

**FINAL**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**April 6, 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; Jay Buckey, Selectman; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager. (Selectman Carter arrived at 7:34 p.m.)

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**2. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF A TWO YEAR CONTRACT WITH AFSCME LOCAL 1348 FROM JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2017.**

Chairman Christie opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Griffin stated that the AFSCME Local 1348 came to an agreement with Town staff last week. They decided on a two-year agreement rather than the usual three-year agreement, primarily based upon anticipation of the Cadillac tax that will likely be assessed in 2018, and the effect that it will have on the Town's health insurance plan. The assumption is that the Cadillac tax will in fact be assessed unless there is a significant change with the balance of power in Congress by then. AFSCME was the first of our bargaining units to come to an agreement. The Town had fully budgeted for what was anticipated would be required as part of the settlement. That budget was adopted by the Board and is being recommended to Town Meeting.

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

**Selectman Buckey MOVED to Ratify a Two Year Contract with AFSCME Local 1348 from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENT TO RATIFY A TWO YEAR CONTRACT WITH AFSCME LOCAL 1348 FROM JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2017.**

**3. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF A TWO YEAR CONTRACT WITH IAFF LOCAL 3288 FROM JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2017.**

Chairman Christie opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Griffin stated that IAFF Local 3288 came to a similar agreement to that of AFSCME Local 1348 this afternoon. This agreement was also for a two-year contract because of the same concerns AFSCME has surrounding health insurance.

**Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Ratify a Two Year Contract with IAFF Local 3288 from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENT TO RATIFY A TWO YEAR CONTRACT WITH IAFF LOCAL 3288 FROM JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2017.**

Selectman Carter arrived at 7:34 p.m.

**4. PRE-TOWN MEETING PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE PROPOSED WARRANT FOR THE 2015 TOWN MEETING.**

Chairman Christie opened the Pre-Town Meeting Public Hearing. Chairman Christie invited Town Moderator Steve Fowler to come forward to join in on the meeting.

Ms. Griffin started off by noting that Article Nineteen would be removed from the proposed warrant.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue that portion of the Class V and VI sections of Elm Road which begin at Station 0+00 and terminates at the intersection of Wolfeboro Road, as shown on a plan on file at the Town Offices, which plan is titled Realignment of Elm Road. If approved, this vote shall only take effect upon the Board of Selectmen's final, unappealable decision to lay out a new Class VI road section as shown on that plan.

Ms. Griffin explained that some issues have arisen in discussion with the property owner and their legal counsel, and therefore asked that the Town hold off on the modification.

Chairman Christie asked whether the Board had any input in the decision. Ms. Griffin stated that they did not, and that Article Nineteen was now off the warrant.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Board needs to vote on the Warrant Articles starting with Article Eight.

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,925 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, a sub-accounting of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, 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 2013-2014. 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 BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE EIGHT.**

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,925 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, a sub-accounting of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, 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 2013-2014. 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 BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE NINE.**

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$33,870 for deposit into the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Transportation Improvement Fee Reserve, a sub-accounting of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, 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 2013-2014.

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE TEN.**

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,224,773 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
Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund	\$438,883
Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$143,090
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$95,000
Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$135,000
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$103,000
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$47,500
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$130,000
Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund	\$56,300

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE ELEVEN.**

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,647,669 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:

Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund Renovations at Public Works Facility (HVAC, flooring); Salt Storage Shed; Howe Library Carpet Replacement	\$476,700
Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund Ruddsboro Road Bridge 144/85	\$130,000
Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund Town Match for Grant-Funded Console Replacement	\$90,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund Truck and Line Painter; Mowers and Mowerhead	\$135,200
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund Cruiser Fleet Replacement (4 fully equipped vehicles)	\$300,615
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund Traffic Signal Replacement at Lebanon and Summer Streets	\$130,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund SUV and Replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	\$216,154
Parking Vehicles and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund Brick Sealing in the Parking Garage and Replacement of Pay and Display Kiosks	\$44,000
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund Backhoe for Line Maintenance Work	\$47,500
Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund Ranger Truck and Backhoe for Line Maintenance Work	\$77,500

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, 2020, whichever is sooner.

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE TWELVE.**

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the purchase of a .25 acre parcel located at 46 Lebanon Street, Tax Map 34, Lot 83, for the purchase price of \$500,000, and to raise and appropriate that sum for this purpose by the utilization of \$280,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance; \$170,000 from return of surplus received from HealthTrust as part of a court-ordered decision affecting all municipalities who are HealthTrust members; and \$50,000 from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until this work is complete or June 30, 2020, whichever is sooner.

Moderator Fowler asked whether there was a binding letter of intent, effectively, a contract, related to the purchase of the property. Ms. Griffin replied that a letter of intent was implemented with the property owner that would allow the Town to purchase the property at a price of \$494,000 upon approval at Town Meeting. Approval of Article Thirteen at Town Meeting would make the letter of intent a binding contract for that purchase price.

Selectman Geraghty noted his assumption that there would be an overview at Town Meeting related to the location of the building and how it fits into the strategy of evaluating the size of the community center. He added that this Warrant Article is related only to the purchase of the building. Ms. Griffin stated that a site map will be included in the appendix to the Warrant Articles background information being sent to voters. The site map will show exactly where the property is located.

Selectman Carter asked that the Moderator attempt to prevent lengthy conversations from voters at Town Meeting related to potential future of the building and assure them that there will be future meetings to discuss the potentials for the building once (if) purchased.

Chairman Christie noted that the Board should make clear to the voters that the purchase would not be contingent upon anything else happening with the property. Ms. Griffin agreed and noted that the Town would close on the property by the end of June if the article is passed.

Moderator Fowler asked whether the design costs have been budgeted for. Ms. Griffin replied that the original design costs for the future of the building have been budgeted for, and we now have some detailed schematic diagrams. These will allow discussion about the building and what it would cost so plans about fundraising can begin.

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE THIRTEEN.**

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$67,434 for substantial funding of a Lyme Road multi-use path and a 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, VI and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2020, whichever is sooner.

Ms. Griffin noted that the background information being sent to residents would include a schematic diagram showing what the multi-use path would look like from a pedestrian or bicyclist on the ground and motorist on the road. An engineering schematic will also be included for those who would rather see engineering cross-sections.

Chairman Christie added that it would be important to the voters to know what the larger plan may be for this multi-use path.

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE FOURTEEN.**

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$21,920 for substantial funding of improvements to the Wilson's Landing trail system and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2020, whichever is sooner.

Ms. Griffin stated that Jim Kennedy of the Conservation Commission designed the plans for the improvements to the trail system with consultation from others, including abutters. The proposed site plan improvements will be included as an appendix to the Warrant Article background information being sent to residents.

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE FIFTEEN.**

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items contained in a two year collective bargaining agreement which expires on June 30, 2017, approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 6, 2015, between the Town of Hanover and the American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 193, which calls for the following increase in salaries.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015-2016	\$32,237
2016-2017	\$47,106

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,237 for 2015-2016 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in the salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE SIXTEEN.**

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items contained in a two year collective bargaining agreement which expires on June 30, 2017, approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 6, 2015, between the Town of Hanover and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local 3288, which calls for the following increase in salaries.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015-2016	\$50,652
2016-2017	\$27,818

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,652 for 2015-2016 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in the salaries and benefits required by

the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE SEVENTEEN.**

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,632,915 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2015-2016 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 BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE EIGHTEEN.**

ARTICLE NINETEEN: has been removed from the warrant article.

ARTICLE TWENTY: (By Petition) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to support Project VetCare services provided for the residents of Hanover.

Selectman Geraghty asked Ms. Griffin for clarification on what services provided by Project VetCare they are seeking support for. Ms. Griffin replied that they have not stated a clear purpose for the funds—only that they are asking for a general donation or funding subsidy for the services they provide.

Vice Chairman Rassias asked whether Project VetCare realizes that there is a process for social services from the Town and whether or not they went through that process. Ms. Griffin replied that they did not properly apply on time and asked for permission to apply after the deadline. Ms. Griffin told them that she didn't have the authority to grant such an extension. She thought they would come to the Board to ask for the extension, but instead went forward to seek this petitioned Warrant Article.

Chairman Christie asked whether Project VetCare intended to apply as a social service agency and whether they qualified as one in any way. Ms. Griffin replied that they provide services to veterans but was not sure whether they would have been able to meet the terms of the Town's policy on social service agency requirements in order to complete the application. Chairman Christie also asked whether the Town required Project VetCare to apply as a social service agency after the deadline had passed. Ms. Griffin replied that they did not.

Selectman Geraghty asked whether Project VetCare had filed and been approved for nonprofit status. Ms. Griffin stated that they would have to file by April 15 for nonprofit status and for the property they purchased to be considered tax-exempt. She was unsure whether they have filed for nonprofit status but assumes they have.

Selectman Carter asked Ms. Griffin to remind the audience where this amount of money falls in relation to the other social service agencies that the Town has already approved. Ms. Griffin



replied that this amount would be the second-highest amount that the Town currently grants to social service agencies. We provide more money to Visiting Nurse Association (VNA).

Vice Chairman Rassias mentioned that he wished to briefly describe the purpose of the social services agency funding that the Town supplies, but realizes that it is irrelevant since Project VetCare did not officially apply.

Ms. Griffin was unsure whether the reason Project VetCare chose to seek a direct donation from Town Meeting rather than applying through the proper channels was because they were unsure about meeting the Town's criteria for social service agency funding. She also stated that they have been unable to secure tenants for the property they purchased on Lebanon Street and have failed to pay property taxes for that location. The Town has recently filed a tax lien against them because of this.

Vice Chairman Rassias questioned whether there was a statute against municipalities related to social services and charitable donations. Ms. Griffin replied that there is not a statute against it, but the Town created a policy related to such donations after Town Meeting several years ago after the issue was raised on the appropriateness of the Town making direct gifts or donations to local agencies. The conversation arose because they found that more and more agencies were coming to the Town to seek funding. She feels that Hanover was a starting point for many agencies asking for donations because of its means and typical generosity, and that if these agencies could get donations from Hanover, they could persuade other communities to donate as well. Over time, voters at Town Meeting started to question whether there was any connection between Hanover citizens and the agencies asking for funding, and whether it was appropriate to be using tax dollars to fund these donations. They felt that soliciting donations directly from taxpayers would be a more appropriate avenue. The Board decided that they should create a policy that agencies provide proof of serving Hanover citizens as a percentage of their total cases and be able to respond to the Town's requests for such information. This would help the Town determine whether it would have to provide the services as a direct welfare benefit if not for the agency seeking the donation. It would also help determine whether the funding being requested was in line with the percentage of the agency's clients that are Hanover residents. The Town has been practicing that policy now over the last several years with regard to agencies seeking funding. She cited an example from a couple of years ago with an organization called Bridge's House, a house for veterans, that asked for a donation from the Town. We didn't have any direct evidence that Hanover residents were served by the organization, so we felt that it was an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars, but that a direct solicitation within Town would be more appropriate.

Ms. Griffin noted that Project VetCare does provide services to veterans in our region, which, presumably, includes veterans in Hanover, so there is no issue with that. The issue is that no application was properly made, so therefore, the request came in as a petition.

Moderator Fowler mentioned that a similar situation arose last year with Project VetCare to buy a house, and they attempted to raise the issue under the general article at the end of the meeting. Fowler, as moderator, ruled that it was out of order because it should have been the subject of a

warrant but wasn't. He also asks how such a donation like that currently being requested by Project VetCare is funded if the article were to pass since this amount has not been budgeted? Ms. Griffin replied that approval of Article Twenty would add \$15,000 to the amount being sought for approval under Article Eighteen, adding roughly 0.2 percent to the tax rate. Chairman Christie asked whether this approval would automatically add \$15,000 more to Article Eighteen. Ms. Griffin replied that it would, as supplemental appropriation.

Chairman Christie stated that while he feels positively about Project VetCare, he does not personally believe that the organization would qualify under the Town's current guidelines as a social service agency, and therefore feels that it would be an inappropriate use of public funds. He suggested actively speaking against the warrant article at Town Meeting, but reiterated that his opposition is not based on a dislike of Project VetCare, but based on an inappropriate use of public funds based on the Town's guidelines.

Selectman Geraghty stated that we should encourage supporters of this Warrant Article to be able to explain to the community who Project VetCare is, what they are talking about, and what the money they are requesting is for. The bottom line is that while the donation may be for a very worthy cause, it is not appropriate for it to be paid for with taxpayer dollars. Seeking direct donations from taxpayers would be more appropriate.

**THE BOARD VOTED 0 IN FAVOR, 5 OPPOSED, 0 ABSENT TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE TWENTY.**

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

Ms. Griffin stated that the assumption is that nobody will vote against legally ending the meeting after considering any other business that may be brought forward.

Selectman Carter asked Ms. Griffin whether the Warrant Articles would be re-numbered for Town Meeting based on removal of Article Nineteen. Ms. Griffin confirmed this, and it will only affect the last two articles. Article Twenty will become Article Nineteen, and Article Twenty-One will become Article Twenty.

Moderator Fowler requested that Ms. Griffin provide cookies and lemonade for the voters that come to the Town Meeting and stay through the entire proceeding. Ms. Griffin has done this in the past and Moderator Fowler felt it was very appreciated by the voters. He added that they would try to keep the pace of the meeting up as they did last year with the hopes that everyone who wishes to speak has the opportunity, though hopefully somewhat abbreviated compared to previous years.

The Board members thanked Moderator for attending the Pre-Town Meeting Public Hearing.

**5. RECOMMENDATION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDED HOUSING FUND BUDGET FOR FY 2015-16.**

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Set Public Hearing for Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to Consider the Recommended Housing Fund Budget for FY 2015-16. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.

Selectman Buckey stated that he would be unable to attend the Public Hearing on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, but suggested that the Board move ahead to set the Public Hearing for that day.

Selectman Geraghty noted that he would be out of the country on the 20<sup>th</sup> so would also be unable to attend.

Chairman Christie also stated that he would be unable to attend on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Griffin suggested setting rescheduling the Board of Selectmen meeting from April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for the following Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDED HOUSING FUND BUDGET FOR FY 2015-16.**

**6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.**

Ms. Griffin passed out a New Hampshire Municipal Administration (NHMA) spreadsheet to each Board member, outlining the anticipated impact on the passing of the House budget last Wednesday and its impact on Towns and Cities across the State.

Ms. Griffin guided the Board members to view the total impact on Hanover, a \$490,000 loss in revenue. She pointed out, though, that the Town had not counted on some of this amount anyway, and therefore had not been budgeted for. The FY 16 and FY 17 Meals and Rooms Tax amounts were amounts that the State agreed to pay the Town through its own statute adopted a few years ago. These amounts were to increase each year over several years to ultimately get municipalities to receive forty percent of the total Meals and Rooms Tax (the other sixty percent going to the State). Ultimately, the House will be using the amounts allocated to municipalities over the next two years to bail out its own budget. Similar situations have occurred in previous years, which lead the Town not to count on this amount anyway.

Ms. Griffin stated that the State Aid Grants cuts of \$284,051 for wastewater treatment plant upgrades, however, will have a big impact on our wastewater fund.

Selectman Buckey asked whether this amount is over the next two years. Ms. Griffin replied that this is the amount being taken *each* year, the two-year loss amounting to over \$560,000.

Ms. Griffin reminded the Board that this is the House budget only, and is not yet official. It could be a while before we know for sure. If it does pass, she will likely have to ask the Board in June for more of a sewer rate increase than was anticipated in order to make up for the lost revenue. These State Aid Grants were pledged by the State from funds that had been set aside to help municipalities pay for the principal and interest on bonds for water and wastewater upgrades. Amounts were pledged each year for the life of the bond for the wastewater treatment plant upgrades.

Ms. Griffin noted that while Hanover is being hit hard by these cuts, there are other municipalities taking even worse hits. She is counting on these larger cities being hard hit to make noise over the issue, and that they generally tend to be more effective than Hanover at doing so. The State is cutting a total of \$35,568,971 from municipalities across New Hampshire.

Ms. Griffin stated that FEMA funds of \$12,841 for FY 16 are being cut from Hanover as well. FEMA requires that the State help match funds when a disaster is declared in a particular region. The amount of \$12,841 is based on the assumption of the total number of FEMA declared storms the State typically has in one year. The Town did not budget for this amount because we cannot predict storms, and isn't revenue we normally anticipate receiving.

Selectman Buckey questioned this cut since the State is required to match FEMA funds. Ms. Griffin replied that she expects a legal battle over this since this involves an argument over the requirement of the State to participate, and that they don't have the authority to withhold the funds.

Selectman Buckey asked if this could potentially cause the Federal Government refuse to provide the funds to the State House. Ms. Griffin replied that this is a possibility.

Chairman Christie asked about the State Aid Grants for water and sewer, and whether there was a contract when we accepted the grants. Ms. Griffin replied that there was a signed agreement. Chairman Christie asked whether the signed agreement was enforceable. Ms. Griffin stated that the last time the Town battled this was during the last State House budget session, and the State ultimately decided to continue funding the State Aid Grants. Regarding the current proposed cuts on State Aid Grant reimbursements, municipalities have not yet reached the point of filing suit against the State to compel them to pay. She does think this could become a likely scenario, though, and should these funding cuts pass, she would likely be asking the Board to help support the Town in a class-action suit.

Selectman Buckey explained that the reason behind many projects the Town has undertaken are because of the State Aid Grants, though some projects have not yet been done because the remaining financing hasn't been received yet.

Ms. Griffin added that many of the projects have been undertaken because the Department of Environmental Services (DES) required that they be done, and we sold to our Town Meetings the virtue of bonding for these projects with the offset of the State Aid Grants. She also mentioned that she and Chairman Christie were speaking about this earlier and that at some point, there

would be no money left for the State to take from cities and towns. At some point, there isn't much more left to take. Chairman Christie predicts that if that happens, the state will levy additional taxes.

Ms. Griffin stated that the \$66,020 of Highway Block Grants cuts were budgeted for by the Town. It was Hanover's share guaranteed by the State last year when they raised the gas tax. Municipalities had lobbied the legislature to get them to agree on an increase in the gas tax, not just because it meant more money for us, but because we thought it made sense for the State to better fund its highway infrastructure. Ms. Griffin let the Finance Committee know today that our only solution to make up the \$66,020 was to cut other expenses in the Department of Public Works budget to fully fund the paving budget, and/or reduce our paving projects. Ms. Griffin said that the cut of the Highway Block Grants is the one that is most infuriating to municipalities because they fought on behalf of the state last year and they are now saying that it was a prior legislature that promised the funds.

Ms. Griffin reminded the Board that the impact on the town is not as bad as the \$490,990 because the Town had not budgeted for the Meals and Rooms Tax revenue, nor the FEMA funds. We did, however, budget for the State Aid Grants for the wastewater fund, and we did assume the amount of the Highway Grant for our Public Works budget.

Selectman Buckey asked Ms. Griffin to clarify that making up money lost from the State Aid Grants would result in increased water and sewer rates and that the Highway Block funding losses would be made up through property taxes. Ms. Griffin confirmed that sewer rates only would increase to make up for lost State Aid Grant money. She stated that the Highway Block Grant losses would be made up for through property tax, though she is not yet planning to recommend that the Board upwardly adjust the DPW budget. It is too soon to know whether the State budget cuts will pass, but we may have to make some budget cut decisions affecting DPW once the House budget is adopted or vetoed in June.

Selectman Geraghty mentioned that the steps involved in the final legislative process for the budget either being passed or vetoed would likely still be in process by Town Meeting, so, at that point, we will still not know what the State budget allocation will be. Ms. Griffin confirmed this, and she predicts that the budget may not even be decided on by June 30<sup>th</sup>. She believes the Senate is likely to come up with a budget that is not as draconian as the House version, but there is a definite fiscal conservative component of the Senate that may be more aggressive in cutting the budget than prior Republican majorities in the Senate have. The house and the senate will then potentially have two very different looking budgets by June. They'll then come into a committee of conference to come to an agreement, and she isn't sure that will go well. If they come up with a budget that Governor Hassan doesn't like, she is likely to veto it. We won't know by Town Meeting because the committee of conference doesn't happen until middle of June. Theoretically, the budget is to be adopted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, but she has a feeling this year may be unusual given the amount of disconnect between the Governor's budget and the legislature's budget.

Chairman Christie asked Ms. Griffin whether the current budget would carry forward if they didn't come to an agreement by a certain date. Ms. Griffin replied that they would likely default

to the current budget. She thinks they will try and continue to figure out a compromise, and that it could be well into the summer before that happens. She thinks it is safe to say that the State Aid Grants likely will be gone, as well as the gas tax revenue, but, again, it's too soon to tell.

Chairman Christie asked whether the Board could set fees only once a year or if it could be done multiple times. Ms. Griffin replied that we could hold a public hearing and adjust the fee during the middle of a fiscal year.

**7. BANNER REQUEST:  
UPPER VALLEY SPECIAL OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES**

Ms. Griffin confirmed that the Town can accommodate this request.

**Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Accept the Banner Request of the Upper Valley Special Olympic Summer Games. Selectman Buckley SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE BANNER REQUEST OF THE UPPER VALLEY SPECIAL OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES.**

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2015**

**Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Approve the Minutes of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 5 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSENT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2015.**

**9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.**

Ms. Griffin reported that they had a meeting today with the NH Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA). They came to Hanover to look at the Town's Summer Park building, particularly to develop a concept with Twin Pines Housing Trust for a Summer Park Senior Village. Ms. Griffin feels that NH Housing Finance Authority is a particularly important partner and source of funding for any affordable housing project in New Hampshire. They were an active partner in the Gile Hill project and are currently an active partner with Twin Pines in New Hampshire with a lot of its projects. They are very excited about the potential for this project and have provided feasibility funds to help move the project along in terms of mapping out what redevelopment could look like. Chris Miller from NHHFA wanted to be sure that Ms. Griffin convey to the Board their excitement in seeing a community where the Town is actually contributing property to help make affordable housing, that they did it with Gile Hill, and are now talking about the Summer Park property for redevelopment. He felt it is somewhat unusual to see municipalities

actively involved in facilitating affordable housing like they have seen in Hanover the last few years. That, along with the fact that housing is expensive in this area and the supply is very tight, speaks even more boldly about the potential for doing a project like this.

**10. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.**

**Selectman Jay Buckey**

Selectman Buckey had nothing to report.

**Selectman Nancy Carter**

Selectman Carter reported that the Planning Board would be convening tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building. The agenda includes discussion of Dartmouth College's plans to install street lights and to ask the Planning Board for permission to install street lights on the sidewalk adjacent to Crosby Street. This is occurring as they are finishing up work on the football stadium. Selectman Carter is thankful to the residents for being so considerate of all of the commotion and traffic going on at the project. The proposed street lights are the same type as those on Main Street.

Also on the agenda is a case related to the Ray School. Last year the school worked a lot on the building, and this summer the Ray School and all of its property, including the playground, will be unavailable for use. They are re-doing all driveways, the bus loops, parent drop-offs, creating new bike and walking paths, and redeveloping their associated utilities such as stormwater and drainage. There will be people and machinery working all over the property. This is phase two of the work being done at the Ray School, and it will be discussed in great detail at the Planning Board meeting.

**Chairman Peter Christie**

Chairman Christie had nothing to report.

**Vice Chairman Athos Rassias**

Vice Chairman Rassias had nothing to report.

**Selectman Bill Geraghty**

Selectman Geraghty had nothing to report.

**11. 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) 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 8:24 P.M.**

**Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session at 9:15 p.m. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:15 p.m. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Carter, Secretary

*Minutes prepared by Adriane Coutermarsh.*

**SUMMARY**

- 1. Selectman Buckey MOVED to Ratify a Two Year Contract with AFSCME Local 1348 from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENT TO RATIFY A TWO YEAR CONTRACT WITH AFSCME LOCAL 1348 FROM JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2017.**

- 2. Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Ratify a Two Year Contract with IAFF Local 3288 from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.**



**THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENT TO RATIFY A TWO YEAR CONTRACT WITH IAFF LOCAL 3288 FROM JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2017.**

- 3. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE EIGHT.**
- 4. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE NINE.**
- 5. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE TEN.**
- 6. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE ELEVEN.**
- 7. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE TWELVE.**
- 8. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE THIRTEEN.**
- 9. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE FOURTEEN.**
- 10. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE FIFTEEN.**
- 11. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE SIXTEEN.**
- 12. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE SEVENTEEN.**
- 13. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE EIGHTEEN.**
- 14. THE BOARD VOTED 0 IN FAVOR, 5 OPPOSED, 0 ABSENT TO APPROVE WARRANT ARTICLE TWENTY.**
- 15. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27TH TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDED HOUSING FUND BUDGET FOR FY 2015-16.**
- 16. Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Accept the Banner Request of the Upper Valley Special Olympic Summer Games. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE BANNER REQUEST OF THE UPPER VALLEY SPECIAL OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES.**

17. **Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Approve the Minutes of March 23rd, 2015. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 5 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSENT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 23RD, 2015.**

18. **Chairman Christie MOVED to Follow the Request for a Non-Public Session to Discuss Items Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) 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 8:24 P.M.**

19. **Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session at 9:15 p.m. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION.**

20. **Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:15 p.m. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.**

**THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**