

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 1, 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; Nancy Carter, Selectman, Bill Geraghty, Selectman; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager. Absent were: Joanna Whitcomb, Selectman; and Athos Rassias, Vice Chairman.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Chairman Christie asked Ms. Griffin to provide an update on events related to Wednesday evening's storm.

Ms. Griffin stated that lightning struck Town Hall during the storm and caused tens of thousands of dollars in damage to various electronic devices in the building. The lightning strike also put the phone system down for a day at Town Hall and two days at the Howe Library, the Water Reclamation Facility, and the Parking Facility. Internet connections throughout Town buildings were lost, and they are still struggling to get everyone back online at Town Hall. Hanover sustained damage to its fire alarm systems and elevators, which were repaired the following day. During the Zoning Board hearing on Thursday evening, it was discovered that the sound system in the Board room was damaged as well. CATV came to check its system and found that the Comcast box was damaged. Other damage is still being discovered.

Ms. Griffin noted that the most difficult event related to the storm was that the primary police radio system went down, so the dispatch center had to use the backup system. The backup system worked fine, but was a stressful evening for the three dispatchers on duty. The most comical part was that there were several people out afterward because Dartmouth's dining hall closed due to the power loss. There were also several restaurants out of power, but those that did have power were very busy.

Chairman Christie thanked those involved in the aftermath of the storm for their hard work and efforts.

2. RECOMMENDATION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, JUNE 15TH TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR FY 2015-2016.

Ms. Griffin stated that she would be distributing the proposed rate and fee schedule to the Board toward the end of the week. Most of the increases have been briefly discussed with the Board as part of the budget process, but this is an annual occurrence to update Town rates and fees. It reflects any recommended increases in water and sewer rates, changes in general fund related fees, as well as fee increases that are mandated by the State. Ms. Griffin noted that there are a few increases related to water and wastewater fees, but for the most part, the rates and fees are fairly straightforward. Betsy McClain usually includes a cover memo with the schedule summarizing the changes.

Selectman Carter MOVED to Set Public Hearing for Monday, June 15th to Review and Consider the Proposed Rate and Fee Schedule for FY 2015-2016. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, JUNE 15TH TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR FY 2015-2016.

3. RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE HEALTH TRUST APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT.

Ms. Griffin stated that this is an administrative function required by Health Trust to authorize her to sign related documents for coverage beginning this July.

Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Adopt Resolution Authorizing Town Manager to Execute Health Trust Application and Membership Agreement. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE HEALTH TRUST APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HANOVER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE FOR 2015.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan update is a painful process which they must go through every five years, but it is required in order to apply for FEMA hazard mitigation funds. She stated that our Regional planning commission does a large share of work, but we must go through several meetings in order to complete the update.

Chairman Christie asked Ms. Griffin to confirm that the plan given to the Board is the proposed update. Ms. Griffin confirmed. She stated that the initial plan was adopted ten years ago, and this is the second update since then.

Chairman Christie stated that the Board saw something recently about the update already being accepted. Ms. Griffin replied that the update has been accepted by FEMA after several revisions. The final part is for the Board to formally adopt the update by resolution. On that basis, the Town can apply for future funding rounds of Hazard Mitigation funds administered by FEMA.

Selectman Carter MOVED to Adopt a Resolution Adopting the Hanover Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for 2015. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HANOVER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE FOR 2015.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Treasurer Patricia Coutermarsh was present to answer any questions from the Board about the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Coutermarsh stated that she included as much as she could in the report.

Chairman Christie asked for some highlights from the report.

Ms. Coutermarsh stated that Mascoma Savings Bank was no longer doing the Sweep Collateralization program and were switching to what is called Insured Cash Sweep (ICS), which is very similar to CDARS (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Services). This ICS program offers 0.10% interest vs. 0.05% for the Sweep Collateralization. Ms. Coutermarsh noted that one advantage of the ICS is that money is now being divided into increments of a little less than \$250,000, and those amounts are insured by FDIC.

Ms. Coutermarsh also stated that she has been investing primarily in CDARS through Mascoma Savings Bank.

Chairman Christie asked Ms. Coutermarsh how much the Town has in investments at any given time. Ms. Coutermarsh said this amount is around \$6.5 million, but it can vary depending on the time of year. There are times when the Town has up to \$12 million or as low as \$2 million or less invested. During tax time, it is more.

Chairman Christie asked whether the money is invested as prescribed by State law. Ms. Coutermarsh confirmed.

Chairman Christie also asked whether there had been any changes in the investment policy. Ms. Coutermarsh replied that there have been no changes.

Ms. Coutermarsh stated that, other than the change from the Sweep Collateralization Program to the ICS, there weren't any changes of note. Things have been relatively steady, and she has been

comfortable with where the Town stands, so hasn't taken any risks. She welcomed feedback from the Board on other avenues for investment. She added that the Town's auditors recommended using the CDARS program a few years ago.

Ms. Griffin stated that the school district is looking at a \$600,000 over expenditure due to the lack of State building aid that had been promised toward payment on the principal and interest on the Ray School bond. This could cause a cash flow problem for the Town, as we are the "banker" for the school district's funds. The school district relies on us because we collect the taxes on behalf of them. It would be difficult for the school district to cut other expenses to make up for this.

Ms. Griffin stated that, unfortunately, the Town is not in a position to lend them the money as we don't have the authority to do so, particularly when it is unclear whether we would be repaid.

Selectman Carter asked whether the district could call a special meeting related to this issue. Ms. Griffin replied that they could, but it would be a shame to tax the taxpayers on such a large amount because the State is not following through on its promise of these funds. This is an issue across the state, but particularly for schools that have related construction projects already underway.

Selectman Geraghty asked Ms. Griffin whether she knew what the total amount being suspended in State building aid grants across New Hampshire was. He felt that knowing this amount may be helpful to the Finance Committee to see how the amount being suspended fits in with that of the rest of the state. Ms. Griffin did not have the amount readily available, but felt that it should be easy for her to find this out through a link to the NHMA newsletter that is sent to school officials.

Selectman Carter Moved to Accept the Treasurer's Report. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

6. APPOINTMENTS.
a. Zoning Board of Adjustment

Ms. Griffin stated that this is not an easy Board to find a person to participate in due to the legal nature of it. When Jeremy Eggleston approached her about filling this vacancy, she was eager to spend some time with him. ZBA members Carolyn Radisch and Arthur Gardner also spent some time with him and recommended appointing him to fill the vacancy.

Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Appoint Jeremy Eggleston as an Alternate on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO APPOINT JEREMY EGGLESTON AS AN ALTERNATE ON THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

- 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. MAY 12, 2015**
 - b. MAY 18, 2015**

Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Approve the Minutes of May 12, 2015. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2015.

Approval of the May 18, 2015 minutes will be placed on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen meeting on June 15, 2015.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin reported that the Senate and House are busy this week deciding on what to do about their budget disagreement. This week, the Senate will vote on the budget that has been recommended by the Senate Finance Committee. They will then determine whether or not they need a Committee of Conference. Ms. Griffin stated that she continues to watch this carefully and has been in communication with our representatives and State senators because there is a large amount at stake in the budget, particularly if the House version of the budget prevails. Hanover has a number of social service agency partners in the Upper Valley that we work closely with to provide services to residents. Residents are worried about these services, particularly those provided by Grafton County Senior Citizens Council and Meals on Wheels.

Ms. Griffin also reported that the Police Department's new Captain, Eric Zaber, was sworn in today and started last Tuesday. Captain Zaber was able to see Hanover in action during Wednesday evening's storm and ended up working a very long day and night. Officer Rick Paulsen is retiring from the Hanover Police Department after almost 24 years and will be begin working at Hypertherm. A farewell party will be planned for later in the month for Officer Paulsen.

Ms. Griffin stated that Executive Assistant Betsy Smith is currently on vacation through the end of this week. Next week, Ms. Griffin will be on vacation but will be available by cell phone.

9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Selectman Bill Geraghty

Selectman Geraghty had nothing to report.

Selectman Nancy Carter

Selectman Carter reported that this Thursday, June 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., the Howe Library Board will be presenting Breakfast with the Board. All residents and Howe Library card holders are welcome. Attendees should report to the lower level door of the Library, as the event begins before the Library opens. Pastries, fruit and coffee will be served.

Chairman Peter Christie

Chairman Christie had nothing to report.

10. OTHER BUSINESS.

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

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

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session at 8:45 p.m. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Whitcomb, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Adriane Coutermarsh.

SUMMARY

1. **Selectman Carter MOVED to Set Public Hearing for Monday, June 15th to Review and Consider the Proposed Rate and Fee Schedule for FY 2015-2016. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, JUNE 15TH TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR FY 2015-2016.

2. **Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Adopt Resolution Authorizing Town Manager to Execute Health Trust Application and Membership Agreement. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE HEALTH TRUST APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT.

3. **Selectman Carter MOVED to Adopt a Resolution Adopting the Hanover Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for 2015. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HANOVER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE FOR 2015.

4. **Selectman Carter Moved to Accept the Treasurer's Report. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

5. **Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Appoint Jeremy Eggleston as an Alternate on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO APPOINT JEREMY EGGLESTON AS AN ALTERNATE ON THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

6. **Selectman Geraghty MOVED to Approve the Minutes of May 12, 2015. Selectman Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2015.

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

8. **Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session at 8:45 p.m. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION.

9. **Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Selectman Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.