

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

ORIGINAL

April 5, 2004

7:30 PM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING-HANOVER, NH

Chairman, Brian Walsh, called the meeting of the Board of Selectman to order at 7:35 pm. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice-Chairman; William "Bill" Baschnagel, Selectman; Peter Christie, Selectman; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; Betsy McClain, Finance Director; Mike Ryan Director of Assessing; Vicki Smith; Planning and Zoning Senior Planner and members of the public.

1. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

2. Pre-Town Meeting Public Hearing

Ms. Griffin began by walking the Selectmen through the draft. Ms. Griffin stated that articles 1- 9 are essentially fixed this point. Filing closed for the positions listed on Article One at 5:00 on Friday, April 2nd. There are two candidates for Selectman Pierson's Selectman's seat. Selectman Pierson is not running again. The two candidates are John Currie and Allegra Lubrano. Willy Black has signed up for her second term as moderator. No one else is running for that position. Mike Ahern, Treasurer, has sought renewal of his one-year term. Caroline Tischbine has filed to serve on the Etna Library Board of Trustees. Lee Udy has agreed to serve for another six years as supervisor of the Checklist.

Ms. Griffin is now running for Town Clerk due to Sally Johnson, our Town Clerk, selling her property in Hanover last week. Until she purchases a new property in Hanover, Ms. Johnson cannot legally serve as Town Clerk. The State Statute requires the Town Clerk to reside in the community that he or she serves. This is the only position in the State that requires residency. Ms. Griffin is going to ask the Selectboard to appoint her to the position in the interim. She has consulted with the Town Attorney and he states it is legal for her to serve as Town Clerk and Town Manager. Ms. Griffin is in hopes that Sally Johnson will purchase another property within the Town so that she can resume these responsibilities. Larry Draper has signed on again to run as Trustee of Trust Funds for a 3 year term.

All of these positions are to be voted on by non-partisan ballot during the official ballot segment during the day, 7am to 7pm.

Articles Two through Nine are the Zoning Ordinance Amendments that have been subjected to their own public hearing process by the Planning Board. Article Nine is to see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by petition relative a design review process for residential sub-divisions.

This stems from the River Rd. neighborhood experience with Simpson Development.

Chairman Walsh asked Ms. Griffin about Article Seven. He asked since the Planning Board, The Selectboard, The Affordable Commission and the Conservation Committee have voted overwhelming to support this can this be stated in the warrant. Ms. Griffin says that this can be stated in the background information but cannot be placed on the warrant. Only the position of the Planning Board can be stated on the warrant.

Next is Article Ten. Ms. Griffin said that the Town Meeting Task force talked about the flow of things; it was suggested by The Task Force that a block of warrant articles. These would be defined as our more routine administrative warrant articles. Ms. Griffin said that the Task Force would like to lump these together and consider voting on them with one motion, in order to expedite dealing with the warrant articles. This is in line with the notion of making Town Meeting as "user friendly" as possible. The Town Meeting Task Force talked about the possibility of slightly modifying the order of the warrant articles.

The notion is to start with Article Eleven and Twelve being the first two. Next would be to receive the report of the Town Meeting Task Force. Chairman Walsh said that the reasoning in doing this is because people come in between 7:00 and 7:15 and might miss the introduction. Article Ten will become Article Twelve. The Town Meeting Task Force has mapped out a presentation that may last anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes; depending on how much the folks at Town Meeting want to talk about the presentation. Chairman Walsh stated that the objective is for the Town Meeting Task Force Report to take as little time as possible. Ideally 15 to 20 minutes. This give significant time for discussion; but not so long that those people coming for the business side of Town Meeting get tired of the conversation about Town Meeting. The report of the Town Meeting ends at around 8:15; it is possible to pick up the discussion later. The goal is to have the business end of the meeting, including money issues done by 9:00.

Selectman Baschnagel asked if the thrust of the Town Meeting Task Force Report would be covered in the Town Report. Ms. Griffin stated that the Task Force was just now tabulating their results from the questionnaire and would not make the printing deadline. Ms. Griffin said there would be a handout distributed. Selectman Baschnagel said that the thrust of the Town Meeting Task Force was to get out broader the people who show up. He asked how we would get this information out the people who otherwise might not show up, before Town Meeting. He asked if we would advertise it on our web page. Chairman Walsh said that because the data will not be ready, the plan is to describe what the Town Meeting Task Force is and to describe the flow of the data-gathering phase they are still in.

Chairman Walsh said that The Town Meeting Task Force will make some changes this year. As the data is gathered from the questionnaire, what they hear in Town Meeting, in the summer and fall there will be some formal recommendations made by the Task Force. The Task Force, the Selectboard or both will hold a public hearing to discuss. By the end of 2004 they would know what they would go ahead for in 2005.

Selectman Baschnagel feels it is important to get this information to as broad a group as possible. Chairman Walsh said that the important piece is that this is not about conclusions, but data gathering and understanding. Selectman Christie asked if Chairman Walsh envisions the discussion will be about those subjects. Chairman Walsh says people are welcome to voice their opinions even if it were to abolish government completely. Selectman Baschnagel asked if that type of discussion will be encouraged. Chairman Walsh said that we will open the floor for about a half hour of comments or discussion as part of the input phase. If people want to stay after we get through Article Thirty-four we can continue the discussion. Selectman Baschnagel said that if it were clearer to people ahead of time that this is an input session as opposed to a conclusion session. This should be an education awareness about the Public Hearings that will be coming up. Chairman Walsh said that his objective is not to try to manage this conversation too much. One thing that has been heard by the Town Meeting Task Force is that the Town Meeting is too controlled, the selectmen have their act together too much so nobody can ask a question or get a word in edge wise. A resident added that if you want to encourage input at this time without all the data; you need to have some explanation of what the Task Force charges and what sort of input you want from citizens. Ms. Griffin stated that she has done background information about each warrant article. She further added that she drafted the background on the Town Meeting Task Force, outlined the charge and indicated what the process has been so far. Ms. Griffin said that Town Meeting this year will be another opportunity to gain input from residents about our Town Meeting process. This will be on the yellow pages of the Town Report. Chairman Walsh said that is probably worth talking about the changes that the Task Force has recommended.

There will be childcare available from 6:45 until 9:00. We are only asking people to please get in touch with Kathy Garrity before hand so we will know how many children to expect. There will be community dinner from 5:00 to 6:30 at the Community Center sponsored by the Lion Club. There will be desserts inside of the Town Meeting sold by Youth In Action.

We are trying to consolidate some of the warrant articles that have taken a lot of time by generally don't generate a lot of conversation so the Town Meeting can choose to pass them as a whole. If people have specific questions they can certainly ask. We have gone through and discovered that we will not have to read everything twice; we may not have to read everything once. Chairman Walsh said that we are trying to move Town Meeting to a place where we can celebrate our community; but also

conduct some business. We would like to take as much of the formality out of it as we can. We are going to have everyone, as they check in, get a few paper ballots so they can vote in their seats rather than stopping the meeting and having everyone line up and go through the checklist again. Ms. Griffin added that we don't have anything on the warrant that requires a paper ballot although someone can still move to have a paper ballot. Selectman Walsh asked that because we have a bond issue do we still have to get up and go back through the checklist. Ms. Griffin said that she has spoken with the Town Attorney and he said that as long as folks check in at the checklist and are comfortable with the notion of voting from their seats and passing their ballots to the end of the row to be deposited in boxes, that this will suffice. Chairman Walsh said that the Task Force has worked well for the Town and has picked up a lot of things. Selectman Christie voice some concern about when it is time for a public hearing when some recommendations are coming forward; that those meetings will take hours and generate some meaningful discussion. He hopes that in this meeting there is some mechanism to only take up the amount of time appropriate for this meeting. He hopes we do not start an open-ended discussion. Chairman Walsh said the thought is that we make it clear we will only have discussion until 8:00 and then we will stop discussing it with the proviso that may pick it up after we get done with the business portion of the meeting.

This takes us to Articles Thirteen through Twenty-two. Ms. Griffin said that these are her personal decisions. These are the articles that are not likely to generate discussion on the floor.

Thirteen and Fourteen are to appropriate money into the Land Capitol Improvement Fund and the Land Conservation Fund from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve.

Article Fifteen is appropriating the money into the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund that we collect in the Transportation Improvement Fee Reserve (the five dollar motor vehicle surcharge).

Article Sixteen is the second year that we have appropriated some money to do some bicycle friendly work from the money collected in Municipal Transportation Improvement fund.

Article Seventeen is the money that we appropriate into our existing vehicle reserves. Article Eighteen is the appropriation of money of from 3 reserve funds for the acquisition of equipment. Ms. Griffin said the Fire Department replacement of Engine Four may need to be put on the Warrant as a non-consent calendar item. Typically, because we are funding them out of reserve, and they are not impacting the tax rate, it would be pretty straightforward.

Article Nineteen is placing money in the Bridge replacement and Capital Reserve fund. Article Twenty is establishment of the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.

Articles Twenty-one and Twenty-two may need to be pulled off and put on a separate warrant. This is an appropriation of money from Land and Capital Improvements Fund and the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund to cover a portion of our cost to do the work on Lyme Road in conjunction with the Middle School Improvements.

Chairman Walsh asked Ms. Griffin if the reason she did not include Article Twenty-three with the joint articles is because the money is being re-purposed. Ms. Griffin indicated that because this required a two-thirds vote, that this needs to have it's own vote. Chairman Walsh said that all of these issues need to be dealt with before dealing with the budget. Ms. Griffin agreed and further stated that the number adopted in the budget is a net number. Vice Chairman Connolly asked what form we do this in, usually in Town Meeting Article are assigned. Ms. Griffin stated that the Town Attorney recommended ask to make a motion to approve Articles Thirteen through Twenty-two as proposed. The other option would be to make a motion to approve the following articles; then read the articles and move them as one motion. Ms. Griffin suggested Willy Black talk to the Town Attorney and make sure she is comfortable with the notion of moving them as written. Chairman Walsh said that he thinks the motion should be made, then seconded, then ask the people if they have questions on any of these article. Selectman Baschnagel suggested putting together a slide show with a brief summary. Chairman Walsh said that the slide work poorly because the lights have to be turned down to be read. Ms. Griffin further added that last year some Seniors had trouble reading their warrants because the lights take too long to come back on completely. Selectman Baschnagel thought it might be worth going down to the gym with a modern projector. Chairman Walsh said that the nature of the changes goes against this. Selectman Baschnagel said that he hopes to avoid reading each article, that all of these can be easily summarized in one or two lines. Chairman Walsh stated that one thing that came out of the Town Meeting Task Force is that the slicker the Power Point Presentation is, the harder it is for people to ask intelligent questions.

Ed Chamberlain came forward with a question about the spending of money from reserve funds. It always says, "to raise and appropriate". The article that put money into the reserve fund also says, "to raise and appropriate". Mr. Chamberlain feels that this may cause people to believe that the Town is raising funds rather than using money from reserves. Chairman Walsh said that the Department of Revenue Administration requires them to use that particular language. Ms. Griffin agreed that it is confusing to the average citizen. Ms. Griffin further stated that she does include that in the background information.

Hope Stragnell asked if there will be background information in summary, written as well ask verbal before so people can understand why some of the warrant articles are lumped together. Chairman Walsh answered that there would be a brief explain just

prior to the vote. Chairman Walsh also stated that if someone wants to pull an article out for separate voting that is fair game too.

Kari Assmus asked about Articles Twenty-one and Twenty-two. She feels that the proposed roundabout and other changes have not been discussed as a community. She stated that there are a lot of questions from people she has talked to. She feels that some people might be hesitant to have that removed from the joint warrants articles and voted on separately. Ms. Griffin said that we could put in the background information the diagram of the proposed improvements on Lyme Rd. Chairman Walsh asked the other members of the Board how they feel about this and should these be left in or taken out of the lump calendar. Selectman Baschnagel and Vice Chairman Connolly thought they should be left in or taken out now. Selectman Christie said that we will be saving a lot of time by not reading the warrant articles twice. He thought there should be a brief statement prior to each article explaining what the article does. He feels it may be too big a jump from prior practices and not necessary because of the time already saved. Ms. Griffin said that whoever makes the motion should present a quick bullet summary of each article.

ARTICLE TEN: 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;

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

This was Article Eleven in the first draft of the Warrant

ARTICLE ELEVEN: 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.

This was Article Twelve in the first draft of the Warrant

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE TWELVE: To receive the report of the Town Meeting Task Force.

This was article 10 on the first draft of the warrant

It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagle to take to Town Meeting Articles Thirteen through Twenty as

written. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO TAKE TO TOWN MEETING ARTICLES THIRTEEN THROUGH TWENTY AS WRITTEN

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$40,775 for deposit into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, 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 2002-2003. 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.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$40,775 for deposit into 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 2002-2003. 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 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,400 for deposit into the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Transportation Improvement Fee Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. This amount is equivalent to the total Transportation Fee surcharge for each motor vehicle registered in the Town of Hanover (\$5.00 per vehicle) during fiscal year 2002-2003.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the construction of certain roadway improvements 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. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2010, whichever is sooner.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$556,292 and authorize payment into existing capital reserve funds in the following amounts for the purposes for which such funds were established:

Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$39,132
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$145,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$98,500
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$58,500
Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000
Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$2,660
Howe Library Building Repair and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$2,500
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$200,000

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$640,271 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed Capital Reserve Funds in the following Amounts:

Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>For roadside mower, roller compactor, 4 trucks, one trailer</i>	\$224,609
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>For replacement of Engine #4</i>	\$340,000
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>For general purpose vehicle, one truck, lawn mower and bagger</i>	\$75,662

This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these specified purchases are complete or June 30, 2010, whichever is sooner.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE NINETEEN: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the ongoing necessary reconstruction and improvements to the Town's bridges, and to raise and appropriate thirty four thousand dollars (\$34,000) to be placed in this fund towards this purpose.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE TWENTY: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the scheduled 2008 revaluation of the town, and to raise and appropriate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund towards this purpose, and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the construction of certain roadway improvements along Lyme Road, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for the construction of certain roadway improvements along Lyme Road, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2010, whichever is sooner.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

END OF ARTICLES PROPOSED TO BE JOINTLY VOTED ON

Chairman Walsh will move Articles Twelve and Thirteen through Twenty-two.

ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE: To see if the Town will vote to rename the North College Street Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund to the Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, and to ratify its purposes, authorizing its use for future reconstruction and improvements of Town roadways, and to raise and appropriate eighty five thousand dollars (\$85,000) to be placed in this fund towards this purpose. A two-thirds vote is required.

Selectman 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

Selectman Christie will move Article Twenty-three

ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2004-2005 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.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

Selectman ?? will move Article Twenty-four

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$200,000 for purchase of, or acquisition of conservation easements restricting development of, three parcels of land located east of Moose Mountain (Map 7, Lot 7; Map 7, Lot 2; and Map 7, Lot 3), and to fund this expenditure by authorizing the withdrawal of that sum from the Conservation Fund. 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 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

Selectman Baschnagle will move Article Twenty-five

The Conservation Commission will make a presentation after the motion is made. Vicki Smith said that the Conservation Commission will be ready with a presentation, but last year no one had any questions. Ms. Griffin said that they should present a brief synopsis with a map that shows the lot information. Ms. Smith made a suggestion about the wording of the article. The purchase is for \$145,000 but they would like to have \$200,000 available in the event that they can find a conservation buyer to work with to buy the bulk of the property. Ms. Smith indicated that some of the remainder of monies would cover transfer costs, title search and transfer tax. This would leave about \$50,000 in the event that they can find a conservation buyer that they could purchase conservation easements on about 700 acres. All this will be indicated in the background information. Chairman Walsh asked Ms. Smith if the three lot listed in the warrant are they the three pieces. Ms. Smith said that those are the three tracts that they would like to purchase with \$145,000. Ms. Griffin said that we need to add another line to clarify the difference between the \$145,000 and the \$200,000. Chairman Walsh also indicated that they should also list the other properties if they are going to do that. Ms. Griffin asked the board if they are comfortable with her working on this article, because they may not see it again after tonight. Chairman Walsh said that he is comfortable with it that is clear. He feels the only thing missing is the term "and insularly expenses". Selectman Christie asked if it is necessary to name the lots on the warrant, by listing the maps and lots make it more confusing. Ms. Griffin said that it is just a series of map and lot numbers. She thinks all the parcels should be named in the warrant article. Selectman Christie said that if the Town Attorney would let them get away without naming the lots numbers it would be a cleaner article. Ms. Griffin said she does not think he will. She said the goal is to be as clear and simple as possible. Ed Chamberlain said that initially the Conservation Commission had hoped to find a conservation buyer and buy conservation easements on all three tracts. They did have someone stepped forward but it fell through. Chairman Walsh asked Mr. Chamberlain if the proposal if to spend \$140,000 to buy property A and spend an additional and have an additional

\$50,000 to \$60,000 for acquisition expenses and to buy as much development rights as possible. Mr. Chamberlain agreed but further added that the conservation buyer they were talking to indicated that he may seek another conservation buyer. If that person should step forward before they purchased property A, and they had the opportunity to purchase conservation easements on all three properties, they would want to do that instead.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 31:120, allowing the establishment of a Downtown Business Service District for purposes of assessing a fee against businesses located in the D1, D2 and B1 zone located at the intersection of Lebanon and Park Streets. Such fee will be utilized to develop and implement a marketing program for Downtown Hanover and has been requested by the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown business community. And further, to delegate to the Board of Selectmen the authority to appoint an Advisory Board, to define the Central Business District, to select specific downtown marketing services and identify the level of those services to be provided on behalf of the district, to determine which specific department, agency or other party is to undertake the work, and to adopt those ordinances as may be necessary to implement the goals of the district; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for this purpose, which shall be funded by the assessment of fees to the businesses within the defined Central Business Service District.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

This will be moved by Selectman Pierson, if Selectman Pierson is unavailable then Selectman Christie will move this Article.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to modify the constitution of the Hanover Finance Committee, as previously approved by the 1959 Town Meeting and initially modified by the 1971 Town Meeting, particularly related to the duties of the Finance Committee.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

Selectman Christie will move this Article.

Ms. Griffin said this Constitution was initially created in 1976. There is nothing in statue that requires this to go before Town Meeting. This is being voted on at Town Meeting because it was created at Town Meeting. The League of Women Voters has requested that the table which compares the old Finance Committee Charter with the proposed new charter in the background information.

ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the optional tax credit for a military connected total disability in the Town of Hanover in the amount of \$2,000, pursuant to RSA 72:35. This article represents a recommended modification from the current tax credit of \$700 for any person with a service-connected total disability and would be effective April 1, 2004 for the 2004 tax year.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

Selectman Baschnagel will move this article in the event that it is not put on the Day Ballot.

Ms. Griffin indicated that the Town Attorney thinks that legislation may come out of this year's session that would allow this to be applicable to tax year 04. The Town Attorney said that we should end the article at the work total disability so if they law changes this can be applied

ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the optional tax credit for a surviving spouse of any person who was killed or died while on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or any of the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States in the wars, conflicts or armed conflicts, or combat zones set forth in RSA 72:28, in the amount of \$2,000, pursuant to RSA 72:29-a. This article represents a recommended modification from the current tax credit of \$700 for any surviving spouse and would be effective April 1, 2004 for the 2004 tax year.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

Selectman Baschnagel will move this article in the event that it is not put on the Day Ballot.

Ms. Griffin said the Town Attorney thinks that this article should be ended after the line "Surviving Spouse" because of the potential for this to be applied to tax year 04 should the law change. Chairman Walsh added by changing the wording we would also not have to do this annually. Kari Assmus asked if there is any possibility if Articles Twenty-eight and Twenty-nine can go on the official ballot during the day. Ms. Griffin asked Mike Ryan, Director of Assessing if there is a reason why this cannot be on the official ballot. Mr. Ryan said that there was legislation last year, which says that this does not have to be on the official ballot. Ms. Assmus asked if it could be on the official. Mr. Ryan said that it could be on a ballot during Town Meeting but he is not sure if it can be on the official ballot. Chairman Walsh asked the Board if this can be put on the Official Ballot, do they want it.

ARTICLE THIRTY: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Fire Department to continue to provide services outside the community under the established mutual aid system pursuant to RSA 154:24, particularly with respect to development of and participation in a regional hazardous materials response team. Any town may authorize their respective fire department to go to the aid of another city, town, village or fire district within or without the state, for the purpose of extinguishing a fire, rendering other emergency assistance, or performing any detail as requested.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

The Town has been providing mutual aid for many year. This comes up this year because of the Regional Hazardous Material Effort is being initiate. The State Fire Marshal says that we should adopt this so we cannot be sued should we provide mutual aid. Chairman Walsh asked if this can be put on the Consent Calendar with the other articles lump together. Ms. Griffin agreed. This Article will be renumbered.

ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE: To see if the Town will accept the provisions of RSA 202-A: 4-c providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the public library trustees to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the Town Meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year.

Selectmen 5 For 4 Against 0 Absent 1

This was suggested by Betsy McClain, Finance Director. A few years ago we adopted the companion Article which allows the Libraries to accept gifts. This Article will allow them to accept cash. Etna Library needs this Article so they can expend the cash gifts that they have received for years. Ms. Griffin said that this can also be put on the Consent Calendar. This article will be renumbered.

ARTICLE THIRTY-TWO: 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 third and final year this article has appeared separately on the warrant.

Vice Chairman Connolly will move this article.

If this request is made for a fourth year in a row it will move through the budget process.

ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for support of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance project, "Upper Valley Trails for Life," substantially underwritten by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund.

Selectman Christie will move this Article.

Ms. Griffin said that this can be wrapped into Article Twenty-one. Chairman Walsh said it should be left as it's own article and put into the Consent Calendar. Vice Chairman Connolly said that because this is unique she would like to let it stand on it's own. Selectman Christie said that he is leaning toward putting this in the Consent Calendar. He feels that is not more unique than putting funds in Lyme Rd. Kari Assmus stated that she thought that this agreement was contingent upon the Conservation Commission partnering with the Town. She thought that two year would come from the Capital Improvement Fund and two years would come from the Conservation Commission. Chairman Walsh said that it is his understanding that the first year comes from Capital Improvement and the second year from the Conservation Commission. If they do not cover the second year the fund will lapse. Chairman Walsh said that this will be left to stand alone. This will be moved to the item right before the budget for Town Meeting. Typically the Board Members do not take a position on items of this kind. Ann ? asked if there will be a list of the agencies the Town supports in the Town report. Ms. Griffin said that the Town Report has been sent to the printers, but she can include this in the background information for the Warrant. Chairman Walsh suggested that this be included in the Town Report in the future.

THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO TAKE TO TOWN MEETING ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE WHICH STATES THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$2,500 FOR SUPPORT OF THE UPPER VALLEY TRAILS ALLIANCE PROJECT, "UPPER VALLEY TRAILS FOR LIFE," SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERWRITTEN BY THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, AND TO FUND THIS APPROPRIATION BY AUTHORIZING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THIS SUM FROM THE LAND AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND.

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

Chairman Walsh closed Pre-Town Meeting Public Hearing

- 3. Public Hearing for Consideration and Approval of Proposed Modifications to the Hanover Finance Committee Constitution.**

First to speak was Hope Stragnell, representing the League of Women Voters. Ms. Stagnell asked if the Article is going to be on the Warrant as is. Chairman Walsh stated that there is usually a public hearing before something like this is put on a warrant, but the Finance Committee came to them with this proposal toward the end of the budget process. This is the first opportunity to have a public hearing on this. Ms. Stagnell asked Ms. Griffin about her comments that this is not necessary to put on the warrant. Ms. Griffin said that the Finance Committee was not created by State statute, the Town created this on their own. When the Finance Committee was first formed, and when the Constitution was last modified, it was done by Town Meeting by warrant article. Ms. Stagnell wants to make sure the voters are fully informed about the differences between the old charter and the new one. She hopes there will be an explanation as to why the change was made. The League of Women Voters feels that the Finance Committee has played a vital role in the Town. Ms. Stagnell said that anything that The League of Women Voters can do to help get this message to the voters they would be happy to do.

Barbara McElroy said that the State Statute Section 32:24 does give the municipality the ability to establish an advisory budget for a finance committee. When this was first brought before the Selectboard there was some discussion about what they are going to do as a Finance Committee, are they going to report the analysis. Her understanding was that The Finance Committee was going to go back and revise the proposal and have some statement in there. Selectman Walsh did recall the conversation. Ms. McElroy asked if that would be written report or a stated report. Selectman Walsh said it is to accompany the Town Report and the Hanover School District Report, so he believes this would be a written report. This was not stated in the first draft. Ms. McElroy asked the revised constitution would be part of the Town Report. Ms. Griffin indicated it would. Selectman Christie suggested revising the wording to say that the report will be "published" in the Town Report.

Ann Segal said that typically the community is informed about the Finance Committee's view in a written way, but also verbally. The Committee was talked about this several time and their concern is that all of the obligations the Finance Committee has to the public are defined. If this is left vague that it will not do what the Finance Committee hopes it will do.

Selectman Baschnagel said that the merits of the Finance Committee are they have done a good job of reporting this recently.

Chairman Walsh suggested strengthening up the language to include reporting to meetings including Town Meeting and The School Meeting.

Kari Assmus said that on the last point ("To be a resource to the Board of Selectmen, Town Management, School Boards and SAU on financial matters"), this is a departure from their last constitution. The last constitution also included concerned citizens. She was wondering if that last statement could also say "and the public".

She said that the Town does their budget one way and the School does theirs another. She feels this is confusing to citizens who are trying to understand. She thought maybe the Finance Committee could be the vehicle to get some consistency in these budgets. She said sometimes there are issues. Mr. Christie said that the Finance Committee is a resource to the public as well as the respective board. He feels it is not a good idea to set up the Finance Committee to have an obligation to represent a subsection of the Town and lobby on their behalf. Selectman Baschnagel agreed with Selectman Christie. He did state that The Finance Committee is a unique resource to educate the public. Selectman Baschnagel said that meeting with concerned citizens to help educate them about the budget process might be a way to focus it and stay away from some of the advocacy issues.

Selectman Walsh said that he has been involved in recruiting people for a while. He feels that we cannot recruit many people under the other charter. We want a good Finance Committee, and we ask a lot of them. He does not want to load up this charter with sets of responsibilities that will make it harder to get good people. He further stated that making the members a resource to the citizens of Hanover, he would not want to be on that Finance Committee.

Selectman Baschnagel said he could appreciate that. He is looking at it from the other unintended consequences perspective. The last thing that we want to do is change the momentum that the Finance Committee has gained in the last few years. It is important to make the language specific enough to prevent a recursion back to the quiet group that sat and listened and little came out. We need to find a way to balance that.

Athos Rassias said that you can write down anything on a piece of paper, but it is the people who will do what they want with it. For 25+ years we have had a strict constitution where the people on the committee were not able to meet those obligations because the constitution was over-written and unmanageable. This new constitution will better fit the needs of the community. Mr. Rassias also asked about the section that says, " To opine on budgets and other major financial expenditures of the Town and School at their respective meetings and public hearings". He feels this may be too restrictive and should be reworded to say "including at their respective meetings and public hearings".

Ms. Griffin said that no matter how much the constitution is tweaked, what the Finance Committee does is really going to depend on the personalities involved. It is inevitable that there has to be some flexibility in this constitution to recognize that you are dealing with human beings.

Selectman Walsh wanted to clarify the purpose of this public hearing. We are having a public hearing on the Charter for the Finance Committee, which in fact the Finance Committee should be improving. The Selectmen don't create the Finance

Committee's Constitution. What we are trying to do is put together a constitution which will then be proposed to the voters at Town Meeting.

Ann Segal said that she thinks that it is inevitable that different Finance Committees will be more aggressive or more passive than others. The Finance Committee's concern is that the overall importance of the Finance Committee and their mission is clear. How they want to do it should be up to them. She feels this present Finance Committee has been excellent, she hopes future committees would try to match that. The concern the current Finance Committee has is that with these changes; future Finance Committees may see this as a reason to be just a resource to the Town and School Board and negate their obligations to the public. She said that she speaks to many people who ask her what the Finance Committee's view is on certain subjects. People really look to them for the big picture and guidance. They would like to safeguard their position with the public. Ms. Segal said that the Constitution could be very brief, maybe five lines. She said that it could say that they will review these budgets and report orally and in written form to the public.

Kari Assmus said that she is very appreciative how difficult it is to get people to serve on boards and how time consuming it can be. She said it may help to have a set of responsibilities that say the may do, rather than must do. If there is the ability in the future to preserve the possibility in the future they found something that may be useful. If the constitution says may rather than must it leaves this open.

Chairman Walsh ended the public hearing at this point.

Chairman Walsh stated that if he had it to do over again, he would encourage the Finance Committee to hold a series of public meetings in February and March. This was not done, now it's April 5th. Selectman Walsh asked the Board if they would like to have the Finance Committee operate under their current constitution, or should this Article go to the voters.

4. Public Hearing for Consideration and Approval of Recommended Housing Fund Budget for FY 2004-2005.

It was MOVED by Selectman Christie and SECONDED Selectman Baschnagel by to table the Public Hearing for Consideration and Approval of Recommended Housing Fund Budget for FY 2004-2005. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO TABLE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED HOUSING FUND BUDGET FOR FY 2004-2005.

5. Review of Proposed Revised Lease with Howe Library Corporation.

Chairman Walsh opened the meeting with some background information. The Howe Library Corporation was acquired the parcel of land next to the parcel on which the Library now sits. They have quit claim deeded this parcel and it is now owned by the Town. This has been through the consolidation with the Planning Board and was approved Town Meeting. The Town has a lease with the Howe Corporation that allows them to put a library on the land that is owned by the Town. That lease goes forward until such time as it ceases to be a library; at which time it comes back to the Town.

Ms. Griffin referred to the current lease with the Town of Hanover, dated November 1976. What she has done is draft an addendum to the original lease. This addendum references the addition and the merger of the two plots. It also references that the Town Meeting authorized the Town to accept that second parcel for the purpose of expanding the Library.

It was MOVED by Vice Chairman and SECONDED by Selectman Christie to accept the Proposed Revised Lease with Howe Library Corporation. THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED REVISED LEASE WITH THE HOWE LIBRARY CORPORATION.

6. Recommendation to Adopt Abatements as Proposed by the Advisory Board of Assessors

Chairman Walsh started out this portion of the meeting by praising Mike Ryan for his excellent work in our recent revaluation. Out of about 2900 parcels in the Town of Hanover, only 38 parcels questioned the assessment.

Mr. Ryan stepped forward. He referred to the memo listing the abatements and pointed out that the most of the abatements are maintenance and data corrections.

7. It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagel to accept The Recommendation to Adopt Abatements as Proposed by the Advisory Board of Assessors. THE SELECTMAN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT ABATEMENTS AS PROPOSED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

8. Recommendation to Set a Public Hearing on April 26, 2004 to Consider Proposed Revised Wastewater Rates for FY 2003-04.

It was MOVED Chairman Walsh and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagle to Set a Public Hearing on April 26th to Consider Proposed Revised Wastewater Rates for 2003-04. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 26TH TO CONSIDER PROPOSED REVISED WASTE WATER RATES FOR 2003-04.

9. Recommendation to Authorize Town Manager to Negotiate and Execute Purchase and Sales Agreement for Three Parcels East of Moose Mountain Subject to Town Meeting Approval.

It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED Selectman Baschnagel by To Authorize Town Manager to Negotiate and Execute Purchase and Sales Agreement for Three Parcels East of Moose Mountain Subject to Town Meeting Approval. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT FOR THREE PARCELS EAST OF MOOSE MOUNTAIN SUBJECT TO TOWN MEETING APPROVAL

10. Appointments:

- Parks and Recreation Board

It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED by Chairman Walsh to Appoint Jill Polli to the Hanover Parks and Recreation Board. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JILL POLLI TO THE HANOVER PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD.

- Zoning Board of Adjustment

It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED Selectman Baschnagel by to appoint George Spitzer to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT GEORGE SPITZER TO THE HANOVER ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

11. Approval of Minutes:

-March 31

It MOVED by Chairman Walsh and SECONDED by Selectman Christie to defer the minutes of March 31st. THE BOARD VOTE UNANIMOUSLY TO DEFER THE MINUTES OF MARCH 31ST.

12. Administrative Reports.

Ms. Griffin asked the Board to accept the resignation of our current Town Clerk and appoint her in the interim.

It was **MOVED** by Chairman Walsh and **SECONDED** by Vice Chairman Connolly to accept the resignation of our current Town Clerk, Sally Johnson and appoint Ms. Griffin in the interim. **THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF OUR CURRENT TOWN CLERK, SALLY JOHNSON AND TO APPOINT MS. GRIFFIN IN THE INTERIM.**

13. Selectmen's Reports.

There were no Selectman's reports

14. Other Business.

There was no other business

15. Adjournment.

It was **MOVED** by Selectman Baschnagel and **SECONDED** Selectman Christie by to adjourn the meeting. **THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:45 PM.**

SUMMARY

1. It was **MOVED** by Vice Chairman Connolly and **SECONDED** by Selectman Baschnagle to take to Town Meeting Articles Thirteen through Twenty as written. **THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO TAKE TO TOWN MEETING ARTICLES THIRTEEN THROUGH TWENTY AS WRITTEN.**

2. **THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO TAKE TO TOWN MEETING ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE WHICH STATES THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$2,500 FOR SUPPORT OF THE UPPER VALLEY TRAILS ALLIANCE PROJECT, "UPPER VALLEY TRAILS FOR LIFE," SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERWRITTEN BY THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, AND TO FUND THIS APPROPRIATION BY AUTHORIZING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THIS SUM FROM THE LAND AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND.**

3. It was **MOVED** by Selectman Christie and **SECONDED** Selectman Baschnagel by to table the Public Hearing for Consideration and Approval of Recommended Housing Fund Budget for FY 2004-2005. **THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO TABLE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED HOUSING FUND BUDGET FOR FY 2004-2005.**

4. It was **MOVED** by Vice Chairman and **SECONDED** by Selectman Christie to accept the Proposed Revised Lease with Howe Library Corporation. **THE**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED REVISED LEASE WITH THE HOWE LIBRARY CORPORATION.

5. It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagel to accept The Recommendation to Adopt Abatements as Proposed by the Advisory Board of Assessors. THE SELECTMAN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT ABATEMENTS AS PROPOSED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

6. It was MOVED Chairman Walsh and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagle to Set a Public Hearing on April 26th to Consider Proposed Revised Wastewater Rates for 2003-04. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 26TH TO CONSIDER PROPOSED REVISED WASTE WATER RATES FOR 2003-04.

7. It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED Selectman Baschnagel by To Authorize Town Manager to Negotiate and Execute Purchase and Sales Agreement for Three Parcels East of Moose Mountain Subject to Town Meeting Approval. THE BOARD VOTED UNAMOIISOULY TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTITE AND EXECUTE A PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT FOR THREE PARCELS EAST OF MOOSE MOUNTAIN SUBJECT TO TOWN MEETING APPROVAL

8. It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED by Chairman Walsh to Appoint Jill Polli to the Hanover Parks and Recreation Board. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JILL POLLI TO THE HANOVER PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD.

9. It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED Selectman Baschnagel by to appoint George Spitzer to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT GEORGE SPITZER TO THE HANOVER ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

10. It was MOVED by Chairman Walsh and SECONDED by Selectman Christie to defer the minutes of March 31st. THE BOARD VOTE UNANIMOUSLY TO DEFER THE MINUTES OF MARCH 31ST.

11. It was MOVED by Chairman Walsh and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly to accept the resignation of our current Town Clerk, Sally Johnson and appoint Ms. Griffin in the interim. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF OUR CURRENT TOWN CLERK, SALLY JOHNSON AND TO APPOINT MS. GRIFFIN IN THE INTERIM.

Board of Selectman
April 5, 2004
Page 22

12. It was MOVED by Selectman Baschnagel and SECONDED Selectman Christie by to adjourn the meeting. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Christie", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Christie, Secretary

These minutes were transcribed by Susan Love