

**FINAL**

**2015 TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF HANOVER  
Tuesday, May 12, 2015  
Hanover High School Gymnasium**

The annual Town Meeting of Hanover, New Hampshire convened on May 12, 2015 at 7 a.m. by the Town Moderator, Stephens Fowler, at the Hanover High Gymnasium. Moderator Fowler explained that the polls would be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the purpose of voting for candidates for Town Meeting and for all other articles requiring vote by official ballot as set forth in Articles One through Five of the Town Meeting Warrant.

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

Two Selectmen, each to serve for a term of three (3) years;

Nancy A. Carter	970
Joanna L. Whitcomb	988

One Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years;

Ginger Boitnott	1,008
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One Trustee of Trust Funds to serve for a term of three (3) years.

Judson (Jay) T. Pierson	996
Write-in	3

**ARTICLE TWO** (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 1:

The following question is on the official ballot:

*“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”*

Amendment No. 1 would clarify four parts of the Zoning Ordinance:

With the passage of the Downtown zoning district, the “B-1” and “B-2” zoning districts were eliminated, resulting in a single “B” zoning district. This amendment proposes to designate any of the references to the “B” district as “B” and to eliminate any remaining references to “B-1” and “B-2”.

There is no provision for a Manufactured Housing Sales Lot as either a Permitted Use or a Use Permitted by Special Exception. In order to establish a Manufactured Housing Sales Lot, a Variance would need to be granted for that use. This amendment proposes the elimination of section 601.2 that refers to Manufactured Housing Sales Lot and renumbering section 601.3. The definition of “Setback, Front” appears to have an internal conflict. This amendment proposes the revision of the definition to eliminate any perceived conflict in the language.

Section 1002 refers to a “Use Permit”. For many years there has been no separate use permit utilized by the Planning and Zoning Department. This is because over the years the original “Zoning and Use Permit” was eliminated as a separate permit form and the zoning permitting application form was combined with the building code application form to be a “Zoning and Building Permit Application.” The proposal is to add to Section 1001 those sections of Section 1002 that describe situations in which a permit is required, eliminate Section 1002 and renumber the list in Section 1001 to accommodate the two parts of Section 1002 moved to Section 1001.

At a public hearing held on March 10, 2015, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting **adopt** this zoning amendment.

**RESULTS:                    YES   864                    NO   236                    ARTICLE PASSED**

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

The following question is on the official ballot:

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

Amendment No. 2 would:

Adjust Section 503 to remove the cap on the number of dwelling units in a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC); and clarify the CCRC definition and development criteria. Changes to the Ordinance by Section are:

404.1 Add employee parking requirements mirroring requirements for “Hospitals, Nursing and Convalescent homes”.

503.1 Eliminate all references to “RR” District that are made null and void by a previously adopted amendment. Provide an updated definition for CCRC.

503.3.A Eliminate all references to “RR” District that were made null and void by previously adopted amendment.

503.4.B Eliminate all references to a maximum dwelling unit cap.

503.5.B Add the words “gross site” to clarify the area to be set aside for open space and recreation.

503.5.E Add requirements regarding a CCRC’s services, facilities, and amenities.

Section 902 Definition:

Revise the definition of Continuing Care Retirement Community to provide a definition less dated and more consistent with the industry definition.

At a public hearing held on March 10, 2015, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting **adopt** this zoning amendment.

**RESULTS:                    YES   548                    NO   637                    ARTICLE FAILED**

**ARTICLE FOUR** (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 3:

The following question is on the official ballot:

*“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”*

Amendment No. 3 would create a new zoning district which allows for higher density residential development. To accommodate the new district, the West Wheelock Gateway District (WWG) along West Wheelock Street, the following sections of the Zoning Ordinance are proposed for amendment:

New table 204.11 West Wheelock Gateway District to be added

Section 201 Establishment of Districts

Table 204.4 Institution

Section 303 Principal Buildings Including Dwellings on Lots

Section 309 Location of Driveways

Section 313 Obstruction of Vision

Section 323 Noise Standards

Section 404 Off-Street Parking Requirements

Article IX Definitions:

Amend “Family, Unrelated”

Amend “Neighborhood Retail Sales”

Add a new definition of “Build-to Area”

Add a new definition of “Laundromat”

Add a new definition of “Property Management Office”

Add a new definition of “Story”

Add a new definition of “Yard”

Modify the zoning maps to show the new boundaries of the SR-1, GR-1, GR-2, I and WWG districts.

At a public hearing held on March 24, 2015, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting **adopt** this zoning amendment.

**RESULTS:                    YES   453                    NO   719                    ARTICLE FAILED**

**ARTICLE FIVE** (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 4:

The following question is on the official ballot:

*“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”*

Amendment No. 4 would:

Delete Section 209.4 A.

Add a new section 209.4 A 1 which changes the current method of measuring height in the “GR” and “SR” zoning districts.

Add a new section 209.4 A 2 which specifies how height will be measured in other zoning districts.

Add a new section 209.4 G which establishes for the “GR-1”, “GR-2” and “GR-3” zoning districts circumstances when the maximum height for multi-family buildings may be permissible by Special Exception.

Add a new section 209.4 H which establishes for the “RR” and “F” zoning districts circumstances permissible by Special Exception when the maximum height of accessory buildings used for agricultural purposes may exceed the maximum height permitted otherwise in Section 204.

Delete the definition of building height in Section 902.

At a public hearing held on March 10, 2015, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting **not adopt** this zoning amendment.

**RESULTS:                    YES   502                    NO   649                    ARTICLE FAILED**

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

Moderator Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked Selectman Carter to lead the audience in The Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Fowler reviewed the rules of the meeting with the audience.

Moderator Fowler noted the State Representatives that were present: Patricia Higgins, Martha Hennessey, and Sharon Nordgren. Moderator Fowler then introduced the Board of Selectmen; Chairman Peter Christie, Vice Chairman Athos Rassias, Selectman Nancy Carter, Selectman Jay Buckey and Selectman Bill Geraghty. Moderator Fowler introduced Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

Julia Griffin, Town Manager, introduced the Department Heads that were present: Peter Kulbacki, Director of Public Works; Martin McMillan, Fire Chief; Charlie Dennis, Police Chief; David Stewart, Human Resources Director; Corey Stevens, IT Director; Mary White, Howe

Library Director; Barbara Prince, Etna Librarian; Hank Tenney, Parks and Recreation Director, Betsy McClain, Administrative Services Director/Town Clerk; and Mike Ryan, Assessor.

**Moderator Fowler MOVED to dispense with reading the Warrant Articles twice. The floor voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.**

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

**Vice Chairman Rassias 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;

Joe Roberto

Three Fence Viewers, each for a term of one (1) year;

Robert Grabill

Matt Marshall

Sarah Packman

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

John Richardson

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.

**Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED that the reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers as printed in the 2014 Town Report be accepted, as well as any Special Resolutions. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Dean Lacey made the following presentation for the Parks and Recreation Co-Volunteer of the Year Award for Mark Lindberg:

“Each year, when spring comes around, you can always find a familiar face waiting to start the baseball season. Mark Lindberg’s love for coaching baseball started in Norwich before coming to the Hanover 7-8 baseball program where he worked with kids from Hanover and Norwich for the past 16 years.

Each season Hank looks to the community for coaches, but in the spring he was always thankful that Mark was ready to return to the diamond to lead and teach skills and sportsmanship to the 7<sup>th</sup>

and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boy's baseball team. Mark's commitment to the sport of baseball is also evident by the amount of time spent helping youth baseball as an umpire. He was only a phone call away when someone was needed at the last second to umpire.

Mark's community involvement continues beyond baseball as he has been involved with many non-profits, serving on various boards sharing his accounting background. He served as treasurer of the Ford Sayre's Ski Program and for 3 years served as their Council Chair. Mark spent 23 years as treasurer for Youth-in-Action, 22 years as treasurer of the Friends of the Hanover-Norwich Schools, and was Treasurer of the "Willing Hands Enterprises" for 6 years. If that was not enough, he helped coordinate the purchase of Whaleback Mountain for the "Upper Valley Snowsports Foundation".

Given Mark's life time of dedication to the community this year it was an easy choice to recognize Mark Lindberg as the Parks and Recreation Department's Co-Volunteer of the Year. Mark will be retiring from coaching after this season and he will be missed as he has contributed so much time and energy to the Town of Hanover and to the kids of the Upper Valley."

Dean Lacey made the following presentation for the Parks and Recreation Co-Volunteer of the Year Award for Rick Ferrell:

"Rick Ferrell has been working with the youth of our community for the past 33 years as a coach and mentor for the Norwich and Hanover Parks and Recreation Departments. Rick worked in Norwich for 5 years with the youth basketball program before crossing the river 28 Years ago to coach the 7-8 Grade Girls Basketball program in Hanover.

Rick takes coaching seriously. Over the years in order to continue to develop his coaching skills and philosophy Rick has attended college practices to observe and talk with coaches. He has attended shooting clinics at various colleges and took a course in "Teaching Character". This course allowed Rick to become a better coach by teaching him how to relate to players on an in-depth level. Rick even traveled as far as DePauw University, in Indiana, to spend time with their Women's Basketball Coach, Kris Huffman. There he gained an understanding of the total approach to coaching girls. Coach Huffman taught him that there is more to being a good coach than knowing about the x's and o's.

For the past 6 years Rick has taught shooting on Tuesday mornings before school at the Richmond Middle School. The 6:30 am to 7:30 am practices are open to boys and girls and are well attended. This past winter was Rick's last season as the 7/8 Girls Basketball Coach. He is leaving the coaching ranks but not ending his love for the game and eagerness to continue to teach. Rick has offered to continue to run morning practices if athletes are interested in attending.

Many Recreation Department coaches come and go as their children age out of the programs. But with Rick it was never a question if he would continue to coach. His love for the game and teaching made him want to continue to coach beyond his children's tenure with Recreation programs.

Hank and the Recreation Board feel that Rick's departure will leave a void in the program not only as a coach, but as a friend and someone who really likes to teach and see the development of young players. As he retires from coaching at Hanover it is my pleasure to Award Rick Ferrell as this year's Hanover Parks & Recreation's Co-Volunteer of the Year."

Ms. Griffin made the following presentation in honor of Hank Tenney's upcoming retirement:

"Hank Tenney will retire from his position as Hanover's Parks and Recreation Director on August 29<sup>th</sup> of this year.....which will be his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday and a mere 41 years and 7 weeks after he was hired as the Town's very first Parks and Recreation Parks Director. He has now attended 40 Town Meetings in his capacity as Director and my how things have changed over the years.

Hank began his operation from a tiny office in Town Hall as a one-person operation. As he grew the program he moved to a two person operation in our former "Community Center" (aka, the old house on School Street) to a 7 person operation in our very own Richard W. Black Community and Senior Center. Every step of the way, Hank has hatched, nurtured, nudged, shoved and dragged the Hanover Recreation Department into a busy, family, adult and senior-centered operation. And talk about one of those guys who is generally busier than a one armed paper hanger.....literally late yesterday afternoon Hank was trying to meet with a replacement coach for our high school track program; find softball umpires for several regional games with a potential need to sub as one of the officials himself, and staff the Recreation Board meeting....and that was for just one three hour time period last night. Welcome to Hank's life.

Hank loves nothing more than a "to do" list (a person after my own heart). Whether he is literally in the field marking out a lacrosse field, visiting our outdoor facilities to make sure everything is shipshape, fussing over the final details for some new improvement to one of our facilities, raising money to fund those new improvements, inspecting every inch of the Community Center to make sure nothing looks under-maintained, running along the sidelines of a local soccer, basketball or softball game as either a coach or an official, or generally harassing his Town Department Head Colleagues – Hank is always on the go on behalf of Hanover. He has that absolutely sixth sense about what it takes to find a coach, settle a dispute, mentor local teens, soothe say local seniors and ride herd on parents who can sometimes be a handful when it comes to their own children. His mind and memory are like a steel trap....nothing is forgotten (at least not for very long) and his historical understanding of issues comes in handy time and time again. Hank Tenney is Mr. Recreation in this community and in NH (and VT). And to think he wants to throw in the towel and retire to his beloved Villages in Florida where he will be able to play at least 18 holes of golf seven days a week. Go figure.

I also happen to know that over the years, lots of small and not-so-small things have been funded for the Department and for those in need by none other than Hank Tenney himself. And you thought he was a tough guy! Underneath that gruff exterior is a heart of absolute gold....generous to a fault and a real sucker for anyone in need.

When Hank has not been busy taking care of Hanover recreating, he has served on the Lebanon School Board for countless years; he has coached hundreds of girls playing soccer, basketball and softball for Lebanon High, Hanover High, Rivendell Academy and Sunapee High. His

Stateline Jammers AAU girls' basketball teams have given countless numbers of girls an opportunity to improve their basketball skills playing with teammates from all over the Upper Valley. He has coached numerous teams to state and tournament championships and I suspect there are lots of female athletes out there who will credit Hank for their skill, their commitment and their toughness as athletes. Here's one sample voice - the voice of Sue Johnson Bower, who grew up in Hanover and is currently the Head Women's Golf Coach at Tulane University, a position she has held for 12 years. Sue was responding to the question posed to her by a journalist---"what was your experience in youth athletics? Were there opportunities available to you?"

She said: 'It's really interesting, I have an 8 1/2-year-old here in New Orleans and he has been playing organized sports since he was four. We really didn't have a Parks and Recreation Department in Hanover that was in full swing until my seventh grade year. A gentleman named Hank Tenney, who's still there today running the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department, and a couple of moms including mine went down and said hey we need to start a basketball program we've got a lot of good athletes in this town and so Hank said heck whatever I'll do it and I'll coach them! I was a competitive swimmer; I started when I was seven years old. Really I was just a jock with nowhere to go and so I swam because it gave me a competitive outlet. Then when Hank came into town, basketball became the thing to do. I was interviewed locally here and they asked me who was one of the most influential coaches I've ever had the good pleasure of being around and Hank Tenney is still number one on my list. He was my seventh grade basketball coach he was just a great coach. He taught me now as a current coach so many good things about how to deal with young women and how to get some competitive fire with women and all that good stuff.'

Along the way Hank has garnered a few honors: National Soccer Coaches Association of America National Coach of the Year for Girl's Division II Programs in 2001; one of six coaches named to coach the All American soccer games in 2002 in Charleston, SC., named to the New Hampshire Softball Umpires Association Hall of Fame in 2001; National High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2011 for coaching girl's soccer at Rivendell Academy; and named one of fifty distinguished alumni by Greenfield Community College as the college celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013.

Oh, and by the way, Hank raised two wonderful daughters. Amy and Meg, and is now loving trying to keep up with his grandchildren.

Watch for information about Hank's retirement party to be scheduled later this summer There are some very big and busy shoes to fill as you retire in August, Hank. Your long-time loyalty and commitment to Hanover and to our Recreation program is wonderful and this community is so grateful for your dedication, your commitment and your vision. Godspeed.....the Upper Valley's loss will be the Villages gain!"

**The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

**THE Motion PASSED and Article Seven was ADOPTED.**



**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.

**Selectman Buckey MOVED that the Town 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 Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Mr. Richard Howarth, Hanover Center, noted that money has been set aside for the past 15 years and part of it goes into the Conservation Fund and part of it goes into improvements. He asked whether the Town has set aside enough to achieve the needs and objectives in this area.

Ms. Griffin stated that they can always use more money in both the Conservation Fund and the Capital Improvements Fund. There are always things that the Town would like to do but there hasn't been a lot of development in the past few years. When development was happening more frequently they were able to save more in the reserves. She stated that between the charitable donations to the Commission and the Conservancy and using some undesignated fund balance, they have been able to make things work. She stated that short of looking to grow the budget by an annual appropriation – she's not sure what more they can do.

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

**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.

**Selectman Buckey MOVED that the Town 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 Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Nine was ADOPTED.

**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.

Selectman Carter MOVED that the Town 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 Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Ten was ADOPTED.

**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

**Selectman Carter MOVED that the Town 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. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Bill Baschnagel asked the Select Board to explain the process of the money going in and out of the funds.

Chairman Christie stated that the Town has reserved money each year into the reserve for equipment replacements. The money that comes out of the reserve does not affect the tax rate year to year because the money has been set aside in previous years. The purpose of this is to avoid large tax swings year to year when purchases need to be made.

Doug McIlroy asked about the typical lifetime of the capital facilities that need to be replaced. Mr. Kulbacki stated that it is a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 150 years.

Mr. John Ruth asked why the reserve accounts for parking aren't coming out of the parking fund. Ms. Griffin reported that all of the parking purchases come out of the parking fund.

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

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 <i>Renovations at Public Works Facility (HVAC, flooring); Salt Storage Shed; Howe Library Carpet Replacement</i>	\$476,700
Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund <i>Ruddsboro Road Bridge 144/85</i>	\$130,000
Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Town Match for Grant-Funded Console Replacement</i>	\$90,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Truck and Line Painter; Mowers and Mowerhead</i>	\$135,200
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Cruiser Fleet Replacement (6 fully equipped vehicles); cruiser laptops, cruiser videos, ballistic vests)</i>	\$300,615
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Traffic Signal Replacement at Lebanon and Summer Streets</i>	\$130,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>SUV and Replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus</i>	\$216,154

Parking Vehicles and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Brick Sealing in the Parking Garage and Replacement of Pay and Display Kiosks</i>	\$44,000
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Backhoe for Line Maintenance Work</i>	\$47,500
Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund <i>Ranger Truck and Backhoe for Line Maintenance Work</i>	\$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.

**Selectman Carter MOVED that the Town 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. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Marjorie Rogalski asked about the criteria for the replacement of cruiser fleet and how this is determined. Ms. Griffin reported that they replace the cruisers every 3 years. She noted that once the police cruisers reach 3 years of use, they have over 100,000 miles on them which results in problems with transmissions, etc. This replacement cycle is standard for police municipalities. There are 4 main cruisers in the police department fleet and 2 administrative vehicles. Ms. Griffin noted that part of the cost of the replacement of the vehicles is the equipment that is needed as well. She reported that this year the department will purchase 2 SUV type vehicles which will help accommodate the bigger officers.

Kevin Canuti, Etna, noted that the dispatch center serves multiple communities and he asked how the funding from the other communities factors in. Ms. Griffin stated that they serve 22 communities and there are 3 more that would like to join. The Town charges back to the communities a pro rata costs including allocating to the capital reserve. All of the towns that they serve pay a portion of to the capital reserve contribution.

Danielle Goodwin asked what happens to the used police cruisers and whether the Town would consider donating them.

Ms. Griffin stated that the used police cruisers used to be purchased by the New Jersey taxicab companies. The Town is now using a couple of municipal bid websites as they try to get as much money as they can out of the used vehicles. Ms. Griffin noted that anyone could make an offer to the Town with regard to the used cruisers.

Michael Tsapakos asked about ballistic vests and whether the Police Department currently uses them and what the lifespan would be and if they don't use them, why they are getting them.

Ms. Griffin noted that the department does use ballistic vests and have for many years. The ballistic vests have a 5 year lifespan. The technology is changing and it is about updating the equipment.

Hilary Pridgen, Etna, asked if the \$300,000 expense will recur every year for 3 years on a staggered basis. Ms. Griffin stated that the Town does reserve money each year which remains the same each year and then the appropriation comes out every 3 years.

A resident asked if the vehicles are purchased locally. Ms. Griffin noted that the Town does purchase the vehicles locally.

Justin Moffatt, Dartmouth Student, asked why the Town wouldn't stagger their investment for cruisers instead of investing every three years. Ms. Griffin stated that the Town saves money by buying the equipment all at the same time. She noted that this makes it easier for the Town's fleet staff if they have vehicles that are all of the same vintage. She noted that they make yearly contributions into the reserve so that the impact on the tax rate year to year is not as great.

A resident from the floor asked if one disagrees with the process or the way the money is being used to fund a particular activity and they think it's too high for a specific item, could they vote no on this article or on the previous article. For example, if they felt that they only needed 5 cruisers would the impact on the tax rate be lower.

Ms. Griffin stated that if a resident is concerned about the level of expense, this warrant article doesn't impact the tax rate. This is an appropriation of money out of the capital reserve funds. When money is appropriated out of the capital reserve the savings already exist. Ms. Griffin stated that the earlier warrant article could have been voted down.

Moderator Fowler noted that the entire budget is created during a series of detailed budget hearings which are open to the public.

Robin Carpenter noted that an amendment could be added to change the number of cruisers being purchased. Ms. Griffin confirmed that this could be done.

John Ruth noted that this won't impact the tax rate this year but the money would stay in the bank and they would need less money going forward.

Mr. Howarth asked if the previous amendment can be made to reconsider the previous article. Moderator Fowler stated that a motion could be made to reconsider with an article but would require a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote.

**The Motion PASSED and Article Twelve was ADOPTED.**

**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 of General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, the utilization of \$170,000 from the accumulated HealthTrust

return of surplus (a sub-accounting of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance), and a withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Land and Capital Improvement 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.

**Selectman Geraghty MOVED that the Town 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 of General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, the utilization of \$170,000 from the accumulated HealthTrust return of surplus (a sub-accounting of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance), and a withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Land and Capital Improvement 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. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Selectman Geraghty noted that this property is adjacent to 44 Lebanon Street that the Town already owns. He noted that if this property is purchased, there will be many public meetings to discuss the draft proposal of an expanded community center. He clarified that this vote is to determine whether to purchase the land.

Elsa Garmeyer stated that she originally wondered why money was being taken out of the Health Trust Fund to purchase the land but she stated that when she realized that this was to build a gymnasium she fully supports it.

Ellis Rollett stated that he noted that the purchase price was set by the seller's appraisal and asked if there was any ability to negotiate. Ms. Griffin stated that the original asking price was \$100,000 more and when the appraisal came in at \$496,000 the seller's agreed to sell at that price.

Robert Chambers asked what the assessed value of the home is at this time. Ms. Griffin stated that the assessed value is lower than the appraised value by about \$100,000. The appraiser looked at the property and determined it could be commercial as well as residential which resulted in \$496,000.

Mr. Baschnagel is not against the acquisition but he has questions about the use. He noted that in Hanover, the Recreation Program *is* the elementary school sports program. He noted that Hank has done a great job of making a feeder organization for the high school teams. Mr. Baschnagel stated that there are 4 gyms in this town and he can't believe that the Town can't make arrangements with the school to make gym space available.

Mr. Baschnagel noted that there are a lot of needs in this town including elderly housing and affordable housing. He would like the Select Board to look at these as alternatives to the gym and determine how best to use this property.

Selectman Geraghty stated that he is the liaison to the Recreation Department and he noted that in addition to children involved in programs, there are also a lot of adults and the current

facilities are limiting the options. He noted that there has been a lot of coordination and cooperation with the schools and there are limits to the number of hours per day and the programs that they would like to offer.

Selectman Geraghty further stated that with regard to Summer Park next to the Community Center, there will be upgrades and Twin Pines Housing Trust has received a grant to address affordable housing. There is private property that they are keeping their eye on and all of these things are being discussed at meetings.

Mr. Baschnagel stated that the needs for affordable housing and elderly house are above the needs of the gym in this Town for recreation.

**The Motion PASSED and Article Thirteen was ADOPTED.**

**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 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.

**Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$67,434 for substantial funding of a Lyme Road multi-use path and 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. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Vice Chairman Rassias gave an overview of the Multi Use Path (MUP). It is a pathway separated from vehicular traffic to support human traffic such as bicyclists. He noted that a full description was available in the Town Report. He noted that this is the outgrowth of the Safe Routes to School group and noted that there is high speed traffic in the area of Route 10 to the Co-Op and parents feel it is unsafe for students to travel to the Richmond Middle School and Ray School.

Vice Chairman Rassias noted that he has been the Board representative to the Bike and Pedestrian Committee and he has been proud to serve on this committee as they work to make the community more bike and pedestrian friendly. Vice Chairman Rassias noted that as DPW planned to work in specific areas, it made sense to incorporate these improvements.

Brenda Knight noted that high speed cyclists on Route 10 travel approximately 25 mph and asked if there will be signed to indicate that the cyclists are allowed to use the roadway; when motorists see the paths they tend to push them toward using that path.

Vice Chairman Rassias noted that the Bike and Pedestrian Committee has been working with closely with the Department of Public Works and there will be signage in these areas. The intent is to have the bicyclists travelling at a slower speed use the Multi Use path.

Randy Mudge stated that he doesn't usually come to Town meeting but he found that there is a design flaw in this plan. As currently planned, kids would have to cross Lyme Road to get to the schools. He stated that this is not a safe area for kids to cross. He stated that the MUP should be on the east side of the road versus the west. The MUP could extend to Curtiss and cross at Curtiss and they could cross at Reservoir Road which has a lot less traffic. The only crossing would be at Park Street which is a controlled intersection. He felt that it would be a waste of money to put it on the west side of the road and it would not achieve what the Town is hoping to achieve.

Martha Solow stated that she raised 3 children and lived in Hanover for a number of years. She supports any efforts to make walking and biking better and easier and she is surprised that this is a separate article. She asked why this is not part of the Public Works budget. She is talking about the process versus the design.

Ms. Griffin stated that this is a separate warrant article because a portion of the funding is coming from the transportation improvements fund which requires a separate Town Meeting vote. This project is being done in conjunction with the upcoming paving project on Lyme Road. She stated that the bulk of the funding is coming out of the general fund budget but because some of the money is coming out of the transportation fund, this requires a special article at Town Meeting to appropriate money out of the reserve.

Ms. Solow asked if the transportation fund is a dedicated fund. Ms. Griffin stated that the Municipal Transportation Improvements Fund is provided for by its own RSA and general transportation improvements qualify so, paving, enhanced crosswalks, multi use paths, etc. are eligible expenses. Ms. Solow asked, if it is an eligible expense, why the funds are coming out of a special appropriation. Ms. Griffin stated that the Town collects about \$35,000/year from motor vehicle surcharges that get appropriated into that fund. When the Town expends the money from the fund for eligible projects, it requires a special article at Town Meeting.

Ms. Griffin stated that the reason that they designed the MUP on the west side of the road was done based on a study not only gearing up for the schools and also the potential construction of River Crest. There are buried power lines and other utilities on the east side. There is also the added challenge on the east side of the roundabout which has a ravine and a narrow entrance way. The crossing at the north side of the roundabout and the use of crossing guards during school hours were determined to be the safer options. Ms. Griffin was also asked recently if they are going to extend the sidewalk but currently there is no funding for this.

Peter Bean, Hanover, rides his bicycle in that area in both directions. Mr. Bean stated that on both the east and west sides, the bike lanes shrink and he noted that he is scared to travel near the school as well as CRREL. Mr. Bean stated that he has been riding on the sidewalk which he has now learned is illegal for adults. He noted that he crosses without any issues on Park Street when using the lights. He thanked the Board for proposing this project.



Fred Lappan, Kendal resident, rides his bicycle down Lyme Road frequently. He noted that the problem exists in front of the school. He noted that there is an adequate bike lane south of the school and the sidewalk is busy with runners; he can't imagine riding a bicycle while trying to avoid runners and pedestrians. Mr. Lappan noted that the State Law indicates that it is illegal to ride a bicycle on the pedestrian way.

Vice Chairman Rassias responded that the MUP is a 10 foot travel lane to accommodate a combination of cyclists and pedestrians. He stated that the area of Route 10 north is not part of this project.

Ms. Griffin stated that the bump outs in front of the school are set to keep the kids safe as they cross over and they convince drivers to slow down.

**An Audience Member CALLED the Question from the Floor. A Majority Vote Supported the Question being called.**

**The Motion PASSED and Article Fourteen was ADOPTED.**

**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.

**Selectman Carter MOVED that the Town 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.**

Selectman Carter invited Jim Kennedy from the Conservation Commission as well as a landscape architect and wetland specialist.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the Warrant Article talks about improvements to the trails but they are actually looking at improving the landing itself. He noted that the plan is to make the area more friendly for a variety of users. He noted that they have reorganized the parking system and created a recreation area on the south end which will require some fill and improvements including a gazebo and picnic tables.

Mr. Kennedy stated that they would be putting some traffic calming measures in place including narrowing the road as it comes down the causeway with a new culvert. This would allow for aquatic passage through there and wildlife can't travel back and forth. Mr. Kennedy stated that they will be looking to remove the creosote bulk head that serves the Town dock which protrudes into the river. They will be replacing it with some low stones along the edge of the river and

make a place that is more appropriate for those who want to stand in the water and launch canoes and kayaks.

**The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Tom Csatari asked if this is the total cost for the project or if there are other funds that will be used. Ms. Griffin stated that this is the cost and the Town will use staff to provide the labor.

Barbara Munson stated that the Town gave away what was given to them by Mr. Fullington to people who like to row boats. She wanted to know whether anyone from the Crew group would be doing anything to help build this improvement.

Robin Carpenter stated that since the labor for the project will be provided by the Town employees, it would be helpful to include some labor costs for this project in the Town Report.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that the figure would include the equipment as well as manpower and he estimates the cost at \$20,000.

John Creagh, abutter to Wilson's Landing, stated that he was wondering about the Town dock. He noted that it is considerably closer to the shore than the rowing dock and for most boats it's not going to be a problem loading people onto a boat but there are some who have boats that are not quite as agile. He doesn't use the dock that often but he questioned whether Town's dock going to be far enough into the river to allow people to swing out into the river without damaging their boats and the dock. Ms. Griffin stated that they might want to do a dry run with Mr. Creagh's boat to make sure that this accommodates all boats.

Ellis Rollett stated that the dock was donated for recreational purposes which he assumes would include swimming. He noted that the small dock is used by swimmers from time to time. Will this restrict the ability for people to use the dock for swimming purposes?

Mr. Kennedy noted that they are not taking the dock away – they are removing the wall that supports the ramp and they will need to extend the ramp to accommodate the chain. If there needs to be another extension to the ramp, that could be done. He doesn't see a problem with the current uses of the dock.

Evelyn Weinstein noted that this study was conducted in conjunction with State officials. She asked about the passive recreation area that intrudes along the marsh and whether the activity near the rowing dock will have a negative impact on bird life. Mr. Kennedy stated that they have had discussions with the Department of Environmental Services with regard to the higher portion of the land in the wet meadow and not the lower marsh. They have discussed this for the past 6 months and there will be a permitting process which will go through more detail.

**An Audience Member CALLED the Question. SECONDED from the Floor.**

**The Motion to Call the Question was APPROVED by a Majority Vote. The Motion PASSED and Article Fifteen is ADOPTED.**

**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 and benefits.

<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.

**Selectman Geraghty MOVED that the Town 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 and benefits.**

<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 Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Selectman Geraghty noted additional information located on page 35. He noted that this contract was negotiated in good faith by both employees and management and he recommends approval.

**The Motion PASSED and Article Sixteen was ADOPTED.**

**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 and benefits.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015-2016	\$54,367
2016-2017	\$27,818

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,367 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.

**Selectman Geraghty MOVED that the Town 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 and benefits.**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015-2016	\$54,367
2016-2017	\$27,818

**And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,367 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 Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Doug McIlroy asked why the Firefighters are getting more money than the DPW employees when there are fewer of them. Ms. Griffin stated that the Town did a classification and compensation study comparing the staff in Hanover with other comparable communities in Hanover. The study showed that the compensation level for the Firefighter and Paramedics and their library staff were not being paid at a comparable level.

Kari Assmus asked what a beginning firefighter makes, a mid career firefighter makes and someone at the end of their career and whether they were equally behind the competing towns. She also wanted to know if there were negotiations in place that helped them catch up.

Ms. Griffin stated that entry level firefighters come in at around \$42,000 and the upper level is up in the \$72,000 range and they work a lot of overtime. She noted that across the board, whether entry level or firefighter paramedic, all positions needed to be brought up.

Robin Carpenter suggested that the Town include information specific to these articles for example there is a 1.5% increase in year 2; it doesn't give a percentage increase for year 1. Ms. Griffin stated that because they are implementing the class and comp study there will be no COLA (cost of living adjustment) for year one. Mr. Carpenter stated that if they did the math for the first year, it comes to about 3 %. Ms. Griffin stated that they are funding the increase through savings in the health care benefits.

Mr. Ruth asked whether the Town had trouble retaining staff based on the level of funding. Ms. Griffin stated that they have had trouble keeping staff as a result of salary issues with one firefighter going to Lebanon and another transferring to Keene. When the class and comp study indicated that they were short, this was an area that the Town the need to address.

**The Motion PASSED and Article Seventeen was ADOPTED.**

**ARTICLE EIGHTEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,629,200 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.

**Chairman Christie MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$22,629,200 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 Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Chairman Christie made the following budget presentation:

“I usually start my budget presentations by telling you what a tough budget year it was and how the Select Board had to sort through multiple options to come to a final budget.

While that is sometimes true, this year all the *heavy lifting* was done by the department heads, Betsy, and Julia.

I think the Board played its role this year by setting a budget guideline that was going to be a challenge but not impossible to meet - given all the high priority objectives that were on the table.

Let me explain. The budgeting process starts in November when the board takes its first look at projections prepared by Betsy. Those projections show the budget impact of past commitments and future objectives, and set the stage for establishing priorities.

Betsy’s first projections indicated that if we put the budget process on auto pilot the tax rate would go up by almost 7%. Not acceptable.

The Board eventually set the target tax rate increase at 2.5%. This was above the 0.5 % increase that would have reflected the CPI guideline that we like to follow, was near the 2.0% change in the Municipal Cost Index, and below the 3.0 % increase that the Board felt was the maximum that we wanted to bring to Town Meeting.

We thus sent Julia and Betsy off to develop an initial budget at a 2.5% tax rate increase. In their usual professional way, the department heads submitted their budget requests -- with Julia making the final decisions on what made it into the final budget. Over \$400,000 of cuts were made to the original requests as submitted by the department heads, *therein the heavy lifting*.

The budget as first presented to the Board pretty much stayed intact over the marathon budget hearings held in March.

So, what are the drivers in this year’s budget?

First and foremost is the implementation of the Job Classification and Compensation Plan developed by Condrey and Associates. As Bill discussed, periodically the Town has a professional, third party study done of towns similar to Hanover to make sure that our pay scales are in line. Our goal is to pay at approximately the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile to assure that we can hire and retain the best staff town wide. This budget includes the needed \$136,000 to implement the study.

Several large projects are funded, namely a replacement for our old and inadequate salt shed and the purchase of 46 Lebanon Street as we consolidate ownership of land around the community center. These and other expenses were accomplished by the use of various reserve funds and thus do not directly impact the tax rate.

The funding for a Planning and Zoning Director is included. For several years now, we have opted to *not* fill this position, but given the increased level of activity in that department driven by Dartmouth's building plans and the need to revisit the Master Plan, the time has come to fill this important position.

Once again the return on our invested cash is low by historical standards reflecting the continuation of low interest rates. Interest income is budgeted at just \$35,000 (the same as last year) and compares to \$350,000 just a few years ago.

The budget includes an increased Town contribution of \$59,000 to the New Hampshire Retirement System as mandated by the State.

Several cost savings also played a key part in allowing a 2.6% tax rate increase. These include the elimination of one full time parking clerk position thanks to our investment in electronic parking meters, anticipated savings in our electricity expense as a result of our 2014 membership in the New England Power Pool and the negotiate changes to our health plans.

Also on the positive side, this is the first year that I can remember, where we did not have surprises about the funding of the paving budget or for capital reserves. During the past five years we have avoided "kicking the can down the road" and the Town has been willing to properly fund these two big ticket items. That financial discipline paid off this year as the paving budget did not need to be increased significantly, and several large capital expenses were possible because those reserves were adequately funded even during the economic downturn.

So, what else is being planned?

The new configuration of Route 10 as it heads out of town towards Reservoir Road is very exciting. This improved passage for walkers and recreational bikers on their way to school or just out for some exercise, is the first step to making that part of town more pedestrian and bike friendly, especially for students heading for the Ray and Richmond School.

Improvements at Wilson's landing, initiated by your own Conservation Commission, will make this special asset even more of a gem.

The stage is being set for tremendous improvements to our Senior Housing, for perhaps additional affordable housing, and for a gymnasium in the vicinity of the Black Community Center.

Our new Chiefs of Fire and Police are off to a fast start. It has been fun to watch what a new set of eyes see and what new department priorities have already been put in place. Welcome Chief Dennis and Chief McMillan, we are very excited about your joining the team.

We continue to look for ways to collaborate with our neighbors to better utilize resources region wide. Hopefully this year we will be announcing a joint venture with Hartford and other Upper Valley towns relative to a new Household Hazardous Waste service.

Our fire and emergency services department continue to look for ways to enhance “mutual aide”. It is exciting to watch this grass roots effort in action, and paying off, as there is a lot more that we can and will be doing with the support of the department.

We continue to work closely with Dartmouth College as President Hanlon implements the “Moving Dartmouth Forward” initiative. We appreciate that President Hanlon has gone above and beyond to communicate with the Town and to include the Town in his ongoing planning. I can also report that you *want* Phil and Gail on your team in any yard games of ladder ball or horse shoes.

What would a budget presentation be without at least a reference to possible downshifting coming from Concord? Hold on to your hats as the State once again ups the ante relative to using the Town Property tax to pay Concord’s bills. This budget includes approximately \$40,000 in revenue from the state that is very much in jeopardy, and we expect even more downshifting come next year.

So, in wrapping up, I believe that this is a solid budget that addresses the town’s immediate and longer term needs in a responsible way, and that there are creative activities under way that will allow us to continue to deliver more and better services cost effectively.

As always, the Select Board thanks Julia, Betsy, and the department heads who work diligently, creatively, and with great pride, as is evidenced each year in their budget presentations.

We also thank the many volunteers who serve on boards, committees, task forces and make an essential contribution to Hanover being the special town that it is.”

Heidi Postupack, Chair Hanover Finance Committee, stated that it is an honor and a privilege to work on the Hanover Finance Committee. She stated that the Committee gets a chance to work with the School Board, Select Board members and Town administrators. She noted that the budget season starts in August for the Finance Committee. The School Board had some unexpected issues including increases in enrollment and dramatic increases in special education costs. She stated that everyone worked very hard together to find savings and cut costs while trying to save programs.

Ms. Postupack stated that the Town of Hanover is one big town working together to provide what is needed and necessary without a terrible impact on the taxpayers. She noted that the Town of Hanover runs like a fine Swiss watch because of all the work they do together. The job of the Hanover Finance Committee is not to criticize but their job is to take an overall look at the financials and try to look for trends and try to find areas of concern to share with the administrators. She stated that about a year and a half ago the Committee decided to look at the last 10 years of tax increases in the Town of Hanover. The tax levy had increased by 68% while the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by only 4%. The one difficulty is that the Town has a policy of talking about tax rates and the Finance Committee asked that the Town consider the tax levy when making budget decisions. The policy is in place by the Select Board to look at the tax rate. In reviewing this, the tax rate has increased by 59% in the past 10 years. She stated that this trend is worrisome to people looking at the long term effect of that type of growth.

Ms. Postupack reported that the CPI in November was at .5 and the general municipal tax rate increase is at 2.57%; that kind of growth year after year is unsustainable. The Finance Committee has urged people not to support this budget. They urge the voters to keep the increase in line with CPI at .5 percent. The Finance Committee doesn't determine how the savings are made or how the amounts should be shifted.

**Ms. Postupack MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$22,397,200 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2015-16 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. Further, that the \$232,000 reduction in this revised amount (from \$22,629,200 originally proposed in Article #18) be effected so that \$176,399 be reduced from appropriations funded by the General Fund Municipal Tax Levy, and \$55,601 be reduced from appropriations funded by the Combined Fire District Tax Levy.”**  
**The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Chairman Christie provided the following response:

“First, let me acknowledge that there is a difference in approach to setting the tax rate target - the Finance Committee would use the “tax levy” while the Select Board has used the “tax rate” for as long as I can remember.

I will not give my ‘budget geek’ explanation of the difference as that was painful enough for you last year, but just let me say that there is an honest disagreement on the best approach, and we will just have to agree to disagree.

The Finance Committee points out correctly, as I also did in my budget presentation, that the Board’s target exceeded our budget policy guidelines. As I have often said, setting budget targets is an art and not a science, and that guidelines are just that guidelines and not set in stone. It made no sense for the Board to set too low a target, knowing that it could not be achieved without eliminating what we considered to be high priority objectives.



So, how much money are we talking about? The \$232,000 reduction proposed in this amendment represents a reduction of \$57.13 in the town taxes for a home valued at \$487,400, the value of the median single family home in Hanover.

If this amendment passes, the most likely way that the proposed cuts would be absorbed would be in the big ticket budgets like paving and equipment reserves. As I said in my budget presentation, we benefitted this year from not kicking the can down the road in prior years - let's *not* start now. We need look no further than our neighboring towns to see that a "pay me later" strategy does not work well in the long term.

The Finance Committee asserts that the proposed increase is not sustainable. We believe that a 2.6 % increase, or \$70.13 per year to the median tax payer, is sustainable and a good investment.

I urge you to NOT support this amendment, and to approve the budget as presented."

Bob Russell asked how much the Town has grown in the last 10 years because it has a direct reflection of the budget. Mr. Russell spoke against the amendment and noted that he has witnessed the deterioration of the road surfaces and the resulting wear and tear on vehicles; he noted that they cut the school budgets and end up raising prisons. He stated that he doesn't feel the Town should short change itself.

Ms. Griffin stated that between the 2000 census and the 2010 census the population increased by about 425 people; from just under 11,000 to 11,370 which includes Dartmouth students that respond to the census.

Elsa Garmeyer asked how much money the Town receives in exchange for all of the Dartmouth students. Ms. Griffin stated that the Town is very lucky because in New Hampshire private colleges and schools are taxable and they pay taxes on dormitories and dining halls. Dartmouth is the Town's largest taxpayer and they pay property taxes on all of its downtown properties.

Kari Assmus thanked the Finance Committee for their work and for offering the amendment but she is not going to vote for this amendment. She stated that to tie an increase to the existing tax rate is fraught with a lot of problems. She noted that the Fire District Tax rate has gone down over the years and it does not allow for the type of growth that the entire budget might need. She noted that every 5 years there is a reassessment. She said that in the past the Town has stated that the metric is simple and people understand it and this is not necessarily the best way to gauge whether this is the best approach. The question is whether the budget is sufficiently lean so that people can afford to pay their taxes. Ms. Assmus noted that other towns are failing to thrive now and Hanover is very lucky that Hanover has the goose that lays the golden egg but we need to take care of the Goose.

John Ruth, Hanover Finance Committee, stated that they consider the tax levy versus the tax rate because the tax levy is not affected by the change in housing valuations. He stated that the Select Board continues to try to keep the tax rate at the rate of inflation but he stated that this year they did not even look at that. He stated that the amended budget amount is \$232,000 less.

He stated that one way to get closer to hitting the target is to delay the implementation of the salary study. He would encourage a vote for the amendment.

Duncan Sim asked if there was a similar beyond the budget allocation into the capital reserve. He asked what the effective tax rate increase from last year to this year.

Chairman Christie stated that the tax rate increases are all inclusive and include the entire budget.

Hilary Pridgen stated that it is very difficult for small businesses and people on fixed income in the era of ever changing taxes. She feels that there is discontinuity between many in the community and the increases. She stated that she has to cut her budget all the time and she loves the community and all of the amenities but she feels that they can do with less and she will support the Finance Committee's amendment.

Daryl Press, 15 year resident and also on the Finance Committee, stated that he wanted to add why he voted for the amendment. The purpose of the Finance Committee was to look at the overall picture and also to look at the 5, 10 and 20 year trends. Over the past decade in a period where there was 2 to 3% population growth, CPI has gone up by 24% and the tax rate has gone up by 59%. The people of Hanover can determine that they want to continue with the services and expansions but the job of the Finance Committee is to show that this \$57 increase is part of the trend. The Finance Committee deliberated and voted unanimously that the Town should pare back the budget this year to something in line with the rate of inflation.

John Creagh stated that if they are going to examine the difference between the CPI which is a national survey and the growth in Hanover's budget then they should look at the downshifting of costs from the Federal government and the State government which caused a good portion of that increase.

Selectman Buckey stated that there was a letter from the Finance Committee in the *Valley News* on Saturday. He is the Select Board liaison and he does not support with the Finance Committee's position. He stated that the Board of Selectmen carefully reviews the budget and this budget maintains the current services and does not create future long term liabilities. He stated that he thinks it's a useful exercise to look at the long term trends but there are a lot of things that go into them. The loss of interest income and the downshifting from the State, it's an academic exercise and year to year they need to look what the town needs to do.

An audience member noted that they've already talked about buying property and the expense of the MUPS project; he stated that he is in favor of the amendment and he hopes that they will think hard about this in the future.

Moderator Fowler called for a vote on the amendment. The voting results were 64 in favor and 99 opposed.

**The Majority OPPOSED the Amendment. The Amendment was DEFEATED.**

Moderator Fowler asked for discussions on the original budget.

Jerry Madden asked how the 2.5% tax rate target was determined. Chairman Christie stated that setting a tax target is an art not a science. He stated that the original estimate was 7% which was not acceptable and they knew the CPI was set at .5% and the MCI was at 2% in addition to all of the impacts to the budget. He stated that the Board wanted to bring a budget to Town Meeting that was below 3% and felt that this was a realistic expectation that the Department Heads could work with.

**The Motion PASSED and Article Eighteen was ADOPTED.**

Moderator Fowler thanked the Supervisors of the Checklist for their hand voting and provided the results for Articles One through Five.

**ARTICLE NINETEEN:** (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.

**Robert Chambers MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to support Project VetCare services provided for the residents of Hanover. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.**

Mr. Chambers stated that the Select Board voted unanimously on the other articles and he is hoping that the unanimous vote against Article Nineteen doesn't reflect their thoughts about veterans in this community. Mr. Chambers reported that Project VetCare was established 2 ½ years ago and they are the only local non-profit that supports veterans in the Town of Hanover. In 2014 they helped 17 veterans and 5 were in Hanover and required help with obtaining housing. The \$15,000 (and more) was spent out of Project Vet Care to help veterans in Hanover. He noted that the food bank helped feed 150 veterans in the Upper Valley in 2014.

Mr. Chambers noted that the Hanover Fire Department helped with food donations and the donations are stored at Bridgeman's furniture at no cost to Project VetCare. Mr. Chambers noted that Project VetCare delivers food to the veterans and determines their needs. Mr. Chambers reported that Project VetCare made direct cash grants of over \$30,000 to Upper Valley Veterans in 2014. Mr. Chambers reported that they helped over 217 veterans apply for benefits and have helped more veterans than any other agency in Vermont and he stated that this may be the same for New Hampshire as well.

Mr. Chambers reported that Project VetCare sponsors a series of dinners as well as an annual holiday party. He urges the voters to support this article.

Selectman Geraghty stated that the Select Board has great respect for all veterans and all of the programs that Project VetCare provides. He reported that the Select Board took a strong 5 – 0 position against this article. The Board takes no position against Project VetCare itself but feels strongly that using tax dollars to support any charity is inappropriate. The Town of Hanover does partner every year with several social service agencies that provide services to Hanover residents that would otherwise have to be provided by the Town itself. These wonderful agencies provide a required service at a much reduced cost that the Town could ever achieve on its own. These are not charitable contributions from the Town's perspective. All agencies are required to

provide an extensive application each year in order to be considered for taxpayer support. Project Vet Care did not submit the required application. He noted that there was a similar debate last year when Project VetCare asked for funding for a capital campaign to purchase a house in Hanover. The Board did not support a contribution from the taxes and several people stepped up afterwards to make private contributions. The Board suggests that private contributions are the appropriate way to support this initiative or any other charity. The Board urges residents to vote no on this article.

Danielle Goodwin, Executive Director of Project Vet Care, stated that she strongly disagrees with Selectman Geraghty's statement. She stated that they are currently helping a Town of Hanover employee who is a homeless veteran that is being housed at a hotel in Hanover using Project VetCare funds. She stated that they have completed every application that has been required and requested of the Town of Hanover. She noted that 2 years ago when they were instrumental in raising the veterans' tax credit from \$50 to \$500 all of the Select Board members voted against it. She stated that she feels that the Board is directly saying that veterans don't matter because time and time again Project VetCare are helping veterans in Hanover. She noted that 1,500 veterans have asked for assistance in the past 9 months in Hanover for services. She noted that their office is located right next door to the Town offices. She stated that if they want to know more about them, they can stop by to see them.

Martha Solow stated that she strongly supports the Select Board's position. She stated that no one here is against supporting veterans. She noted that her father and brother are veterans. She stated that veterans have done a wonderful thing but it is not for a Town to support veterans when there are national causes that support veterans. There are other agencies and services that are already supported by the Town that will not discriminate against veterans. To be exclusive may be discriminatory. She stated that the Town has to be willing to provide services to all people and not just Veterans. She noted that if she needed services, she would be excluded from receiving help by this agency. She feels the Select Board has made a wise decision to not support this Article.

Bill Baschnagel stated that he spoke against the petition last year and will speak against it this year. He noted that he is a veteran having spent 20 years in the Air Force, spent his time in Vietnam and still works with veterans. He stated that he doesn't have anything against Project VetCare and the services they provide but the Town has a process and Selectman Geraghty summarized this very well. As a former Selectman he appreciates the process. The Board focuses on supporting organizations that are essentially providing town services. He stated that the fact that they have not followed the process for the second year in a row makes him angry. He recommended that people make a private contribution but felt that it is not appropriate tonight to approve this petitioned article.

Bill Fischel stated that in 1968 when he was inducted into the United States Army, he was not asked to pledge to support the Town of Hanover or Bethlehem, Pennsylvania where he was from but the United States of America as a whole. The objective was to defend the United States of America against enemies and the US as a whole owes veterans not the Town of Hanover or Pennsylvania. He stated that veterans care should be paid for by the people who benefit it as a

whole. He hopes that they can get some government grants with an appropriate level of funding but Project VetCare should not receive funds from the Town of Hanover.

Kari Assmus asked how much money the Town appropriates to the other social service agencies. Ms. Griffin stated that it's about \$65,000 that they give to 9 different social service agencies. Ms. Assmus asked how many people in Hanover are being served. Ms. Griffin stated that it is around 1,500 people including seniors. She noted that they are providing funding to these agencies that the Town would otherwise be required to provide.

Dave Cioffi reported that he serves on the Work Force Opportunity Council which is a State Committee and there is money available to the State that give priority to veterans applying for jobs. He is disturbed about the way that this was handled including an ad in the *Valley News* requesting veterans to come to the meeting to vote for this amendment. He stated that he doesn't ever remember another agency coming in the back door like this. He stated that he has nothing against Veterans and he has put in 1200 to 1300 volunteer hours at the VA. He urges everyone to vote this down.

Mr. Robert Chambers stated that every one of the dollars spent were the obligation of the Town of Hanover under the State welfare laws and the veterans are ashamed to walk in the door. He noted that veterans have to wait days to speak to someone because they do not have someone available to deal with it. He stated that this is a welfare obligation of the Town of Hanover. It's not asking for donations or bonuses.

Moderator Fowler asked for a vote.

**The Motion was Defeated and the Article FAILED.**

Mr. Chambers expressed his frustration with the Board and left the meeting.

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

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

Chairman Christie asked Elizabeth Rathburn to stand as he made the following presentation:

“Elizabeth has been our clerk since 2005 and will be stepping down for a little breather.

I don't know how many of you have ever been interviewed by the *Valley News*, but you quickly learn that the reporter can make you look like a blithering fool or a pretty reasonable person, independent of what you actually say or meant to say in the interview.

Elizabeth has had that same power twice a month in preparing our Select Board minutes as clerk for the past ten years.

For starters, we do not talk like we write. We talk in a bunch of incomplete, usually incoherent phrases that only have the slightest resemblance to sentences. We start with one thought, jump to the next, and then back again or off to another one with no apparent method to our madness. Elizabeth has a gift for making sense out of our ramblings and for authoring minutes that accurately catch the essence of the conversation; a valuable service to the Town. She also provided endless chocolates that got us through long meetings.

Elizabeth, we cannot thank you enough for the hours of minutes that made us look a lot better than we deserved, and for all the minutes that needed no “additions or corrections, while we will miss the chocolates, we will miss *you* even more!”

Chairman Christie asked Selectman Jay Buckley to stand as he made the following presentation:

“Jay Buckley joined the Board just three short years ago. He brought to the board a common sense approach to problem solving, a fresh set of questions about our historical approaches, and a keen eye for new areas that had not been on the radar. Perhaps what Jay added, that was most unique, was a real time, on-line information capability.

While some of my colleagues might sometimes be on-line during a Select Board meeting, the result would usually be an update to a ball score. When Jay went on-line, however, the result was often input on the issue being discussed – something to the effect “I see that New York and Texas did a study on XYZ back in 2012, they concluded....” at which point Jay would read from the relevant report and we would have new information to bring to the discussion. Jay, your good nature and keen mind will be missed.”

Chairman Christie thanked Selectman Carter for running for the Board of Selectmen for a second term. He welcomed Joanna Whitcomb to the Board.

**Town Meeting ADJOURNED at 10:15 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth A. McClain  
Town Clerk

*Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.*