

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

October 7, 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. There were no comments from the public.

2. REVIEW DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET POLICY AND TAX RATE TARGET FOR FY2014-2015.

Chairman Christie suggested starting with the discussion of the budget guidelines and he noted one significant change included clarifying whether the Municipal Cost Index (MCI) includes labor which it does. Chairman Christie and Vice Chairman Rassias made some wording suggestions.

Chairman Christie noted the first objective is to use the tax rate impact rather than the tax levy and limit the tax rate increase to within the Consumer Price Index (CPI) if possible. He noted that the Board needs to determine whether they will continue to exclude State downshifting.

Chairman Christie stated that he asked Ms. McClain to create a spreadsheet with a starting point from 2010 forward to 2014. This resulted in a blended tax rate of \$5.85 (using General Fund/Fire Fund). If they go back to 2010 and applied the CPI to the Tax Levy (not the tax rate) and ran that forward through FY 2014, the tax rate would be \$5.84. He noted that if they apply the MCI just to the tax levy and roll it forward 4 years, the tax rate would be \$5.86. He found it interesting that there isn't that much difference between methods.

Selectman Buckey noted that the Finance Committee is concerned that the growth of expenditures in Hanover was high compared to other towns. He stated that the number quoted was a 70% growth in cost over 10 years. He noted that he doesn't know where that number comes from but it doesn't seem accurate. Selectman Buckey stated that the Finance Committee feels that their role is to try to limit the spending growth.

Selectman Buckey stated that Betsy McClain would be providing information for the 10 year time period in comparison to other towns to determine the benchmark. The Finance Committee was thinking of putting together a committee to look at the tax rate setting

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and State downshifting (and whether the Town should absorb it or pass it along). He feels that their guidance will include those points.

Vice Chairman Rassias stated that with regard to downshifting, there is a specific clause within the guidelines: “the Town is sensitive to this added expense to the taxpayer, in years when downshifting is the most severe, the Board of Selectmen will do as much as is reasonable to limit the impact.”

Selectman Buckey stated that it’s his perspective that the Town’s overarching goal is to provide stability and this is accomplished by having reserve funding, finding ways to keep things steady in the face of loss of income, storm damage, etc.

Selectman Buckey felt that not absorbing State downshifting is a good idea.

Selectman Geraghty is concerned about the numbers being discussed at the Finance Committee meeting and wanted to make sure that they clarify what these numbers include and how they are generated. Ms. Griffin stated that she hasn’t seen the calculations but she has asked that they provide the background for it.

Chairman Christie stated that there has to be some rationale so that they can explain why the tax rate is being set at a certain rate. He felt that with the MCI including wages, they are getting closer. He noted that in one year there was a significant drop in MCI which didn’t necessarily affect Hanover in the same way as it did for other towns.

Vice Chairman Rassias **MOVED** to Adopt the Budget Guidelines as drafted, reviewed and amended.

Ms. Griffin noted that Kristi Fenner, Finance Committee member, felt that these guidelines should include some of the feedback from their committee. Ms. Griffin urged the Committee to provide the feedback for the next Select Board meeting as they would much rather hear issues now rather than after the budget has been adopted by the Board. Selectman Buckey stated that the Finance Committee was hoping to get a subcommittee together to provide feedback to the Select Board about the guidelines.

Selectman Carter stated that she is comfortable approving these tonight and they can get into the specifics of the budget later on. Selectman Geraghty suggested waiting until the next meeting in order to give the Finance Committee a chance to weigh in on the guidelines before they are adopted. Chairman Christie felt that this would be a courtesy to the Finance Committee.

The motion was not seconded and the Board decided to wait to receive feedback from the Finance Committee.

Chairman Christie asked if Ms. McClain whether she has any sense for additional, upcoming State downshifting. Ms. McClain stated that she has it set at zero right now as

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they are not aware of anything coming in this second year of the biennium and she will use the September CPI/MCI.

Selectman Buckey stated that he found the spreadsheet of trends in expenditure useful. Ms. McClain stated that she prepared this information for the Finance Committee and will provide it to the Select Board as well.

- 3. APPOINTMENTS:**
- Affordable Housing Commission
 - Building Code Advisory Board
 - Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
 - Sustainable Hanover Committee

Selectman Buckey MOVED to Appoint the Following Individuals to the Respective Boards and Commissions through September 30, 2016.

James Reynolds, Affordable Housing Commission; Randy Mudge, Building Code Advisory Board; Sue Matless and Lee Monaco, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee; and David McManus, Marjorie Rogalski and Chris Soderquist, Sustainable Hanover Committee.

Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

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

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- September 30, 2013

Chairman Christie MOVED to Approve the Minutes of September 30, 2013. Vice Chairman Rassias SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2013.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin stated that she previously e-mailed the Board a copy of the press release that went out to the media today regarding the new parking meters. The Parking Office made notifications through the Chamber on Friday. She noted that meter feeders will experience sticker shock as the rate for those meters has doubled. She noted the following rate changes by location:

- S Main Street, two-hour meters increased from \$.50 to \$1.00/hour.
- Municipal Lot 1 behind Town Hall, three-hour meters increased from \$.50 to \$1.00/hour.

- Upper Lebanon Street, two-hour meters, increased from \$.50 to \$.75.
- Bank of America Deck increased from \$.50 to \$.75 for the three-hour meters and from \$.25 to \$.35 for the 10-hour meters.
- School Street, 10-hour meters, \$.25 to \$.35.
- Allen Street Extension, 10-hour meters, \$.25 to \$.35

Ms. Griffin noted that the multi space kiosks will be upgraded later this month and the rates will also increase. The new meters are credit card capable with an additional \$.20 convenience fee. There are permits available on Hovey Lane and Lebanon Street as well. Staff will be ticketing meter feeders as directed by the Board. Lt. O'Neill is working on opening up availability in the parking garage.

Ms. Griffin reported that Athos and Nicholas Rassias will be joining Kate Connolly on a trip to Hanover's Sister City, Joigny, France. She noted that there is a big festival there on Saturday. Vice Chairman Rassias was looking forward to it. Ms. Griffin stated that the representatives from Joigny will be coming to Hanover next year.

Ms. Griffin announced that there will be a retirement party for former Police Chief Nick Giaccone on Friday, November 8th at the Richard W. Black Community Center. They will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner as this is his favorite meal and he attends many church suppers throughout the area. She stated that staff will be cooking and prepping food for this event. The dinner is still in the planning stages so the time is yet to be determined.

6. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Bill Geraghty

Selectman Geraghty stated that Fallfest was very successful. He noted that there was an unanticipated parking problem due to the amount of attendees. He said that the turnout exceeded expectations and he thanked the Parks & Recreation and all Town staff/volunteers that provided a lot of labor to make this successful. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time.

Athos Rassias

Vice Chairman Rassias reported that the Bike & Pedestrian Committee met on Thursday and they had a jam packed agenda. The Committee had a discussion of ways to help with the implementation of the "suggestion lane" on Valley Road and how to help it succeed. They will work on increasing public awareness.

Jay Buckey

Selectman Buckey reported that the Finance Committee met and were concerned about Town expenditures and the draft guidelines. They will provide some feedback to the

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Select Board. Chairman Christie asked Selectman Buckey to make sure that the Committee knows that the Select Board delayed the vote to allow for their input.

Nancy Carter

Selectman Carter reported that the Mink Brook residents met at Trumbull Hall last week and it was a good meeting with a lot of participation. She noted that Vicki Smith posts the gist of the community meetings on the website. She reported that the Planning Board will meet for their regularly scheduled meeting tomorrow.

Selectman Carter also noted that if any Hanover landowner who wishes to propose and amendment to the zoning ordinance for consideration by Town Meeting in 2014 should submit a completed form to the Planning and Zoning office by November 15th. She stated that the goal is to give plenty of notice about this and then the Planning Board will review all proposals on December 10th. This will give Town staff plenty of opportunity to work with those individuals.

Selectman Carter reported that the Howe Library annual meeting will take place this Thursday at the Howe at 4:00 p.m. She also noted that this Monday is Columbus Day which is a school holiday and the Howe Library will also be closed.

Peter Christie

Chairman Christie reported that he will be attending the Hanover Conservation Commission meeting later this month.

7. OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no Other Business reported.

8. ADJOURNMENT.

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

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Carter, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

1. **Selectman Buckey MOVED to Appoint the Following Individuals to the Respective Boards and Commissions through September 30, 2016.**

James Reynolds, Affordable Housing Commission; Randy Mudge, Building Code Advisory Board; Sue Matless and Lee Monaco, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee; and David McManus, Marjorie Rogalski and Chris Soderquist, Sustainable Hanover Committee.

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