

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

JANUARY 27, 2003

7:30 PM – MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – HANOVER, NH

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 pm by the Chairman, Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice-Chairman; William "Bill" Baschnagel; Peter Christie; Judson "Jay" Pierson; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; and members of the public.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER MODIFYING THE TOWN CHARTER, PARKING DISTRICT REGULATIONS AND THE HANOVER ZONING ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SALE OF PARKING CREDITS

Selectman Walsh opened the public hearing.

Dave Cioffi, of Downtown Visioning Parking Credits Subcommittee, gave a presentation on the Subcommittee's January 22, 2003 report. Mr. Cioffi said people in the business district had labored over the last 30 years to try to satisfy the parking demand in Hanover. The Subcommittee was working to continue and expand this effort to satisfy future parking demands Hanover will face. He said currently property owners who wished to expand had limited options available with respect to providing parking. Historically, parking was provided on-site, but there was not a lot of space available to continue this practice. A permanent conversion of off-site spaces for Parking Credits would help this situation. Parking Credits would eliminate grandfathered spaces and the use of leased off-site parking. The goal would be for the Town and each property owner to agree to a zoning requirement for parking for each property. This requirement would be met by physical on-site spaces plus the awarding of Parking Credits if needed.

Mr. Cioffi said currently, the general consensus was that the parking demand was in balance with the parking supply. The success of the new 289 space parking facility and use of the Thompson Lot showed that the Town had some merit in planning ahead. As such, the Subcommittee felt it would be desirable for the Town to continue to play a strong role in managing the development of the Downtown District to ensure the parking needs were always met.

Mr. Cioffi said the Subcommittee was recommending that the Selectmen establish the authority to sell Parking Credits for zoning compliance. This would require modifications to Section 17a of the Town Charter, Section 401.2 of the Zoning Ordinance, and Town Ordinance #23 (Parking District Ordinance). The Charter change

would involve the Selectmen giving the Parking & Transportation Board (PTB) the authority to establish a program whereby Parking Credits could be sold to satisfy the parking requirements. This program would not be immediately implemented but would just be established. The Zoning Ordinance change would involve adding language to allow the Town to sell the Parking Credits.

Mr. Cioffi explained the Subcommittee's rationale for the Town sale of Parking Credits:

- It would provide a means to fund Town sponsored parking solutions without impacting property owners around Hanover.
- It would facilitate community planning for publicly accessible solutions including parking facilities, shuttle bus services to peripheral lots, and alternative TDM measures.
- It would provide property owners some flexibility in providing parking rather than turning valuable space into parking spaces in order to meet the zoning requirements.

Selectman Walsh asked Mr. Cioffi to introduce the Subcommittee members. Mr. Cioffi introduced Matt Marshall, Jay Campion, Bill Baschnagel, Bill Barr, and Jim Rubens who were in attendance. He said Paul Olsen was also involved. The Downtown Visioning Committee was represented by Charlie Faulkner, Jim Hornig, Bill Fissinger, Michael Woodard, Joanna Jackson, and Winnie Stearns.

Selectman Walsh read from an email he received from Eleanor Shannon, of 6 Rope Ferry Road, in opposition to the proposed changes to the Town Charter and Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Shannon asked that the Selectboard not put them on the Warrant for Town Meeting. She believed the sale of Parking Credits by the Selectboard represented "*a centralization of power and responsibility*" that was not healthy for Hanover. She expressed concern that the Visioning Committee was "*heavily weighted*" with representatives from the College and said, "*The citizens/voters should be more involved not less involved at every turn in deciding how the Town will look in the future.*"

Selectman Walsh also read a letter he received from Winnie Stearns, of 5 Dorrance Place, regarding a Subcommittee meeting she attended on January 2, 2003. Ms. Stearns said she saw the proposed changes as, "*a runaway train plan to girdle the Downtown Business District with parking lots...providing for hundreds more cars downtown every day.*" She mentioned the current economic climate and questioned if downtown expansion was needed or wanted. She argued that the needs of the downtown residents, who represented 70% of Hanover's population, were different from those of the downtown business owners. Ms. Stearns expressed concern that the public was not aware that they were welcome to attend the Visioning Committee meetings. She said, "*The consequences of providing for hundreds more cars downtown each day should be mulled over by everyone.*"

Selectman Walsh opened the floor for public comments, questions and/or concerns.

Winnie Stearns reiterated the points of her letter in opposition to the proposed Charter change. Her main concerns were with bypassing the voters, giving the Selectboard carte blanche authority, and of the impacts of increased traffic and development in the downtown. She said it was obvious in May 2002 that the downtown residents were not interested in development in downtown. She said the existing parking situation was occupied 62% and asked that the Selectmen not put this on the warrant until such a time that the need is demonstrated. Ms. Stearns further suggested that if every employer in town made their employees ride the shuttle into Town that would relieve the parking situation enormously. Bill Barr, of Etna, Dartmouth College and the PTB, said of demand, the 62% occupancy reported was based upon meter revenue. He believed the occupancy rate was closer to 80% to 90%; there was a real need for parking. He said the PTB needs to find the best way to measure demand and then use that formula as an answer to the supply issue. He said the provision for putting more parking out in the periphery was important. This would get the long term parkers out of town and open up space for shoppers and diners.

Jay Campion, Hanover resident, business person and member of Subcommittee, said the Subcommittee was trying to develop diversity in the downtown offerings and answer parking demands for residents and shoppers. He spoke of a Town trend to tap into the Parking District surplus funding to pay for projects not associated with parking. He said one aspect of the proposal would be to formalize a mechanism whereby when a parking demand is created there would be funds available to provide parking for that use.

Jim Rubens, an Etna resident and member of the Subcommittee, said his endorsement of this proposal was not in his self interest; it was in the general interest of the downtown. He said voting results from Town Meeting 2002 approved only a piece of this Parking Credit issue. As such it took away a landowner's ability to lease off-site parking spaces in order to meet Zoning compliance. This means that the only landowners who could expand in the downtown are those that have enough land to provide parking to support the expansion. Mr. Rubens argued this proposal would give the Town a rational way to control the location of parking. He agreed with Ms. Stearns that the downtown was not experiencing boom times. Businesses and buildings needed a degree of flexibility to accommodate changing taste and demands of customers.

Mr. Rubens outlined the process of Town approval for construction of a new parking structure which required two votes of approval from the Town's citizens. He said the Subcommittee's estimate of maximum demand for Parking Credits was in the neighborhood of 100 credits in a 5 to 10 year period. He believed that the concept of allowing the Selectmen to fulfill the Town's need for parking was in concert with how the Town provided water, sewer, emergency services, road maintenance and expansion. Heidi Eldred, of 37 Rope Ferry Road, disagreed that parking was similar to other public services provided by the Town. She thought the general idea of Parking Credits was to allow requisite parking for downtown to be built outside of downtown. She encouraged the Selectmen to not put this on the warrant. She said Hanover has a certain look, tone, feel, and spirit that are in jeopardy of being destroyed. Mr. Rubens said the existing

zoning law reflected the extremely intense public opinion that parking for the downtown should be provided in the downtown. The Downtown Visioning Committee and the Parking Credit Subcommittee felt that intensity was a continuing consensus and that downtown parking should be provided within easy walking distance of where development takes place. It would be a very significant shift to support downtown parking outside of the downtown. Selectman Connolly agreed. She said one thing that was continuous was the conversion of residential property to parking for the Downtown District. The adjacent residential district does not permit parking for any district other than itself. Ms. Connolly said at the moment there was a great need for housing. Hanover was expected to build out to 6,500 more people with homes on the current sewer line. We need all of the residential land we can lay our hands on to accommodate these residents.

Dave Cioffi said there was no requirement that the money made from selling parking credits had to be used to build a parking garage. It could be used to satisfy the parking demand in other ways including improving shuttle bus services.

Steve Crory, of 40 Rip Road, said the downtown was stymied by the people pumping the meters and poor parking management. He hoped the Selectmen could delay this for 14 to 16 months. He said with all of the land transfers in the works and plans for remodeling downtown there were bound to be tradeoffs between Dartmouth, Hanover and other people relative to parking salvation or downtown business stimulation. He believed the Thompson Arena situation was not working and further suggested that it would be easy for many people and/or investors to pay \$20,000 for a parking credit.

Jay Champion said the Downtown Visioning Committee's three years of work and the Subcommittee's most recent year and a half to two years of work have really been an effort to take a grand look at what the problems have been, where we are now, and how to put into place those mechanisms going forward that make sense. The proposal before the Selectmen is the fruit of those efforts.

Selectman Walsh asked to have this issue re-addressed at the Selectmen's February 10, 2003 meeting. He closed the public hearing.

3. REVIEW OF A PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

Town Manager Griffin advised that Pete Kulbacki, Public Works Department Director, developed the rough draft of this policy that she and Police Chief Nick Giaccone then reviewed. She said the policy came about in response to discussions the Selectboard had had with residents of Hovey Lane and Buell Street over the last two years with respect to reducing the flow of traffic in speed and volume on those streets. Ms. Griffin said the policy on the table was a draft version designed to begin discussions. The final version would become the basis the Town follow when responding to individual requests for traffic calming.

Pete Kulbacki said his draft was made from a conglomeration of policies from many different towns and cities throughout the US and Canada. He provided 23 different options of potential calming methods to address speed or volume. He said one thing missing from the draft was criteria that could be used to determine whether traffic calming should be done or not. The issue was very site specific. He suggested the proposed in-town traffic study might help with this piece. Neighborhood support for whatever method chosen would be very important.

Selectman Walsh asked if the proposals for Traffic Safety Education and Vehicular Law Enforcement were to be done within the current authorized staffing levels. Town Manager Griffin said yes. Chief Giaccone said the police department struggled to achieve full staff but his goal over the last few years had been to dedicate one officer to full-time traffic enforcement. In October of 2002, Officer Al Patterson was given this assignment and experienced immediate results. In the first 30 days Officer Patterson conducted 187 motor vehicle stops. The Chief reported that after three months, Officer Patterson himself has witnessed a slow down in traffic and a reduction in stops and tickets issued.

Selectman Baschnagel asked of the possibility of the police department purchasing the radar photo machines in lieu of having a live officer on the street. Chief Giaccone said that had not been considered. He did not think the public was ready for that type of intrusive, evasive enforcement. Town Manager Griffin said it was a public relations issue as much as it was a traffic enforcement and speed control issue. She said staff wrestled with finding a balance between excessive enforcement and insufficient enforcement. Selectman Walsh believed that the Department was close to reaching that balance. Selectman Baschnagel said Hanover had 100 miles of road to cover and at any given time there were only two or three officers patrolling them. The fact of the matter was that Hanover was a commuter corridor. Chief Giaccone said the Department was looking into purchasing portable radar machines that would display speeds as vehicles passed by them.

Bill Boyle, School Physician, Town Health Officer and Buell Street resident, spoke of a letter he submitted to the Selectboard the previous summer that pointed out discrepancies in enforcement from neighborhood to neighborhood. He said the Town needs to come up with a consistent policy so that all of its neighborhoods are treated equally on these issues. He said people in his neighborhood that live in close proximity to the school were forced to drive their children to school because it is unsafe for them to walk there. This behavior adds to the traffic problem in the area and to the increasing incidents of child obesity. Selectman Walsh pointed out that the proposed policy had a section that spoke to priorities and the top priority listed was, "*School walking routes and heavy pedestrian streets.*"

Kari Assmus of Etna asked that the community is given the opportunity to play a roll in this issue. She said a lot of communities had come up with creative ways to educate. She suggested areas with senior housing should be given high priority as well. She asked if it

was possible to increase fines assessed for speeding violations. Chief Giaccone explained that the legislature made it quite clear that the State was in the business of controlling the movement on the roadways, whether they were state roads or local community roads. Case law further declares that communities have no right to create ordinances that state otherwise. This State control involves setting the speed fine rates. Town Manager Griffin added that the State was the recipient of the fine money collected as well. This was the subject of almost annual legislation.

Selectman Connolly asked if sidewalks were given consideration as a remediation for certain streets, as they would narrow the road and would provide safe pedestrian passage. Mr. Kulbacki said that could be added as a number 24. He reiterated that the list proposed was not all inclusive. Dr. Boyle again stated that certain neighborhoods in town had sidewalks and others did not. He said relative to the previous discussion and the notion of having employees park outside of town and shoppers park in town, perhaps that was backwards. He suggested if the shoppers were shuttled into town it might be less disruptive. Selectman Baschnagel thought part of the challenge was the commuter through-traffic.

Steve Crory, spoke in support of the traffic patrol officer. He said the more police presence and better maintenance of the crosswalks the better off the town would be. He said development in Hanover, including the expansion of the Dartmouth Day Care and the relocation of MHMH to Lebanon, have changed traffic drastically. He agreed with Selectman Baschnagel that commuter traffic was an issue in Hanover as it provided an attractive alternative to Lebanon's poor traffic planning on Route 120. He said traffic calming needed to become a regional issue and questioned what role the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission played in this issue.

Dick Lewin, of 3 Hovey Lane, spoke in support of Mr. Kulbacki's draft policy. He said it was time for another regional traffic study. The last one was done in 1988, prior to the hospital relocation. He said development out of town was impacting Hanover traffic as well. Selectman Baschnagel advised that he would be attending a meeting the following day of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Council where they would review their draft Regional Transportation Plan. He said he would present Mr. Lewin's and Mr. Crory's comments to the Council. Mr. Lewin was sure a connector was needed from DHMC westward and that the Council was probably the way to get it. He agreed with Dr. Boyle's issues with regard to each neighborhood being treated equally. He further suggested creating a third subcommittee from the PTB to address circulation and signage issues.

Winnie Stearns suggested relieving the residential areas of the burden of a double yellow stripe. She said Currier's double yellow was an invitation for strangers to use the street as an alternative to the busy Main Street traffic. Ms. Stearns also spoke of the "No Through Trucks" sign located on North Balch Street and suggested locating an identical sign on Hovey/Buell might help that situation.

Selectman Baschnagel encouraged staff to seek community involvement in this policy development. Selectman Walsh asked staff to amend the draft policy, incorporating comments made, for further review on February 10, 2003. Selectman Baschnagel asked that the re-write include candidates as to where different specific traffic calming measures could be implemented throughout town.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE IN-TOWN TRAFFIC STUDY

Selectman Walsh advised of a well outlined proposal the Selectmen received from Jonathan Edwards, Planning & Zoning Director. Mr. Walsh said his immediate reaction was that this was something that should be done in consultation with the School District, hospital and College. Town Manager Griffin said her initial response was that a lot of traffic data had been collected over the last few years between the School District, hospital and Town. She could not believe the Town would have to spend \$30,000 to do it all over again. She advised of Mr. Edwards' efforts to make this a joint venture and of the responses he received. Ken Greenbaum agreed to provide the \$44,000 worth of traffic data the School has collected. Rick Nothnagel agreed to allow the Town to use the information DHMC has collected and he also believes that the hospital would be willing to contribute some money toward this effort. The College has also agreed to contribute and there is a possibility that the Hanover Improvement Society Board might donate \$5,000. Ms. Griffin said the Town had \$5,000 budgeted in the current budget to cover the annual traffic counts. This funding could be redirected toward this effort. Resource Systems Group has said that with all of the information they have gathered, they could run on the CORSYM program, for about \$5,000, existing conditions as a base and a 10 year base including the effects of all building projects we know of or can surmise. On both these bases any number of scenarios could be run for \$1,200 to \$1,500 a piece. Jonathan Edwards suggested that the entire study could be done for \$15,000.

Selectman Walsh believed it was the sense of the Board to do this and move forward. Selectman Baschnagel was not as optimistic that \$15,000 would cover the cost of this work. He said all of the studies done to date have been intersection focused, not traffic focused. Mr. Baschnagel said he would prefer not to divert the funds targeted for the annual traffic counts and suggested tapping the Parking Fund Balance to cover this. Selectman Connolly agreed, the annual traffic count funding should be continued.

Kari Assmus asked if the scope of the study could be increased to include Hanover Center and Etna Road. She read from the Master Plan's Transportation Chapter, "*Threatened by increase traffic volume and traffic speed downtown Etna has become a dangerous thoroughfare.*" Selectman Connolly said a couple of those intersections were added to the Regional Planning Commission counts a few years ago. Selectman Baschnagel said as the proposal was written it covered the area inside of Oak Hill/Velvet Rocks. He said he shared Ms. Assmus' concerns for the commuter traffic in Etna but the initial thought behind this proposal was focused on the neighborhood cut-through issues. Ms. Assmus suggested this would be another instance where one neighborhood would be

given more consideration over another; as much as this is needed in town, it is needed elsewhere as well.

Sue Young, of 11 Rip Road, asked if any of these studies incorporated pedestrian/bicycle traffic. She said the amount of foot traffic on Rip Road had increased dramatically in the 11 years she has lived there and could continue to do so due to the middle school relocation. Selectman Baschnagel believed that those issues could be tied into this study. He advised of discussions the Planning Board had with the School District relative to site plan review. He said the Planning Board urged the School District to address the impact of pedestrian and student traffic. Mr. Baschnagel said the Conservation Commission was also discussing developing the right-of-way the Town has along the sewer line, or Girl Brook, with a view towards making that more accessible as an alternative to Rip Road.

Selectman Walsh asked if Selectmen Baschnagel and Connolly would be willing to work as the Selectboard representatives, along with two appointed Planning Board members and staff to develop the scope of services for this study. Mr. Edwards suggested broadening that group. Selectmen Baschnagel and Connolly agreed to the assignment. Ms. Griffin said if there was a way to fund this project without having to add it to next year's budget that would be helpful.

Mr. Edwards said the CORSYM model was being developed under the auspices of the UVLSRPC to be used on a regional basis. The issues that happen outside this narrow study area will be augmented including the parts of Etna, Norwich, and Lebanon that border Hanover through that regional model. He hoped the Selectmen would encourage the representatives of the UVLSRPC to get that regional model perfected, celebrated, and ready to use.

Selectman Walsh said he would like to see Hanover do a very good job of this. He would prefer not to get the two studies entangled with each other. He suggested doing the in-town study really well and letting the regional work continue to happen. Selectman Baschnagel said he had absolute confidence the Town could move faster than the Regional Planning process could.

5. CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Town Manager Griffin provided a list of issues the Selectmen would have to tackle with respect to wastewater. This included: an Administrative Order from DES, a Capital Improvement Program for the plant, finalizing funding for the improvements, adopting a Sewer Ordinance, adopting an Industrial Pretreatment Program, and renegotiating an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the City of Lebanon. Ms. Griffin said staff and DES were discussing the status of the Administrative Order. She said the Town was on record with DES as stating that they were not convinced that upgrading the UV System was the end all solution.

The WWTP Fund budget review in March would include figures associated with the UV System upgrade and a series of other improvements to a tune of \$3.3 million. This funding would come from three sources: undesignated fund balance in the WWTP Fund, Capital Reserve, and low interest loans. Ms. Griffin sensed the Town Meeting Warrant would have three separate Articles to address each of these different fund sources. Selectman Walsh said it would be important for the Selectmen to be affirmative at Town Meeting about the results the \$3.3 million would bring.

Ms. Griffin said the issue of additional flows would also have to be addressed in the near term. DES had informally approved of the Town accepting additional flows but warned that if violations continued the Town would be fined. Ms. Griffin said staff would meet with DES on Monday to further discuss this issue. She hoped the matter would be resolved over the next few weeks. Rick Nothnagel, Vice President of Facilities Management at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, echoed the importance of the Town's ability to accept additional flow. He said the hospital was faced with the prospect of having \$200 million in construction and no agreement for anyone to take the sewage. He spoke in support of continuing to have Hanover treat the hospital's wastewater. Selectman Walsh said the Town was backing that notion but did not want to be in the position where the Town could be liable for a set of fines.

Selectman Pierson asked when the Town could make a commitment to DHMC on accepting their wastewater. Ms. Griffin said that could be done as soon as DES formally approved of Hanover accepting additional flows. Selectman Walsh cautioned that many things could go wrong in this situation including not having success at Town Meeting or not being able to receive SRS funding. Ms. Griffin thought the appropriations from undesignated fund balance and Capital Reserve would be relatively straightforward. This would fund the UV upgrade and then some. Pete Kulbacki added that staff would also be looking at less expensive steps that would get the plant over the hump as a fall back option. Selectman Pierson asked Mr. Nothnagel what would happen if the Town could not accept the hospital's wastewater. Mr. Nothnagel said the hospital would have to construct sewer lines to connect to the Lebanon Plant. Cost estimates for that work ranged from \$4 million to \$6 million. He reiterated the hospital's desire to establish a long term relationship with Hanover on this issue.

Ms. Griffin said the proposed Capital Improvement Program and draft Sewer Ordinance and Industrial Pretreatment Program would be presented to the Selectmen in the spring. Longer term, staff will work to renegotiate an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the City of Lebanon and to develop an outline for a consulting project that would involve a rate study of the wastewater rates. Selectman Connolly asked if staff was seriously working to discontinue the UV Disinfection in its entirety. Town Manager Griffin said pilot work would be done between March and September to look at alternatives to UV. She hoped by mid-summer to be able to provide cost comparisons to the Selectmen.

Selectman Pierson asked of Norwich's request for Hanover to accept their wastewater. Ms. Griffin said Norwich had not pursued that option but suggested that the Town might

want to think about reserving capacity to possibly serve Norwich in the future. Selectman Baschnagel asked how capacity decisions relative to Lebanon could be made within the next six months before these improvements were done. Ed Rushbrook, the consulting engineer, said that would be addressed concurrently with the pilot work taking into account future projections, build out and so forth.

Town Manager Griffin said she would provide the Selectmen updates on this issue at each of their upcoming meetings.

6. APPOINTMENTS: PLANNING BOARD, AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION

Selectman Connolly MOVED to appoint Bill Dietrich as a full member of the Planning Board to fill Nancy Tierney's unexpired term. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT BILL DIETRICH AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD TO FILL NANCY TIERNEY'S UNEXPIRED TERM.

Town Manager Griffin advised Mr. Dietrich's term would expire August 2004.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to appoint Bill Fissinger and Larry Kelly to full three year terms. Jay Pierson SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT BILL FISSINGER AND LARRY KELLY TO FULL THREE YEAR TERMS.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 6, 2003

Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the minutes of January 6, 2003 as submitted. Selectman Pierson SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2003 AS SUBMITTED.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Town Manager Griffin advised of her efforts to cut \$600,000 out of the proposed budget due to the impact of the retirement contribution and health insurance rate increase. The targeted 2.5% tax rate increase was reached. The General Fund was completed. Ms. Griffin reviewed the proposed budget hearing schedule with the Selectmen. It was as follows: February 24th, February 26th, March 3rd, March 5th and March 17th, if needed. She said the March 5th hearing would be advertised as the final budget public hearing but could be continued to the 17th if needed. All meetings would begin at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Griffin said she would forward information to the Selectmen on NHMA's efforts (Seeking Common Ground) to seek a viable educational funding proposal. NHMA was

planning an all day session on February 15, 2003 where the various proposals would be presented.

9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Peter Christie

Mr. Christie reported on a presentation the Chamber of Commerce was given by the Upper Valley Coalition where Hanover's Affordable Housing Commission was given favorable reviews and mentions. The Finance Committee wrapped up its work relative to the school budgets reviews and voted to support both budgets. Dresden would be looking at a cost increase of approximately 2% with a 2.5% tax rate increase. The Ray School would see a cost increase of 6.5% and a tax rate impact of about 7.3%. The Finance Committee has requested that the School Board quantify a premium, on a per student basis, and then to try to reduce that premium by one-third over a three year period.

Katherine Connolly

Ms. Connolly asked that the Town advertise for alternate members to the Planning and Zoning Boards. She reported that the Planning Board had reviewed proposed zoning amendments, approved a new lot next to the Howe Library, approved a second floor to the Verizon building, and continued to review Master Plan chapters.

Ms. Connolly reported that at the last Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Commission meeting she learned that Hanover had been assigned to the North Country Council, a development district financed by the Federal Government, administered by the State. Ms. Connolly said this assignment reduced Hanover's eligibility considerably for EDA funds.

Bill Baschnagel

Mr. Baschnagel reported on the Conservation Commission's progress on an energy education program they were developing. The Commission reviewed Dartmouth's child care expansion project relative to wetland impacts and also put together some comments to submit to the Planning Board for the Master Plan.

Mr. Baschnagel said he completed his Selectmen's Institute Meetings and encouraged the others to attend.

Mr. Baschnagel said the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association was nearing completion of its organization process. They were hoping to be on-line by early spring.

Mr. Baschnagel said the Affordable Housing Commission would present the results of the Gile Tract Feasibility Study to the Selectmen in the near future. It appears that

development on the Gile Tract is feasible but will be expensive. The Commission is also working to keep the old Senior Center at its present location and convert it to two units of affordable housing.

Jay Pierson

Mr. Pierson reported of the Recreation Board's discussions relative to policies, procedures, fee schedules and a time capsule for the new Community Center. He said the Board was also looking at alternatives for the Richmond Middle School gym and were discussing communications for the Recreation Center. Work on the skateboard park issue continued. It might be possible to put something together that might even make money. Sue Young, of the Recreation Board, asked to recognize a group from Norwich who had done a lot of research on the skateboard issue and had shared their information with Roger Lohr.

Brian Walsh

Mr. Walsh read a card from Bob Sparks that said: *"Dear Sir, I am in receipt of a wonderful plaque and proclamation from your Board. I am happy to have them. Thank you, Bob Sparks."*

Mr. Walsh said he also had a communication from the State of New Hampshire asking if Hanover would support an ELKSHIP. The Selectmen will discuss this further at their next meeting.

Mr. Walsh asked to extend "Tips of the Hat" to three Girl Scouts who had earned gold and silver awards including Rebecca Crane (gold), Corinne Hirai (gold), and Sarah Ames (silver). An award ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, February 2, 2002. Ms. Griffin advised that she would be attending that ceremony and would extend the Selectmen's good wishes.

Mr. Walsh asked to recognize Lou Bressett, a number one citizen in Hanover, who passed away. Ms. Connolly asked to recognize Fred Crory, a major contributor to the Town, who also passed away the previous week.

10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:41 PM.

SUMMARY

1. **Selectman Connolly MOVED to appoint Bill Dietrich as a full member of the Planning Board to fill Nancy Tierney's unexpired term. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT BILL DIETRICH AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD TO FILL NANCY TIERNEY'S UNEXPIRED TERM.**
2. **Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to appoint Bill Fissinger and Larry Kelly to full three year terms. Jay Pierson SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT BILL FISSINGER AND LARRY KELLY TO FULL THREE YEAR TERMS.**
3. **Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the minutes of January 6, 2003 as submitted. Selectman Pierson SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2003 AS SUBMITTED.**
4. **Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:41 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Christie, Secretary

These minutes were transcribed by Beth Rivard.