

FINAL

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**APRIL 7, 2003**

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

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:40 pm by the Chairman, Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice-Chairman; Peter Christie; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; and members of the public.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Montgomery asked about a Warrant Article he submitted by petition earlier in the day that did not appear on the draft Warrant. Town Manager Griffin said she had been away at an all-day meeting and was unable to add the petition to the Warrant but it would be added, as was required by law.

Duncan Mackintosh asked Ms. Griffin what meeting she was speaking to. Ms. Griffin said she was in Manchester at a HealthTrust Board meeting. Mr. Mackintosh asked what that had to do with the Town of Hanover. Ms. Griffin explained that the HealthTrust was the entity that provided health insurance to almost every city and town in New Hampshire. It was governed by a Board of Directors made up of several town administrators and elected officials. Mr. Mackintosh asked how Ms. Griffin was compensated for her time. Ms. Griffin said she was reimbursed for her mileage. Mr. Mackintosh asked how many hours she was away from the Town offices. Ms. Griffin said she attended a meeting that was held from 9:30 to 3:30. Mr. Mackintosh said as a taxpayer in Hanover he paid Ms. Griffin's salary. As such he was interested in her activities and expected answers to his inquiries of those activities when asked. Ms. Griffin said she also served on the Board of the Grafton County Economic Development Council and on the Board of the New Hampshire Municipal Manager's Association (NHMA). Mr. Mackintosh asked how much time Ms. Griffin spent on these various boards. Ms. Griffin said the NHMA held monthly board meetings and luncheons on topics of interests to the municipal managers of New Hampshire. The Grafton County Economic Development Council, which represented 49 cities and towns in Grafton County, met every six weeks for two and a half hours. Mr. Mackintosh asked how many other town managers were on these boards. Ms. Griffin said she was one of five town managers on the NHMA Board. The terms rotated every few years. Ms. Griffin said for the Grafton County Economic Development Council Board she was the Town of Hanover representative. The representation was made up of numbers of communities throughout the county. That membership was also served on a rotating basis.

Mr. Mackintosh asked when the Town of Hanover made the agreement with DHMC as to the effluent Hanover receives from the hospital. Particularly he wanted to know:

- Who made the agreement?
- When it was made?

- If copies of the agreement were available?
- If the agreement had any contingency for hospital expansion?
- If the charges for the effluent were a specific amount or if they could be increased based on how much effluent was received from DHMC?
- What the Town of Hanover expected to do with DHMC and the other Lebanon properties whose sewer was treated in Hanover but were not taxed?
- What the program was for the future of the Town of Hanover?

Mr. Mackintosh said the volume of a municipal facility, such as sewer, had nothing to do with the better interest of the Town at large. He believed that the people outside of Hanover's tax base that used Hanover's facility were rendering that facility to such a point to where the Town of Hanover had to spend tremendous amounts of money to keep up with the treatment. He said the notion of "more is less" does not fit because more is going to create a situation where Hanover's septic is not going to manage.

Mr. Mackintosh recalled a statement made at the last Selectmen's meeting and published in the Valley News that the smell generated from the sewer plant could not ever be fixed. He noted that the Town was being reassessed and said unless the sewer could be fixed to the extent that he could walk out his door and not have to smell the effluent from DHMC, Hemlock Road or Wheelock Street, the value of his property and those along Lewin Road, Pleasant Street and Weatherby Road would be an issue. Mr. Mackintosh said the taxpayers in Hanover needed to know what was going on with DHMC, who was making the decisions and what type of deal was going to happen before it happens. He said the last deal did not take into consideration what was happening now. He said the major issue was that Hanover residents must not be subjected to outside forces that make Hanover's physical plant over capacity. He argued that the figures presented on the wastewater issue did not work. The more money spent and more sewer taken in did not add up. It was his belief that Hanover's system should last a long time if the waste generated in Lebanon was eliminated and yearly updates were performed. He said to come to the Hanover taxpayers asking to spend \$4.7 million for the betterment of DHMC was absolutely ridiculous.

Selectman Walsh asked to allow staff time to research these issues and respond at a later date rather than provide quick answers that might not be correct. Town Manager Griffin said she would forward copies of the Resolution between the Town of Hanover and hospital and the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town of Hanover and City of Lebanon to Mr. Mackintosh. She said the Town would continue to collect data on the wastewater issues and return to the Selectmen, in a public meeting forum, to discuss renegotiating the Inter-Municipal Agreement, restructuring the wastewater rates, reviewing growth projections and considering alternatives to the wastewater treatment including eliminating flow from Lebanon and/or setting a limit on the amount of waste Hanover will treat from Lebanon. She said based on the agreements on record, Hanover was required to give the City of Lebanon a two year notice prior to refusing their waste; DHMC must receive a five year notice. Mr. Mackintosh asked of Hanover's legal stand in terms of DHMC's expansion. Ms. Griffin said that was debatable. She said the

Town's attorney would be addressing that matter in the future. She said over the next few years both Dartmouth College and DHMC will have to provide funding to Hanover for "quick fixes" to the plant to open up the biological capacity.

Mr. Mackintosh asked if it would help Hanover, in terms of capital outlay required to rectify the current system, to give notice to Lebanon and no longer treat its wastewater in two years. Ms. Griffin said DES has said that Hanover must upgrade its UV System regardless of whether the plant accepts additional flows or not. This upgrade could cost up to \$950,000. She said of the \$4.7 million proposed in the Warrant, \$2.7 million would be used to upgrade old equipment, the remaining \$2 million would provide for modifications to the plant to open up additional biological capacity, as the plant was nearing its maximum limits. All of the modifications being recommended for plant improvements need to be done to allow the plant to operate effectively. She said the more important question that will be addressed over the next few months has to do with what additional work will be required over the long haul and if this work could be avoided if Lebanon waste was terminated. Ed Rushbrook, of Underwood Engineering estimated that approximately 15% to 20% of \$2 million pegged for capacity improvements would address Hanover's capacity needs. Mr. Mackintosh said the implication was that DHMC and the Lebanon Centerra area were increasing Hanover's costs by \$2 million. This made this a Lebanon issue. Selectman Walsh explained that Hanover's WWTP was built with \$20 million of federal funding spread out over two installations. He said the theory behind the federal funding was based on gravity and the natural flow of water; it was not based on town boundaries. He said if federal or state funding were still available that theory would still hold up. But the reduction of that funding to now only 20% has raised the question of whose capacity it is down there anyway. Mr. Walsh further explained that future capacity would not be funded by Hanover taxpayers, it would be funded by those connected to the sewer as a user fees. It was not based on property taxes but on usage. Mr. Mackintosh said Hanover taxpayers would pay for the bond. Mr. Walsh countered that the bond issue would be a general obligation of the Town but would be paid for by those people connected to the sewer by fees including those users from Lebanon.

Mr. Mackintosh said both DHMC and Centerra were situated so that they could direct their sewage to either Hanover or Lebanon. Selectman Walsh said to push the sewer up over the hill would cost Lebanon a lot of money. He said he was not prejudice in this issue. Hanover needs to figure out what the next 20 years will look like. Mr. Mackintosh asked if waste generated in Lebanon was eliminated would that allow Hanover's plant to operate and take care of Hanover residents for a longer time with less monetary investment. Ms. Griffin said that would be determined over the next few months.

## **2. PRE-TOWN MEETING PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2003 TOWN WARRANT**

Town Manager Griffin read the Warrant Article that was submitted earlier in the day by petition. *"We the undersigned voters of the Town of Hanover hereby request the*

*Selectmen to place the following article on the Town Meeting Warrant. To see if the Town will support the proposition that preemptive war whereby the United States attacks another country that has not attacked us is contrary to our best traditions and to our wishes.*" She noted that it was signed by the requisite number of registered voters and suggested listing it as Article Thirty-Eight.

Selectman Walsh said Articles One through Eleven would be voted on by paper ballot at the high school gym between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on May 13, 2003.

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

- Two Selectmen, each to serve for a term of three (3) years;*
- One Treasurer to serve for a term of one (1) year;*
- One Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years;*
- One Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of one (1) year;*
- One Trustee of Trust Funds to serve for a term of three (3) years.*

Selectman Walsh said Articles Two through Eleven were related to the Hanover Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Board submitted Articles Two through Seven. Articles Eight through Eleven were submitted by petition. He explained that the Planning Board had held two public hearings to discuss all of the proposed zoning amendment articles. Town Manager Griffin advised that the Selectboard did not have any jurisdiction over these amendments. As such, the Selectboard opted not to review these amendments individually. Selectman Connolly offered to address any questions that might be raised.

Tom Hall, of Etna, believed that the description of Article Three was not completely adequate. He suggested adding the following language for clarity, "*Amendment No. 2 would amend Section 210.1 A by **eliminating semi-circular driveways** and changing the number and types of extra driveways per lot which may be allowed by Special Exception...*" Selectman Walsh thanked Mr. Hall for his suggestion.

Duncan Mackintosh asked about the hotel situation in Article Two. Selectman Connolly explained that two years ago, the zoning amendments made a restriction in the "RR" zoning district whereby hotels were eliminated. This made the Chieftain a non-conforming use. This amendment was proposed to allow the Chieftain to exist as a hotel without allowing other large hotels in the "RR" zoning district. Mr. Mackintosh asked if this would affect bed and breakfasts. Ms. Connolly said no, hotels and bed and breakfasts were not one in the same.

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

*One member of the Advisory Board of Assessors for a term of three (3) years;*

- Three Fence Viewers, each for a term of one (1) year;*
- Two Surveyors of Wood and Timber, each for a term of one (1) year;*
- One Pine Park Commissioner for a term of three (3) years;*



*Such other Officers as the Town may judge necessary for managing its affairs.*

Kari Assmus asked if there were candidates for each of the offices. Town Manager Griffin said one surveyor of Wood and Timber was still needed.

**ARTICLE THIRTEEN:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000,000 of a total expected cost of \$4,705,000 for the purpose of preliminary design, pilot work, preparing plans and specifications, construction services, and for the construction of wastewater improvements which includes a series of equipment upgrades designed to expand the biological treatment capacity of the facility and replacement of aging equipment as identified in an engineering report prepared in December, 2002, and to authorize issuance of not more than \$3,000,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the New Hampshire Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33, and to take all action as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this vote. Borrowing such sum through the issuance of traditional bonds and notes will only be undertaken if insufficient funds are available from the State Revolving Loan Fund, which is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The balance of \$1,705,000 or such part thereof as necessary to complete said project is to be raised by applicable State, Federal or other Grant programs and from undesignated fund balance and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund Capital Reserve as proposed in Article Fourteen. A two-thirds ballot vote is required.*

Selectman Walsh said he was for this Article.

**Selectman Connolly MOVED that the Selectboard take this Article forward.**

Selectman Christie asked if the money coming from the Capital Reserve had been determined. Ms. Griffin said the amount listed was staff's recommendation. Selectman Walsh asked if the Town would be in a complicated situation if Article Thirteen passed and Article Fourteen failed. Ms. Griffin said that would limit the Town to borrowing only \$3 million. She said the Town could request bond authority for the entire \$4.7 million but that was not the intention of the Town to borrow that amount. Mr. Christie asked what would happen if Article Fourteen was denied. Ms. Griffin suggested that it would be more likely to have Article Thirteen fail because it requires a two-thirds vote. She said if the Town received an Administrative Order from DES the UV System would have to be upgraded. This could cost up to \$950,000. Article Fourteen would cover that funding. Selectman Walsh said he would be reluctant to borrow more than \$3 million. He said it would be legitimate to keep the funding proposed as was written. Ms. Griffin said ultimately the entire improvement costs would be offset by a 20% grant from DES.

Selectman Christie said the \$4.7 million would be accomplished by borrowing \$3 million, using \$1 million of "savings" and using funds provided from DHMC and Dartmouth College. The outside contributions were not noted in the text. Ms. Griffin suggested the following insertion, "*The balance of \$1,705,000 or such part thereof as necessary to complete said project is to be raised by applicable State, Federal or other Grant programs and \$XXX in contributions and fees received from Dartmouth College*

*and DHMC and from undesignated fund balance and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund Capital Reserve as proposed in Article Fourteen". The Selectmen agreed.*

Kari Assmus asked if the following could be added, "*Funding for the debt service will be coming from...*" The Selectmen agreed.

Duncan Mackintosh asked how much of the fees applied to plant maintenance or personnel versus the bond. Ms. Griffin said the WWTP budget was roughly \$1.3 million; the bond payment would be \$200,000, 20% of which would be offset by State grant funding. Mr. Mackintosh asked if the Town was locked into the current fees. Ms. Griffin said no, there was nothing in the existing agreements between Hanover and Lebanon or DHMC that specifically stated that a fee amount could not be changed. Mr. Mackintosh asked if fees had to remain constant for all of the users. Ms. Griffin said no and explained that staff would develop fee recommendations for the Selectboard to consider that would equate the fees paid to the relative costs associated with treating the wastewater. Selectman Connolly said the Town would also be adding to its Capital Reserve Fund, as it was fairly obvious that the Town had not been saving enough in the past to cover the maintenance expenses.

**Article Thirteen:**                      *Selectmen              For    3              Against    0              Absent    2*

**ARTICLE FOURTEEN:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,092,392 of a total expected cost of \$4,705,000 for the purpose of preliminary design, pilot work, preparing plans and specifications, construction services, and for the construction of wastewater improvements which includes a series of equipment upgrades designed to expand the biological treatment capacity of the facility and replacement of aging equipment, and to authorize funding of this amount by withdrawal of \$206,000 from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund undesignated fund balance (surplus) as of June 30, 2003, and \$886,392 from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund Capital Reserve. Funding available from the undesignated fund balance derives from the cumulative unexpended balance available from each annual operating budget for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund. The proposed withdrawal would still result in a remaining undesignated fund balance equal to 10% of the proposed operating budget for the Fund.*

*Selectmen              For    3              Against    0              Absent    2*

**ARTICLE FIFTEEN:** *To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Hanover, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$65,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$95,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$130,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$27,190 or, if married, a combined net income of less*

*than \$37,850; and own net assets not in excess of \$65,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. A ballot vote is required.*

Town Manager Griffin said the language for Articles Fifteen, Sixteen and Seventeen came directly from the Statute.

Tom Hall asked why town residency was not an issue. Ms. Griffin said she presumed that the State felt that it would be appropriate to extend this to all New Hampshire residents rather than qualifying it town-by-town. She said this Article would raise the qualifying limits to address the property value increases due to the revaluation. Communities were not required by State law to implement the elderly, blind or disabled exemptions. Selectman Christie asked if language could be added to note that this would be a modification to existing standards. Ms. Griffin believed a qualifying sentence could be added to the bottom of the Article. She said it would be clearly explained in the Town Report why these exemption articles were being proposed. Selectman Connolly asked to have the present amounts listed. Selectman Walsh cautioned that that might make it more confusing.

Mr. Hall asked if it would be simpler to say, "The Town of Hanover proposes to adopt the State standard for elderly exemption for the following things..." Ms. Griffin said the amounts listed could be modified but the wording of this Article had to be stated as such per the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA), the Town Attorney and the RSA. She said the only thing that could be done would be to change the qualifying real estate value levels. Selectman Walsh explained that the Town was often in this position with the DRA trying to write something that would make sense to the voters who would read it. But DRA required certain wording.

Duncan Mackintosh said it was not possible to live in Hanover for \$37,850. The Town had to treat its older residents better than this. Elderly people should not have to go without in Hanover. Kari Assmus said the RSA for Article Fifteen prescribed that the wording "shall be modified". She agreed that this was a modest exemption but said there were many seniors in Hanover who could not qualify for this due to their property values. She said to raise this higher would create an increased burden on those people. She said the Town needed to find a balance and preserve the exemption for those who have taken the exemption and now count on it. Selectman Walsh said it was legitimate to ask the Assessor to re-evaluate these figures next year. He was loathed to tinker with the numbers that have been thought through for this Town Meeting. He said he was in favor of this Article as written.

Selectman Christie suggested framing the language to explain that the Town would be increasing these limits to reflect depreciation expected. Town Manager Griffin said the Town Report would make that distinction. She further recommended that the Selectboard member that presents this Article to Town Meeting should make that part of their explanation.

**Article Fifteen:**                      *Selectmen      For   3      Against   0      Absent   2*

**ARTICLE SIXTEEN:** *Shall we adopt an exemption for the disabled? The exemption, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers shall be \$130,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$19,600 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$24,500; and own net assets not in excess of \$65,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. A ballot vote is required.*

Selectman Walsh again asked to add the explanatory sentence that this would be a modification to the existing limits.

Duncan Mackintosh asked of the existing limits. Mike Ryan, Town Assessor, said the current exemption amount was \$80,000; the income levels were around \$15,600.

**Article Sixteen:**                      *Selectmen      For   3      Against   0      Absent   2*

**ARTICLE SEVENTEEN:** *Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37 for the exemption for the blind from the assessed value of residential real estate for property tax purposes? This statute provides that every inhabitant who is legally blind shall be exempt each year, for property tax purposes, from the assessed value on a residence to the value of \$25,000. A ballot vote is required.*

Kari Assmus asked if this was already on the books. Mr. Ryan said yes. Ms. Assmus asked if there were people that took this exemption. Mr. Ryan said there were only two blind exemptions issued each year. In order to qualify the person must submit a letter from the New Hampshire Bureau of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Duncan Mackintosh asked of the difference between a disabled person and a blind person. Selectman Walsh guessed that a blind person had to be certified by State. Mr. Ryan added that the disabled status was determined by Social Security. He said he had never seen a blind person apply for the disabled exemption.

Town Manager Griffin asked if the Selectboard wanted to insert text to indicate this would be a modification. The Selectboard agreed.

**Article Seventeen:**                      *Selectmen      For   3      Against   0      Absent   2*

**ARTICLE EIGHTEEN:** *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a portion of the town property known as the Gile Tract, located off Route 120 (Map 21, Lot 2), which portion shall not exceed 25 acres, located in the northeasterly and easterly portions of said parcel, that is, all or part of a tract shown as "25 acre proposed PRD tract" on a map entitled "Gile Tract, Maximum Extent of*

*Proposed Planned Residential Development” prepared by the Office of Robert A. White, dated March 14, 2003, which is available for inspection at the Hanover Town Offices. The property is to be conveyed to either a public or private non-profit entity for the purpose of facilitating the construction and operation of housing affordable primarily to persons or households of low and moderate incomes, on such terms and conditions as determined by the Selectmen as appropriate to accomplish that goal.*

*Selectmen For 3 Against 0 Absent 2*

Selectman Walsh offered to speak to this Article at Town Meeting.

**ARTICLE NINETEEN:** *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a .30 acre parcel of land located at 15 East South Street (Map 34, Lot 61), currently owned by the Howe Library Corporation. The parcel would then be merged with the adjoining Town-owned parcel located at 13 East South Street (Map 34, Lot 62), upon which the current Howe Library resides. Once the parcels are combined, the property would be available for future expansion of the Howe Library.*

*Selectmen For 3 Against 0 Absent 2*

Selectman Connolly said this was simply a housekeeping Article. When the Howe Library acquired the adjacent property they neglected to turn the land over to the Town to make it one large lot.

Selectman Walsh offered to speak to this Article at Town meeting.

**ARTICLE TWENTY:** *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to adopt a Rental Housing Ordinance, which would establish rental housing standards and provide for the registration and inspection of rental properties in Hanover.*

Duncan Mackintosh asked if the Town already had standards for rental housing. Town Manager Griffin said no and explained that a draft Rental Housing Ordinance had been prepared. Upon favorable Town Meeting action the Selectboard would hold public hearings to formally consider the proposed ordinance. It was designed to help address the issue of low standard maintenance of some of the rental units in town.

Tom Hall asked if this would apply to all property in Hanover across the board regardless of the number of tenants. Town Manager Griffin explained that anyone who would rent a dwelling would be required to obtain a permit from the Town certifying that the rental unit had been inspected, was in compliance with the rental housing standards and was earmarked for a certain number of tenants. She read from the proposed Ordinance regarding exemptions, “A dwelling unit rented for any single consecutive period of time of less than 90 days within any six month period of time, a portion of an owner occupied dwelling unit rented to or occupied by an unrelated non-owner individual or an individual such as a roomer, home healthcare provider or caretaker.” Ms. Griffin said



Town Meeting was only being asked to give the Selectboard the authority to adopt an ordinance. If granted, the Selectboard would hold public hearings on the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Hall suggested clarifying that this would be applied informally to try to create reasonable minimal standards on rental housing, not to infringe on one's ability to do things. Selectman Walsh said DRA would not allow that, as adding an explanation to the Warrant could be considered "selling". The Warrant was supposed to stand on its own. The Town Manager's background information would address that matter.

**Article Twenty:**                      *Selectmen              For    3              Against    0              Absent    2*

**ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$97,550 for deposit in the Land and Capital Improvements Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, 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 2001-2002. 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.*

**Article Twenty-One:**                      *Selectmen              For    3              Against    0              Absent    2*

**ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$97,550 for deposit in the Conservation Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total amount collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2001-2002. 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.*

*Selectmen              For    3              Against    0              Absent    2*

**ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE:** *To see if the Town will vote to approve the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$80,000 for a fee simple purchase of, or acquisition of a conservation easement restricting development of, a parcel of land located on Piper's Lane (Map 12, Lot 7), and to fund this expenditure by authorizing the withdrawal of that sum from the Conservation Fund.*

Selectman Walsh explained that Hanover's Conservation Commission looked at land acquisition and easement opportunities to protect open space in town. This was noted as a priority in the Open Space Priorities Plan. He said the funding listed was the amount that the Conservation Commission was recommending that Town Meeting expend. Town Meeting approval was required for expenditures in excess of \$50,000 from this Fund. Town Meeting was also the legislative body that sold and/or acquired land.

**Article Twenty-Three:**            *Selectmen*            *For*    3            *Against*    0            *Absent*    2

**ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$26,200 for the construction of parking to serve the proposed baseball field to be located on Grasse Road, adjacent to the Water Company headquarters, and to authorize funding this amount by withdrawal from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund. Funding available from 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. Funding for construction of the baseball field was approved in the FY 2002-2003 budget.*

Selectman Walsh suggested adding language relative to where the funding would come from similar to that which was listed in Article Twenty-Three.

**Article Twenty-Four:**            *Selectmen*            *For*    3            *Against*    0            *Absent*    2

**ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE:** *To see if the Town will vote to ratify the Dispatch Capital Reserve Fund and its purposes, authorizing its use for the replacement of Dispatch equipment and for enhancements to the Dispatch Center, and to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for deposit into that Dispatch Capital Reserve Fund, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing withdrawal from the undesignated fund balance (surplus) as of June 30, 2003.*

Selectman Walsh explained that last year's budget included funding for equipment improvements to the 15 year old electronic equipment at the dispatch center. He recalled that \$165,000 was bonded. This Capital Reserve would help to eliminate that problem in the future.

Kari Assmus asked if this would increase the utilization amount from the Undesignated Fund Balance by \$10,000. Betsy McClain, Director of Administrative Services, said this was not budgeted as a draw from Fund Balance. It was budgeted as a deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund. She suggested the following wording, "...for enhancements to the Dispatch Center, and to raise and appropriate \$10,000 **and authorize payment into this new Dispatch Capital Reserve Fund, ...**"

**Article Twenty-Five:**            *Selectmen*            *For*    3            *Against*    0            *Absent*    2

**ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for deposit into the Parking Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes for which such fund was established, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of the \$50,000 sum from the undesignated fund balance (surplus) as of June 30, 2003. These monies are currently budgeted in the FY 2002-2003 Parking Fund budget.*

Selectman Walsh suggested the following amendment, "... withdrawal of the \$50,000 sum from the undesignated fund balance **of the Parking Fund (surplus) as of June 30, 2003...**"

Selectman Connolly acknowledged that the funding transfers proposed in Articles Twenty-Six and Twenty-Seven were designed for different purposes but asked why the two Articles could not be combined. Town Manager Griffin said DRA wanted two separate articles to indicate that the intent of the reserve funding would be used for different purposes.

**Article Twenty-Six:**                      *Selectmen            For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

**ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 for deposit into the Parking Capital Reserve Fund, and to authorize funding this item by withdrawal from the undesignated fund balance (surplus) as of June 30, 2003. Funding available from the undesignated fund balance in the Parking Fund derives from the cumulative unexpended balance available from each annual operating budget for the Parking Fund. The proposed withdrawal would still result in a remaining undesignated fund balance equal to 9.2% of the proposed operating budget for the Parking Fund, which is considered a prudent financial reserve.

*Selectmen            For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

**ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT:** *To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$91,140 for the reconstruction of North College Street from Maynard Street north to the Medical School entrance driveway and to authorize funding this item by withdrawal from the North College Street Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund.*

Selectman Walsh said these were funds that were involved in the last five budgets. Last year they were transferred into this Capital Reserve Account. This Article would take funds from that Capital Reserve and use them to pay for the reconstruction of North College Street up to the Medical Center Driveway.

**Article Twenty-Eight:**                      *Selectmen            For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

**ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$65,535 for deposit in the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the undesignated fund balance (surplus) as of June 30, 2003. This Fund was established by Town Meeting in 2000, authorizing the assessment of a \$5.00 surcharge for each motor vehicle registered in the Town of Hanover pursuant to RSA 261:153 VI. Since that time, \$65,535 in surcharge fees has been collected and should be deposited in the Fund.*

Kari Assmus asked why the funds were put into the Undesignated Fund Balance since they were always designated and whether this would reduce the Undesignated Fund Balance used. Betsy McClain explained these funds were set-aside on the balance sheet associated with the Undesignated Fund Balance, they were not actually added in to the Funds' total. They were tracked separately at DRA's insistence.

Selectman Walsh said this Article could be expected annually. Town Manager Griffin added that the funds listed were collected over two years. Last year's fund transfer was not done in error.

**Article Twenty-Nine:**            *Selectmen            For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

**ARTICLE THIRTY:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for implementation of prioritized storm drain grate replacements and pavement marking to insure safer travel by bicycles within the Town, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund.*

*Selectmen            For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

Selectman Walsh offered to speak to this Article at Town Meeting.

**ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$392,160 and authorize payment into existing capital reserve funds in the following amounts for the purposes for which such funds were established:*

<i>Police</i>	<i>\$ 42,000</i>
<i>Public Works (includes Sidewalk reserve Contribution)</i>	<i>\$122,000</i>
<i>Fire Fund</i>	<i>\$ 93,000</i>
<i>Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund</i>	<i>\$108,000</i>
<i>Ambulance Fund</i>	<i>\$ 24,500</i>
<i>Parking</i>	<i>\$ 2,660</i>

*Selectmen            For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

Selectman Connolly offered to speak to this Article at Town Meeting.

**ARTICLE THIRTY-TWO:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$123,694 for the purposes listed below and to authorize funding these items by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:*

<i>Public Works (compactor, leaf vacuum, 3 pick-up trucks, mowers)</i>	<i>\$101,858</i>
<i>Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund</i>	<i>\$ 21,836</i>

Town Manager Griffin this would be in addition to what was listed in Article Fourteen that would be appropriated out of reserves. This would replace skid steers at the WWTP.

**Article Thirty-Two:**            *Selectmen            For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

**ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE:** *To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement, approved by the Board of Selectmen on*

*April 7, 2003, between the Town of Hanover and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 3288, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits for its members:*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2003-2004	\$39,578
2004-2005	\$17,005

*And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,578 for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriations at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.*

Selectman Walsh asked to address to item six on the meeting agenda, **RECOMMENDATIONS TO RATIFY CONTRACT FOR FY2003-2005 WITH IAFF LOCAL 3288.**

Selectman Walsh explained that the Selectmen had reviewed the proposed contract negotiation between the IAFF and the Town subject to Selectboard and Town Meeting approval. He said the contract was in line with personnel policies, benefits, salaries and wage adjustments that other Town employees enjoyed. He said last year the Town ratified contracts with the Police and Public Works unions. This year they would agree to a similar contract with the Fire Department.

**Selectman Walsh MOVED to ratify the contract for FY 2003-2005 with IAFF Local 3288. Selectman Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RATIFY THE CONTRACT FOR FY 2003-2005 WITH IAFF LOCAL 3288.**

The Selectboard agreed to add this Article to the Warrant.

Kari Assmus asked of the cost of living percentage increases. Town Manager Griffin said the contract included a 2.5% increase for FY 2003-2004 and a 2.5% increase for FY 2004-2005. She said the contract also included a significant modification to the employee co-pay to the health insurance premium. There was no retroactivity in this contract; the firefighters gave up a year of cost of living adjustments. This co-payment adjustment would apply to retired firefighters as well.

Bob Strauss asked of the number of members in the Fire Department's union. Town Manager Griffin said 12.

**Article Thirty-Three:**            *Selectmen*        *For*    3        *Against*    0        *Absent*    2

**ARTICLE THIRTY-FOUR:** *To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the expenses of the Town for the 2003-2004 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.*

Town Manager Griffin said the dollar amount in this Article would be stated at Town Meeting and would be published in the Town Report.

**Article Thirty-Four:**            *Selectmen        For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

**ARTICLE THIRTY-FIVE:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,300 to support the services provided to the residents of Hanover by West Central Behavioral Health. This is the second year this article has appeared separately on the warrant.*

Selectman Walsh said he believed that the Selectmen were not required to state whether they were for or against this Article. He recalled that a representative of the social service agency would address this at Town Meeting. Town Manager Griffin agreed.

**Article Thirty-Five:**            *Selectmen        For    3    Against    0    Absent    2*

**ARTICLE THIRTY-SIX:** *To see if the Town will vote to send the following resolution to the New Hampshire General Court: Resolved, in its first two years of operation, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has helped communities throughout New Hampshire preserve their natural, cultural and historic resources and, therefore, the State of New Hampshire should maintain funding for LCHIP in its next biennial budget.*

Selectman Walsh said he was hesitant to encourage the General Court due to the State budget situation. Town Manager Griffin said the Conservation Commission was hoping to benefit from LCHIP in future. Selectman Connolly spoke in support of encouraging LCHIP to remain. Ms. Griffin said by May 13, the State budget would be pretty far along. The Selectboard agreed to leave this Article on the Warrant.

**ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN:** *(Article by Petition) To see if the Town will vote to request that our elected officials from all levels of government, and those seeking office, work with consumers, businesses and health care providers to ensure that: everyone, including the self-employed, unemployed, un- and underinsured, and small business owners has access to an affordable basic health plan similar to what federal employees receive; that everyone, including employers, consumers, and the state, local and federal government makes a responsible and fair contribution to finance the health care system; that everyone receives high quality care that is cost efficient and medically effective; and that these efforts help control the skyrocketing cost of health care.*

**ARTICLE THIRTY-EIGHT:** *(Newly submitted Article by Petition)*

The Selectboard agreed with Town Manager Griffin's suggestion to insert the newly petitioned article as Article Thirty-Eight. It will read, "*To see if the Town will support the proposition that preemptive war whereby the United States attacks another country that has not attacked us is contrary to our best traditions and to our wishes.*"

The Selectboard further agreed to support this Article.

**ARTICLE THIRTY-NINE:** *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.*

The Selectboard agreed to list this Article as Article Eighteen and address it during Town Meeting while the bond issue is voted on.

Selectman Connolly asked if it would be possible to list all ballots votes on one ballot. Town Manager Griffin said yes. Selectman Walsh asked if the bond vote could be done simultaneously with the ballot voting. He said he would prefer not to have to send people through the checklist twice. Ms. Griffin said that would be up to the Moderator. Ms. Connolly suggested calling the vote after Article 17 if they could be done altogether.

Selectman Walsh closed public hearing

**3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO ELDERLY, DISABLED AND BLIND PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**

Selectman Walsh opened public hearing.

Kari Assmus asked when this would take effect. Mike Ryan said it would take April 1, 2003 for tax bill 2003. Selectman Walsh said it would be valuable to clarify either in the Warrant or in the Town Report when this would become available.

Town Manager Griffin said a second public hearing on this issue would be held April 21, 2003 as was required by law.

There being no further comments made, Selectman Walsh closed the public hearing.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF \$4,705,000 IN BONDS AND NOTES FOR UPGRADE OF THE HANOVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Selectman Walsh opened the public hearing.

Town Manager Griffin said amount to be appropriated is \$4.705 million.

There being no further comments made, Selectman Walsh closed the public hearing.

**5. RECOMMENDATION TO SET A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO ELDERLY, DISABLED AND BLIND PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

It was the Selectboard's will to set a second public hearing for April 21, 2003 for consideration and approval of the recommended changes to Elderly, Disabled and Blind Property Tax Exemption.

**6. RECOMMENDATION TO RATIFY CONTRACT FOR FY2003-2005 WITH IAFF LOCAL 3288**

Please refer to the discussion above associated with Article Thirty-Three.

**7. APPOINTMENT: PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Selectman Connolly **MOVED** to appoint Jim Rubens to the Parking and Transportation Board. Christie **SECONDED**. **THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JIM RUBENS TO THE PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD.**

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 5TH, 17TH AND 24TH, 2003**

Selectman Christie **MOVED** to approve the minutes of March 5, 2003. Selectman Connolly **SECONDED**. **THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2003.**

Selectman Walsh **MOVED** to approve the minutes of March 17, 2003 as amended and subject to Town Manager Griffin's further insertion. Selectman Connolly **SECONDED**. **THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2003 AS AMENDED AND SUBJECT TO TOWN MANAGER GRIFFIN'S FURTHER INSERTION.**

Selectman Walsh asked Town Manager Griffin to incorporate changes to the March 24, 2003 minutes and for the Board to further review them at a later date.

**9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Town Manager Griffin reported that staff was working to finish the Town Report.

**10. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

**Peter Christie**

Mr. Christie reported that the Recycling Committee was discussing the brown/green glass recycling issue.

**Katherine Connolly**

Ms. Connolly reported on the Planning Board's efforts to hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> and final public hearing on the proposed zoning amendments. She said they voted against all of the petitioned amendments submitted. She said the Planning Board would conduct a Site Plan Review of the Howe Library expansion the following evening.

Ms. Connolly advised of a draft of the UVLSPC Master Plan that she had received.

**Brian Walsh**

Mr. Walsh reported that he would be attending a celebration in Joigny, France the following week in honor of Hanover's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in its relationship with its sister city, Joigny.

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Selectman Christie MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:40 PM.**

**SUMMARY**

- 1. Selectman Walsh MOVED to ratify the contract for FY 2003-2005 with IAFF 3288. Selectman Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RATIFY THE CONTRACT FOR FY 2003-2005 WITH IAFF 3288.**
- 2. Selectman Connolly MOVED to appoint Jim Rubens to the Parking and Transportation Board. Christie SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JIM RUBENS TO THE PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD.**
- 3. Selectman Christie MOVED to approve the minutes of March 5, 2003. Selectman Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2003.**

4. **Selectman Walsh MOVED to approve the minutes of March 17, 2003 as amended. Selectman Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, ONE ABSTAINING (PIERSON) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2003 AS AMENDED.**
  
5. **Selectman Christie MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:40 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Christie", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Christie, Secretary

These minutes were transcribed by Beth Rivard.