selectman Buckey asked how long the REC system has been in existence. Mr. McManus stated that they have been in existence since at least the year 2000 and then full tilt since 2005. Selectman Buckey asked how the prices are set. Mr. McManus stated that this is completely market driven. Ms. Griffin stated that there is a bidding process on any given day similar to commodity futures. Selectman Buckey stated that because they have had problems with the lack of transparency in markets, he would like to see this information prior to jumping into it. He stated that it doesn't seem like it's an investment since it's not like putting money in the bank and getting interest back. Ms. Griffin stated that the plan would be to interview and select a broker and then have a presentation for the Board. Selectman Buckey stated that what they are talking about is spending Town money to invest in a project and they want to make sure that they are using competent people and can the Town choose how they invest, etc.

Selectman Geraghty asked if individuals could purchase RECs on their own. Mr. McManus stated that anyone could go on-line, pick any REC provider and invest. Selectman Geraghty stated that he wasn't aware that he could purchase green power through the power company. Ms. Griffin stated that the lack of marketing is part of the problem.

Chairman Christie asked whether the Town could be a facilitator to create the opportunity for its citizens without being a buyer itself. Ms. Griffin stated that they might be able to but the purpose of the EPA program is to start as a partner and then move forward to become a community by facilitating individual residents and small businesses to purchase green power.

Chairman Christie asked what it would take to make the 10%. Ms. Griffin stated that Hypertherm spent an extra \$15,000 to purchase 15 million kilowatts of electricity to become 100% green. Ms. Griffin stated that \$3,000 would get the Town at 100% but if they needed to be at 10% to become a partner, it would cost the Town \$300. Mr. McManus noted that this is an annual amount.

Mr. Kulbacki reported that other communities such as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania put together a consortium of other communities and they can now purchase 100% RECs and now they pay less in electricity than they were paying before. Selectman Geraghty felt that this might be another regionalization opportunity.

Ms. Griffin stated that Dartmouth is focusing its efforts on what they can do with efficiencies on campus. Ms. Griffin felt that the Town could take a leadership role and the schools are looking at solar energy. She noted that the schools are already looking at having their broker look at pricing RECs for them as they get ready to bid for their electricity purchase.

3. REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 2013-14 GOAL AND OBJECTIVES.

Ms. Griffin stated that she added the three goals that the Board requested to the Goals and Objectives list. Chairman Christie noted an item that the Board decided to remove from the list at the last meeting regarding the review of budget guidelines. Chairman Christie noted that the regionalization efforts were added to the administrative section and he felt that this should be moved to the Selectmen's list, although they are aware that the administration would be working on this. He also suggested adding wording to the item to include "pursue opportunities for regionalization of municipal services in concert with neighboring communities in the Upper Valley as appropriate."

4. APPOINTMENTS:

- Affordable Housing Commission
Chip Brown
- Building Code Advisory Board
Bruce Williamson
- Conservation Commission
Ed Chamberlain
- Parks and Recreation Board
Jeff Graham
Dean Lacy
Tom Lyons
- Planning Board
Judith Esmay (Full Member)
- Zoning Board of Adjustment
Gert Assmus (Alternate); Bernie Waugh (Full Member)

Ms. Griffin stated that she has heard from the previously noted individuals that would like to be re-appointed to the various Boards and Commissions. Chairman Christie noted that there are other individuals up for re-appointment that they are still waiting to hear back from. Ms. Griffin noted that there are two alternate positions on the Planning Board still available. Ms. Griffin expects that there will be additional re-appointments for next Monday night's meeting.

Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Re-Appoint the Following Individuals to the Respective Boards and Commissions through September 30, 2016:

Chip Brown, Affordable Housing Commission; Bruce Williamson, Building Code Advisory Board; Ed Chamberlain, Conservation Commission; Jeff Graham, Dean Lacy and Tom Lyons, Parks and Recreation Board; Judith Esmay (Full Member), Planning Board; and Gert Assmus (Alternate) and Bernie Waugh (Full Member), Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.

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THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-APPOINT THE INDIVIDUALS TO THE BOARD AND COMMISSIONS AS PRESENTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016.

- 5. BANNER REQUEST:**
- Dartmouth College –Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Howe Library – Howel Classic

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Approve the Banner Requests for Dartmouth College and the Howe Library. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUESTS FOR DARTMOUTH COLLEGE AND THE HOWE LIBRARY.

- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- September 9, 2013

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Approve the Minutes of September 9, 2013. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2013.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin reported that there will be a new event taking place, Fallfest, this Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Storrs Pond. She invited the Board members to attend. There will be several town departments sponsoring booths; her office will sponsor the donut eating contest booth and cider press tent. This is a replacement event for the Halloween events. There will be other community groups involved including the Rotary Club and the Lions Club. The Farmer's Market Farmstand will be there. There will be vehicles from public safety and public works for the kids to see. They are encouraging people to park south of the pool and walk down into the grassy field.

Ms. Griffin reported that Town staff have been busy wrapping up Capital Improvement Projects for the fall. They are finishing a bridge replacement on Ruddsboro Road. The Etna Library project is complete along with the playing field behind the fire department; they are working on lighting for night skating. There will be a Grand Opening event in the near future. Chairman Christie noted that the library is getting rave reviews. Ms. Griffin stated that this is the perfect example of a project that takes the skill of staff and donations from the public.

8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Jay Buckey

Selectman Buckey had nothing new to report.

Nancy Carter

Selectman Carter stated that she is thrilled that Judith Esmay has asked to remain on the Planning Board. She stated that the Planning Board will be holding a community meeting for the Mink Brook watershed area tomorrow night, 7 p.m. at Trumbull Hall in Etna. The residents who live in the area, owners and tenants, can discuss how they define their community. The community is welcome as well.

Peter Christie

Chairman Christie stated that he continues to enjoy working with the Hanover Conservation Commission. He noted that Jim Kennedy gave a symposium on ticks and how they fit into the universe and their cycle of life. There were 50 to 60 folks enjoying the presentation. At their last meeting they changed their meeting time to 7:00 p.m. instead of 3:30 p.m. in the hopes of encouraging greater participation.

Athos Rassias

Vice Chairman Rassias had nothing new to report.

Bill Geraghty

Selectman Geraghty had nothing new to report.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

Ms. Griffin noted that next Monday night they will begin to discuss tax rate target setting so the draft policy was re-distributed to the Board. Chairman Christie felt that they should review the draft and would like it to be included on the website to invite the public to comment on it at the next meeting. He noted that he had a chance to review this and found it to be appropriate. Selectman Buckey stated that he's not sure if the MCI (Municipal Cost Index) includes salaries or not; whether it was the wages of the Town or of those who contract with the Town. Ms. Griffin will have Betsy McClain clarify.

Selectman Carter asked if the Board would adopt this so that the Department Heads would know what they are working with as they draft their own budget. Chairman Christie stated that he would like the opportunity for the public to see these and make comment on them and then the Board would adopt the policy so that they can develop the budget. He noted that there is nothing in the draft that they haven't actually done in practice but now it's in writing.

Selectman Buckey stated that "investing for the long term" could also mean, for example, the investments made in energy efficiency that have already shown dividends every year in terms of reducing energy costs.

Vice Chairman Rassias noted that these are guidelines and they should be clear that they are not enacting an ordinance as situations are going to change. He also wanted to highlight if it evolves

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over time, they need to re-address this on a regular basis and he assumes that this would be reviewed at the start of the budget process each year. Chairman Christie found the wording in #8 which indicates that these are guidelines and that they may not be able to achieve these in any given year. Vice Chairman Rassias noted a couple of typos that would be corrected.

Chairman Christie MOVED to Follow the Request for a Non-Public Session to Discuss Items Pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (c) and (e).

SELECTMAN BUCKEY VOTED YES; SELECTMAN CARTER VOTED YES; CHAIRMAN CHRISTIE VOTED YES; VICE CHAIRMAN RASSIAS VOTED YES; AND SELECTMAN GERAGHTY VOTED YES. THE BOARD WENT INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 8:53 P.M.

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 9:55 P.M.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:56 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Carter, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

1. **Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Re-Appoint the Following Individuals to the Respective Boards and Commissions through September 30, 2016:**

Chip Brown, Affordable Housing Commission; Bruce Williamson, Building Code Advisory Board; Ed Chamberlain, Conservation Commission; Jeff Graham, Dean Lacy and Tom Lyons, Parks and Recreation Board; Judith Esmay (Full Member), Planning Board; and Gert Assmus (Alternate) and Bernie Waugh (Full Member), Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-APPOINT THE INDIVIDUALS TO THE BOARD AND COMMISSIONS AS PRESENTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016.

2. **Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Approve the Banner Requests for Dartmouth College and the Howe Library. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUESTS FOR DARTMOUTH COLLEGE AND THE HOWE LIBRARY.

3. **Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Approve the Minutes of September 9, 2013. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2013.

4. **Chairman Christie MOVED to Follow the Request for a Non-Public Session to Discuss Items Pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (c) and (e).**

SELECTMAN BUCKEY VOTED YES; SELECTMAN CARTER VOTED YES; CHAIRMAN CHRISTIE VOTED YES; VICE CHAIRMAN RASSIAS VOTED YES; AND SELECTMAN GERAGHTY VOTED YES. THE BOARD WENT INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 8:53 P.M.

5. **Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 9:55 P.M.

6. **Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

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**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:56
P.M.**