

**FINAL**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**March 23, 2015**

**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; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager. Absent: Jay Buckey, Selectman. (Selectman Geraghty arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

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

**2. RECOMMENDATION TO TABLE PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER UNION CONTRACT(S) AND RESCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015.**

Ms. Griffin reported that April 6<sup>th</sup> is the last night that the Board can adopt the contracts before Town Meeting and there are still discussions taking place.

**Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Reschedule the Public Hearing to Consider the Union Contract(s) for Monday, April 6, 2015. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 2 ABSENT TO RESCHEDULE THE PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE UNION CONTRACT(S) FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015.**

**3. RECOMMENDATION TO SET TWO PRE-TOWN MEETING PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015 AND MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015, IF REQUIRED, TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE PROPOSED TOWN MEETING WARRANT.**

Ms. Griffin stated that the additional public hearing for April 13<sup>th</sup> is in anticipation of any last minute petitioned warrant articles. She noted that the deadline for the petitioned warrant articles is April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Selectman Carter MOVED to Set Two Pre-Town Meeting Public Hearings for Monday, April 6, 2015 and Monday, April 13, 2015, if Required, to Consider and Adopt the Proposed Town Meeting Warrant. Vice Chairman Rassias SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 2 ABSENT TO SET TWO PRE-TOWN MEETING PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015 AND MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015, IF REQUIRED, TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE PROPOSED TOWN MEETING WARRANT.**

**4. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDED CONSERVATION COMMISSION BYLAWS.**

Ms. Griffin stated that the amendments are straightforward and noted that Chairman Christie was part of the discussions as the liaison to the Conservation Commission. Chairman Christie stated that the Commission needed to restructure their committee to reduce the number to a more management level. Ms. Griffin noted that there was an addition of wording under Description of Committees to "Promote and protect the biodiversity of the various ecosystems in the Town of Hanover including their indigenous flora and fauna species." Vice Chairman Rassias noted that it appears that the Biodiversity Committee is going away and the responsibilities are removed. Ms. Griffin confirmed that the Stewardship Committee is taking on the Biodiversity piece. She noted that that the Water Resources Committee would be informing the Commission about new legislation and regulatory issues.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Selectmen need to adopt any amendments to the By-Laws. Selectman Carter asked whether residents can serve on a particular committee without being appointed to the commission. Ms. Griffin confirmed that they can and noted that there are a number of people on the committees that are not member of the Commission.

**Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adopt the Amendments to the Conservation Commission Bylaws as Presented. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 2 ABSENT TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BYLAWS AS PRESENTED.**

**5. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A 2015 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT WITH DES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,135.00 AND GRANTING AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWN MANAGER JULIA GRIFFIN TO EXECUTE PAPERWORK ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN.**

Ms. Griffin stated that this is a small grant for work on the water distribution system.

**Selectman Carter MOVED to Approve the 2015 Asset Management Planning Grant with DES in the Amount of \$9,135.00 and Grant Authorization for Town Manager Julia Griffin to Execute Paperwork Associated with such Grant on Behalf of the Town. Vice Chairman Rassias SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 2 ABSENT TO APPROVE THE 2015 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT WITH DES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,135.00 AND GRANT AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWN MANAGER JULIA GRIFFIN TO EXECUTE PAPERWORK ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN.**

Board of Selectmen  
March 23, 2015

- 6. BANNER REQUEST:**
- Dartmouth College
  - Tuck Armed Forces
  - Howe Library

Ms. Griffin noted that the Town can accommodate these requests. Chairman Christie asked about the banner request for Dartmouth College. Ms. Griffin stated that this request is for the upcoming reunions. Chairman Christie asked about the Tuck Armed Forces. Ms. Griffin stated there are a number of Tuck students that also served in the military so there is a 5K, 10K walk-run that has been organized to fundraise for Project Vet Care.

**Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Accept the Banner Requests of Dartmouth College, Tuck Armed Forces and the Howe Library. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 2 ABSENT TO ACCEPT THE BANNER REQUESTS OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, TUCK ARMED FORCES AND THE HOWE LIBRARY.**

- 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- February 25, 2015
  - February 26, 2015
  - March 2, 2015

**Selectman Carter MOVED to Approve the Minutes of February 25<sup>th</sup>, February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice Chairman Rassias SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 2 ABSENT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, AND MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>.**

**8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.**

Chairman Christie asked for an update about what is happening with the legislature in Concord.

Ms. Griffin stated that she is always concerned about the Town of Hanover's revenue stream and it's possible that the State may eliminate their highway aid and Rooms and Meals Tax revenue. She is more concerned about the social service agencies and she noted that the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council could lose their Meals on Wheels program and Service Link which was eliminated in the proposed cuts from the Finance Committee.

Ms. Griffin reported that if the Department of Transportation (DOT) cuts go through, they will stop maintaining the State roads and this burden would shift to the Town. Ms. Griffin reported that the House Finance voted today on Division 1 and Division 2 recommended budget cuts. She stated that tomorrow they are voting on Division 3 budget cuts and a week from Wednesday the full recommendations will go to the House. She has asked the NH Municipal Association (NHMA) for the full roster of anticipated agency cuts.

Board of Selectmen  
March 23, 2015

Chairman Christie asked when this would affect the Town. Ms. Griffin stated that the effective date would be July 1, 2015. She noted that the revenue forecasted in the proposed budget which was adopted by the Select Board includes Rooms and Meals Tax in the amount of around \$500,000 and State Highway Aid is around \$294,000.

Chairman Christie stated that the State of NH does not have a broad base tax and therefore does not have a way to pay for its bills so the costs are downshifted to the Towns. He noted that over the past 5 years, the Town has had to absorb \$500,000 to \$600,000 in downshifting of costs from the State.

Selectman Geraghty arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Chairman Christie noted that Julia Griffin does a good job of keeping the Board apprised of bills coming before the legislature and she informs the Representatives about the Town's position on these bills. Ms. Griffin stated that the DOT, State Police and social service agencies survive on State funds and they don't know where this is going. She stated that if the budget successfully goes through with these cuts, they are hopeful that the Governor will veto the budget. Ms. Griffin stated that she is monitoring this very closely and they are in close contact with the social service agencies. Chairman Christie recommended residents go see *Orwell in America* which is currently playing at Northern Stage as this is directly relevant to this issue.

Ms. Griffin reported that solar installations are starting around Hanover and Sustainable Hanover is planning an energy gathering on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> (6 p.m. to 9p.m.; location to be announced). She noted that they are working with ENH which is an electricity broker to come up with electricity pricing that would involve green e-certified electricity. She stated that ENH will be quoting a rate that would be guaranteed for 20 to 24 months which is supposed to be considerably lower than Liberty Utilities current higher rate. She noted that the rate may be a little higher than Liberty Utilities' low rate during the spring and summer but over the course of a 12 month period this may ultimately be less expensive in the long run. There will be a two week window for people to sign up because ENH can only hold the pricing for so long and this is an alternative for those individuals who want to do something green but were unable to do solar panels.

Ms. Griffin noted that the gathering will also include representatives from NH SAVES, Liberty Utility and Surge to help people sign up for energy audits for their homes. There will be rebates handed out for LED light bulbs and tips for weatherizing homes.

## **9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.**

### **Nancy Carter**

Selectman Carter reported that the Howe Library had a very successful Howel Classic last weekend. She noted that on Saturday every adult golfer represented a \$50 donation to the Howe Library programs. These programs are above and beyond what the Town taxpayer supports with funding. She reported that these fundraising efforts are critical to the success of the Howe Library.

Board of Selectmen  
March 23, 2015

Selectman Carter reported that on Sunday the Library was closed to younger patrons who participated in the event and it was a great opportunity to bring young people into the library.

Selectman Carter reported that the Planning Board will meet tomorrow night at 7:30. There will be a final reading of the West Wheelock Gateway provisions that are going to be part of the ballot for Town Meeting. There will be a section of the evening devoted to the technical review of the zoning amendments.

**Peter Christie**

Chairman Christie reported that he and another Select Board member had a successful ice fishing trip in Orlando.

**Athos Rassias**

Vice Chairman Rassias had nothing to report.

**Bill Geraghty**

Selectman Geraghty had nothing to report.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS.**

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

**SELECTMAN GERAGHTY VOTED YES; VICE CHAIRMAN RASSIAS VOTED YES; CHAIRMAN CHRISTIE VOTED YES; AND SELECTMAN CARTER VOTED YES. THE BOARD WENT INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 7:55 P.M.**

**Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session at 8:40 p.m. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENT TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION.**

**11. ADJOURNMENT.**

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

**THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:41 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Carter, Secretary

*Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.*

### **SUMMARY**

- 1. Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Reschedule the Public Hearing to Consider the Union Contract(s) for Monday, April 6, 2015. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 2 ABSENT TO RESCHEDULE THE PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE UNION CONTRACT(S) FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015.**

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6. Selectman Carter MOVED to Approve the Minutes of February 25<sup>th</sup>, February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice Chairman Rassias SECONDED the Motion.

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

**SELECTMAN GERAGHTY VOTED YES; VICE CHAIRMAN RASSIAS VOTED YES; CHAIRMAN CHRISTIE VOTED YES; AND SELECTMAN CARTER VOTED YES. THE BOARD WENT INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 7:55 P.M.**

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**THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENT TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION.**

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

**THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:41 P.M.**