

FINAL

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2004**

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

The Chairman, Brian Walsh, called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:30 pm. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice-Chairman; William "Bill" Baschnagel, Selectman; Allegra Lubrano, Selectman and Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF A DISCRETIONARY PRESERVATION EASEMENT LOCATED AT 441 HANOVER CENTER ROAD THROUGH THE HISTORIC BARN TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Chairman Walsh said all the Selectmen received information on this in their Friday packets.

Mike Ryan, Director of Assessing will give a brief overview of this request. This is the second request of this kind. Mr. Ryan received a similar request last year, which was granted. This is part of the Discretionary Easement Program, which was enacted a couple of years ago to help preserve agricultural buildings throughout the state. The Selectboard took this up and decided it was in the best interest of the Town to work with this program.

Mr. Ryan said the qualification parameters are something he went over with the Selectboard last year to help grade these easements. All the requirements of the statute have been met by the applicant and Mr. Ryan recommends that the Selectmen grant the request. This would defer \$34,400 of the total property assessment resulting in a savings of \$570 in property tax for the applicant.

Chairman Walsh said the deferred assessments could be from 0% to 75%. This deferral would be the maximum deferral this building could receive.

Selectman Lubrano asked why the term for this request begins in April. Mr. Ryan said that is the tax year; it begins on April 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Jeffery Balch, the applicant, said he thinks this is a great program. It is worth while to protect properties like this. It helps him to maintain the property to be able to save some money.

Chairman Walsh said this is a barn that he has always admired. He had a chance to drive by it and Mr. Balch is doing an excellent job of maintaining it. He is happy to help Mr. Balch continue to do this because it would really be an eyesore if Mr. Balch stopped doing that.

**Selectman Baschnagel MOVED and Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED to accept discretionary preservation easement located at 441 Hanover Center Road through the Historic Barn Tax Incentive Program. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE DISCRETIONARY PRESERVATION EASEMENT LOCATED AT 441 HANOVER CENTER ROAD THROUGH THE HISTORIC BARN TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

### **3. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH ADELPHIA**

Betsy McClain, Finance Director, said she has been working with Rob Ciandella, our counsel who advises us in telecommunications matters. He has been working with our Adelphia contacts. We are honing in on it, but the extension that the Selectmen signed earlier this summer expires on September 30<sup>th</sup> and they are not quite there yet. The request before the Selectmen is to extend the request until January 1, 2005. Ms. McClain has gotten an update from our attorney who says that things are moving. We are hoping to wrap this up shortly, but it will not be done by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. McClain said a there are a couple of people present from Adelphia; they are not on the negotiating team so they can't speak specifically to the extension request. Ms. McClain introduced Mary McLaughlin, Area Vice President; and Pete Jablonsky, General Manager for the Hanover area. They are on hand to answer any general questions.

Ms. McLaughlin said she and Mr. Jablonsky wanted to take the opportunity to introduce themselves and let the Selectmen know who is going to be responsible for management in this area and that they are here to serve the residents of Hanover.

Ms. McLaughlin said residents may have read in the press that Adelphia is pursuing a dual path process whereby they are emerging from bankruptcy as a stand alone company and at the same time entertaining offers for the company which is broken into seven or eight geographic areas, New England being one of them. Ms. McLaughlin said she imagines there will be a tremendous amount of rumor and innuendo in the next few months involving Adelphia. Ms. Mc Laughlin said Adelphia is committed to keeping the residents updated as to what is going on with Adelphia. Mr. Jablonsky is the point of contact for information about this.

Chairman Walsh asked Ms. McLaughlin if she recommends the Selectmen sign the extension. She said that although she is not directly involved in these negotiations, she does recommend the extension. She is confident the agreement will be finalized by January.

**It was MOVED by Selectman Baschnagel and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly to grant an extension of the Cable Franchise Agreement with Adelphia. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO GRANT AN EXTENSION OF THE CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH ADELPHIA.**

#### **4. APPOINTMENT OF DOWNTOWN BUSINESS SERVICE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD**

Ms. Griffin said when the Board met last, they asked the folks involved with the Downtown Service District to revised the make up of the Advisory Board somewhat, to include a couple of folks who had been skeptical about the implementation of the Downtown Service District. The Board felt it was important that those people be represented on the committee. There are two new members added to the list submitted to the Selectmen for approval. Ann Malenka and Bill Geraghty, who were in the original list of active members, have agreed to act as Ex Officio members. The two new members are Paul Olsen, Dartmouth Real Estate Office, and Marc Milowsky, Molly's Restaurant and Bar. Marc Milowsky had spoken quite articulately about his reservations of implementing the Downtown Service District. Paul Olsen has also voiced reservations.

The Marketing Services District Advisory Committee is required by statute to have seven voting members, at least five of which must be either Downtown merchants or property owners. The Chamber of Commerce is proposing the following members be appointed:

Active Voting members:

Aharon Boghosian (Downtown business owner)  
Tom Byrne (Downtown business owner/tenant)  
Matt Marshall (Downtown property owner representing Dartmouth)  
Marc Milowsky (Downtown business owner)  
Paul Olsen (Downtown business owner representing Dartmouth)  
Jim Rubens (Downtown business owner)  
Mary Schouten (Downtown business owner)

Ex Officio (non voting) Members:

Brian Walsh – Ex Officio (Selectmen's representative)  
Bill Geraghty – Chamber Board representative  
Ann Malenka – Chamber Board representative

Chairman Walsh said he is in support of this slate.

**It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagel to appoint Aharon Boghosian, Tom Byrne, Matt Marshall, Marc Milowsky, Paul Olsen, Jim Rubens and Mary Schouten to the Downtown Services District Advisory Committee and Brian Walsh, Ann Malenka and Bill Geraghty as Ex Officio members to the Downtown Services District Advisory Committee. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT AHARON BOGHOSIAN, TOM BYRNE, MATT MARSHALL, MARC MILOWSKY, PAUL OLSEN, JIM**

**RUBENS AND MARY SCHOUTEN TO THE DOWNTOWN SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BRIAN WALSH, ANN MALENKA AND BILL GERAGHTY AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS TO THE DOWNTOWN SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

**5. WORK SESSION ON OPTIONS FOR MODIFYING FIRE DISTRICTS**

Ms. Griffin said the last time the Selectmen visited this issue it was budget season. Since that time Ms. Betsy McClain, Chief Roger Bradley and Captain Michael Hinsley have been hard at work on this. Selectman Lubrano was not on the Selectboard when this was last visited but she has had a chance to tour the Fire Station and look at the original presentation. It was agreed back in February to revisit the options for reconfiguring the fire districts, or collapsing the current four fire districts to some smaller number based on the fairest approach to allocating cost related to this district. The Selectmen have been provided with a memo from Ms. McClain and Chief Bradley outlining the options. Captain Hinsley is on hand to give a Power Point presentation on the issue. In preparing information for this session, Chief Bradley had suggested to Ms. McClain that the Board look at another potential approach to the configuration of the fire districts related to the location of the hydrants.

Ms. Griffin said initially she had felt that it was important that the Selectmen make a decision about the fire districts within the September time frame, with an eye toward holding a Public Hearing to consider setting fire districts before this coming tax year, but with the combination of the school vote coming up and the state wide property tax issue, Ms. Griffin thinks it might make sense to take a little more time before talking about implementing any significant changes. Ms. Griffin would like to get the Selectmen's input on how to move this forward and what makes sense as far as a time frame.

Chairman Walsh recalled that in order to make changes to the fire districts, a vote of the Selectmen is required after a Public Hearing. Ms. Griffin said that is correct. The process is outlined in the Charter for any modifications to the fire districts. The Selectmen would have to decide they would like to propose a change then mail notices to those who would be affected by the change, which in this case would be everyone in Town. A Public Hearing would have to be held and then the Selectmen could vote to make a change. This is not subject to Town Meeting approval. Selectman Baschnagel said that is correct only if there would be a minimum of two fire districts. If the Town went to one fire district, it would require a Town Charter change, which would have to go before Town Meeting.

Chief Bradley said the Power Point Presentation is the one previously presented to the Selectmen and is just to refresh their memories as to the options available to them.

Chief Bradley said we start out with the base map for the Town of Hanover indicating the boundaries of the Town, which is approximately forty-six square miles. This is a follow-up to many years of discussion about the situation that we need to address the fire tax districts and how they were established and at a minimum, update them. It needs to be simplified.

Over the years, since 1963 when it was established, there have been improvements made in the fire protection throughout the Town and also improvements in the Water Works distribution system. Back in 1963 when this was established by Town Charter, the Fire Station was located in the building that is now the Municipal Building. In 1973 the Fire Station moved to its current location on Lyme Road. Back in 1963 our fire pumping capabilities were rated at two hundred fifty to five hundred gallons a minute. Current apparatus is rated at one thousand to fifteen hundred gallons a minute. We now carry more water on the apparatus than we did back in 1963. We have also increased the full time staffing since 1963. The increase in staffing started in 1969 when we took over the ambulance service. Up until 1969 we had someone to answer the phone and then blow the air whistle to summon the volunteers. Current appropriate staffing is sixteen fulltime; currently we are down to staffing three people per shift, due to injuries and other circumstances.

Chief Bradley said the Water Works Company had two hundred thirty-nine hydrants back in 1963. Not much water was available out of those hydrants; there was no storage and no pumping stations. We were connected to the City of Lebanon's distribution system on Route 10 South, at the West Lebanon town line. Currently we have two hundred seventy-five hydrants and we can get substantially more water out of those hydrants. We now have the capacity for storing in excess of a million and a half gallons of water. We also have another interconnect with the City of Lebanon's water distribution out by the GoGo Mart on Medical Center Drive.

Chief Bradley said currently the Town still has the four fire districts that were initially established back in 1963. These districts were established based on the location of the Fire Station being where the Municipal Building currently is. The Fire Districts are as listed below:

Fire District #1	Beyond 3 miles of the Village (i.e., Hanover) Fire Station; and beyond 2 miles of the Etna Fire Station.
Fire District #2	Within 3 miles of the Village Fire Station; or within 2 miles of the Etna Fire Station.
Fire District #3	Within 600 feet of a fire hydrant with reduced pressure.
Fire District #4	Within 600 feet of a fire hydrant with normal pressure.

Chief Bradley said Fire District three (indicated in red on the map) was areas that were within five hundred feet of a reduced pressure hydrant. This was in the days before the distribution system was looped and there were dead ends on certain mains. At the dead end of the mains there was not a lot of pressure and those hydrants should have been painted black.

Selectman Baschnagel said there are still hydrants with black tops on them. Chief Bradley said they keep getting repainted black but they are no longer a dead end. Chairman Walsh asked what the pressure situation is in those areas now. Chief Bradley said they could get seventy to eighty pounds of pressure and flow five-hundred gallons a minute in those areas. That is sufficient for a single-family dwelling. Chairman Walsh said presuming the PUC

acts, we will have another million gallons of storage which will come on stream in fifteen months.

Captain Hinsley said that explains the low pressure on the left hand side near the purple. The three red clusters are the service hydrants off of reservoir three. They are basically seasonal hydrants often times in the fall those will not be full, so there is good pressure if there is a lot of water in reservoir three and not if there isn't.

Chief Bradley said the Fire Department has response zones established within the Downtown area and the rural areas. There are correspondingly four zones, but this has nothing to do with the tax districts. Zone One is the Downtown hydrant area. Zone Two gets out into the rural area, north on Route Ten towards Lyme. Zone Three is the Blueberry Hill, Etna area. Zone Four is on the easterly side of the Moose Mountain range. Each of these areas has a certain response apparatus that responds to those areas, relying on the Etna Station to respond as well as mutual aid from Lyme, Enfield, Canaan and Lebanon into the different zones. So there is a prestablished apparatus assignment that dispatch follows in responding to the different zones.

Chairman Walsh asked Chief Bradley what the frequency is of four alarm, three alarm and two alarm fires. Chief Bradley said he doesn't ever recall a four alarm or three alarm fire. We have had some two alarm fires. Most fires are one alarm fires.

Chief Bradley said early on in the discussions the Selectmen were interested in taking a look at what a map with a thousand feet from a pressurized system would look like. The map shown demonstrates that would be just within the Downtown area. A single family dwelling fire would be approached with on duty personel and the engine; water supplied to the engine, the engine is pumped and the fire is attacked.

Chief Bradley then displayed a map that shows the area located five road miles from the two fire stations. Chairman Walsh asked if everything that is within one thousand feet of a pressurized hydrant is within five road miles of either fire station. Captain Hinsley said there is a section of Great Hollow Road that is not.

Chief Bradley said one of the proposals that was brought forward last February was two districts, a municipal hydrant district and a rural district; for taxing purposes only. This would not have any effect on the Fire Department's response. What was discussed earlier was to enhance the rural fire protection within the Town with grants and technical assistance from Resource Conservation Development, which consists of federal dollars. This would help to design and install rural hydrants and cisterns where appropriate. We have some dry hydrants and cisterns in the rural area. There is a cistern on Laramie Road that is a ten thousand gallon concrete tank, underground, filled with ten thousand gallons of water. Chairman Walsh asked if ten thousand gallons is enough to fight a single-family house fire. Chief Bradley replied generally it is.

Chief Bradley said there are a couple of proposed dry hydrants that are in the works. One is at Wilson Landing with the Connecticut River and another is at Dr. Baughman's pond in

Etna, and a cistern is planned for the Simpson Development on River Road. Selectman Baschnagel asked if Dr. Baughman's had been installed yet. Chief Bradley said it is being worked on. Captain Hinsley said there is another one planned that they are permitting for on the Old Dana Road. Chief Bradley said the one at Wilson Landing ran into a little bit of a roadblock. That project may have to be delayed until another funding cycle.

Selectman Baschnagel asked what the load of four-inch hose that the Fire Department would typically respond with. Chief Bradley said it would depend on which truck responds, but typically they are carrying about one thousand feet of four-inch hose except on Engine Four which has a little more than that.

Chief Bradley displayed a map that shows how much of the rural area will have a water supply. ISO likes the Fire Department to demonstrate that they can deliver five hundred gallons a minute in a one mile relay situation. Captain Hinsley said this summer Etna Fire Station was involved in a mutual aid drill that flowed three hundred fifty gallons a minute, uninterrupted for two hours; that went for three and a half miles.

Chief Bradley said there are a few options for the Selectmen to consider. One would be to do nothing. Two would be to reduce the number of fire tax districts from four to two and base the boundaries on the proximity of the water distribution system. The last option would be to add the common fire expenditures to the general fund, creating a separate hydrant district. Ms. Griffin said that would require a vote before Town Meeting.

Ms. Betsy McClain, Finance Director is on hand to go through what some of the tax impacts would look like with the different options. Ms. McClain said the charter outline says the Selectmen are to consider several factors when defining special service districts. One is the insurance rating. In the Town of Hanover there are two ratings determined by ISO: One where a property has access to a hydrant and one where a property has no access to a hydrant. The thinking there is that one pays less for insurance the closer you are to a hydrant. Option number one has no relation to the ISO rating. The other issue Ms. McClain struggles with, as Finance Director, is how to allocate the costs. We can budget for what the costs of the Fire Department budget are but we don't have a rational way of allocating those costs to the four existing fire districts. We do it on an allocation based on net valuation of a property. The special services districts are trying to line up costs associated with a certain level of service to the district. We can't match that up under the current districts because the same apparatus and personnel respond regardless of where they are across the Town.

Ms. Griffin said they have allocated cost to the fire districts the way we allocate the overhead costs to our enterprise funds. We figure out what portion the Parking Fund is of the total Town expenditures and that is the portion of the General Fund that gets allocated to it. That is the way the Town has wrestled with the issue of allocating fire district costs across the four districts, under the assumption that the higher the assessed valuation, presumably, the more populated it is the more Fire Department related activity might take place in that area. There is not an easy way to allocate those funds.

Selectman Baschnagel said he got the impression from the memo that the allocations are just parroting what the original allocations were. Ms. McClain said that is correct. We try to mirror that because growth and assessed valuation, depending upon the district will follow that. Selectman Baschnagel said he can envision a mechanism for allocating costs based not on response, not on how it's used today, but rather the basis for the investment. As an example, if Hanover didn't have the College we would not likely have the same Fire Department. If we didn't have the tall buildings we would not likely have a ladder truck. Ms. Griffin said we have wrestled with this especially this year when we worked on the zero based budget for the Fire Department. Ms. Griffin said she thinks the fire districts were created as much for political reasons as practical reasons.

Chairman Walsh asked Ms. McClain if staying with four fire districts makes sense. Ms. McClain said it is a challenge to make sense of it.

Chairman Walsh said assuming we went to two districts; he can understand that there are costs for hydrants. Chairman Walsh asked Ms. McClain how she would make sense out of two districts. Ms. McClain said this scenario is difficult for her as well. No matter where we live, we want to know that when we call the firemen are going to show up. How to allocate that readiness response amongst two districts is a challenge. To try to illustrate a tax rate it was split on call volume; those fire responded to where we could hook up to a hydrant and those call we responded to where we couldn't. It was twenty-two percent where we didn't hook up and seventy-eight percent where we did hook up.

Chairman Walsh said he would like to have this conversation about fire districts start not from the flaws of the four districts, but rather how to deal with this equitably amongst the sixty-five hundred residents in Hanover; and then look at the numbers. Selectman Baschnagel said to the extent that we have a strong performance or service related basis, it will be easier to communicate to people and make a judgment.

Ms. Griffin said if you look at the way that most communities in New Hampshire generate revenues for their fire department, it's a general fund entity. The rationale is that you are paying for readiness, just as you are in the Police Department; your response times may be longer if you live further out of Town, but the same is true for the Police Department. Most communities in New Hampshire aren't paying a hydrant fee. The cost of the hydrant is allocated to the water fund. The cost of maintaining those hydrants is assessed through the water rate assessed to water rate payers. When the DRA comes to set our tax rate they tell us to determine what those fire district rates should be because they can't make any sense of it.

Vice Chairman Connolly said another point to the fire tax district is this is no longer a fire tax district, it is a rescue district. Fully half of the Fire Department does not involve fire anymore. It does involve runs to Hanover locations and other Towns. To Vice Chairman Connolly that is another rationale for making it part of the general fund. Selectman Baschnagel said that an ambulance fund has already been created. The ambulance fund, to a large extent, is self-funded. Ms. Griffin said in most fire departments there is no ambulance fund, no fire fund; everything is a general fund.



Selectman Baschnagel said he is not at all uncomfortable with moving away from four districts. Two districts makes sense to him. It has a historical basis and he would like to recognize that. The question is how to we get to a balance that is clear and acceptable. Selectman Baschnagel is sensitive to the fact that ISO currently divides the Town into two classes of people and that makes a big difference in resident's pocketbooks.

Chairman Walsh said options two and three are similar, but not the same. Basically if you look at option three, those people who are in the hydrant district should get an additional charge. Selectman Baschnagel said in that sense, option three then becomes the same as option two. Chairman Walsh said there is one interesting difference between the two. In the budget there is a line item that is three hundred ninety-six thousand dollars, which is the hydrant rental fee. This is an identifiable cost that can be attributed to those within the hydrant district. Ms. Griffin said the hydrant rental fee is soon to go up by more than fifty-one percent if the water rate increase is approved.

Ms. McClain said another difference between options two and three is that it gets us out of having to allocate the cost based on a moving target of call volume. Basically those costs would be pooled and then shared across the tax payers just as any general fund expense would be. Chairman Walsh said it would be interesting to look at the call volume over the past few years versus the assessed value. This could show us how similar or different they are. Chief Bradley said it is very hard to compare run volume because there are so many variables involved in run volume. For example when Baker came on line there were hundreds of detection devises that we needed to get the bugs work out of. Our call volume to Baker was astronomical the first few years. Over that last six months the bugs have been worked out and the Fire Department is not responding nearly as much. This type of problem can give false numbers. Chairman Walsh said that is the frustration because we are looking for something that is equitable.

Chairman Walsh said he thinks they are ready to say that assessed value is the way to go. Selectman Baschnagel said assessed value doesn't do it for him either. The only way that Selectman Baschnagel could be comfortable with the assessed value is if it were broken into a demand equation.

Selectman Baschnagel said the other thing that has not been mentioned here is that by putting this into the general fund it would get us out of some of these fund maintenance balance issues we have had in terms of moving things between the ambulance fund and the fire fund. Ms. Griffin said this would be a much cleaner and more straightforward budgeting scheme. We have created an artificially complex system for ourselves. Selectman Baschnagel asked if there would be any merit in understanding how ISO determines its districts. Chief Bradley said the hydrant district is a class four, on a scale of ten. The rural district is a nine on their ten scale, with one being the best. This is based on their old rating schedule and a whole host of variables. Improvements discussed earlier in the rural area, could potentially qualify us for a reduction in the rural rate. Selectman Baschnagel said if ISO currently rates the Town, then that defines two districts. Selectman Baschnagel said he is wondering if that might provide a basis that everyone pays the same,

but with an adjustment for the two districts. Vice Chairman Connolly said she wonders if ISO is connected with the fact that we have a very well equipped rural Fire Department. We have a new engine, which is maintained out in Etna. Vice Chairman Connolly asked if ISO is cognizant of that fact. Captain Hinsley said ISO is aware of that. Our fire protection was recently surveyed. Selectman Baschnagel said it is his understanding is that the two big things ISO looks at are distance to water supply and number of personnel that show up on the average run.

Selectman Lubrano said she thinks that the hydrant district column is wrong on the chart entitled *Proposed Tax Impact on \$300,000 Property – Proposed Hydrant and Rural Districts*. The hydrant district is actually column three and four combined. Ms. McClain said what she actually did, through the magic of GIS, is draw and identify the parcels that would make up the rural and hydrant districts. Selectman Lubrano said the anticipated 2004 taxes to be raised on a \$300,000 home in the hydrant district if we went that way, would be \$531. Ms. McClain said that would only be in fire district four. Selectman Lubrano said fire district number four is basically what the hydrant district is. Ms. McClain said fire district number four currently has a net assessed valuation of \$984,000,000. If we moved to a hydrant district that evaluation would be over \$1,000,000,000. There would be shifts in the composition of the hydrant district versus fire district number four. Chairman Walsh said that speaks to the fact that the boundaries of fire district four go back to 1963.

Ms. Griffin said the hydrant district represented in the left hand column does not equate specifically solely to fire district four in the right hand column. Selectman Lubrano said it does not equate solely, but it is very close. Selectman Lubrano said she is looking at the tax rate for the people in the hydrant district either going down or going up incrementally and the tax rate for the people in the rural district more than doubling. Selectman Lubrano has a problem with that. Ms. McClain said there are two things going on. First the net assessed valuation and the other thing is the allocation of the costs based on call volume. Both of those factors compound the bonus in the hydrant district, which is reflecting that they have carried since 1963, an inordinate amount of the burden of funding the Fire Department. When we come to splitting the costs based on call volume, as opposed to tying it to the 1963 allocation, it means that those costs shift out to those rural areas that have not been paying based on any other allocation other than that 1963 Town Meeting. That does sock it hard to the rural residents. Selectman Lubrano said alternatively if we go to option three we are going to see tax rates going up to \$348 for everyone, before you add the \$96 hydrant fee.

Selectman Baschnagel said he has a problem with this as well. This will come across as more than doubling the rural fire district tax. We need to get to something that can start fresh from a basis. Ms. Griffin said the other option is to look at some type of a transition plan so we could move towards this over a three or four year time period.

Selectman Baschnagel asked if we were to propose to the Town that we do away with fire districts; what is the bottom line to that? Ms. Griffin said the bottom line is that it is a fairer allocation of the costs. Selectman Baschnagel asked, in what context? Ms. Griffin replied, in terms of properties paying for a reasonable allocation of the total costs of operating an emergency services department for the Town of Hanover. Selectman Baschnagel said the

response to him on Blueberry Hill is not the same as the response to School Street. Ms. Griffin said, neither is the response from the Public Works Department, but everyone pays for the Public Works Department based on their net valuation. Selectman Baschnagel said the response pretty much is the same in his opinion. Ms. Griffin said the Public Works Department doesn't plow Blueberry Hill as often as they plow School Street.

Chief Bradley said as far as emergency response is concerned think about our ambulance response. Our ambulance response to Downtown is King Hill or Etna doesn't matter as far as preparedness. The only difference is a long response time. We have taken measures to provide a level of service that is acceptable in creating the Etna response team, so we have people who are trained to respond to a local situation while the ambulance is in route. The service is pretty much parallel and we don't have a convoluted mechanism for funding the ambulance service. The only difference is that we have a mileage charge.

Captain Hinsley said if it snow on Blueberry Hill you would have to wait for a Town truck to plow the route. If your fire alarm goes off on Blueberry Hill you would have engines from the Hanover station, the Etna Station and Lebanon coming. We have mutual aid because the Town of Hanover cannot afford to have all the resources we need to meet all the different emergencies that come up in Hanover. That is why we have a mutual aid agreement. On Blueberry Hill it is likely that an engine from Lebanon will get there before the Hanover engine will because of the travel route. That is the thing that makes the fire response different than the Public Works or Police response. The other thing that is concerning is that if you are going to change how someone is taxed based on how someone responds, it's not just in Hanover. Response to Norwich and Lyme is further than it is to Route Ten. Should other municipalities fees be prorated down based on mileage? It is a readiness factor that we need to fund. We are meeting the needs of the people in the rural districts, but the people in the Downtown are paying an additional burden for the infrastructure improvements to the water supply, the water treatment center, the sewer system, the water mains, the hydrants and everything they are doing there. They are paying an additional burden other than just the fire apparatus. Selectman Baschnagel said he could make the argument that the Downtown does pay for the water on a per gallon basis and he pays for it in the rural district every time he pays his electric bill, repairs the pipe or replaces the pump. If there was a ten percent difference nobody would care. It's when we are looking at a big jump that all this stuff comes up. Ms. Griffin said that is why she has suggested a transition plan.

Chairman Walsh said it is clear to him that we have an archaic inequitable system that is not based on any reason. The question is do we take that on a try to change it and deal with the divisiveness of because of the numbers. He is not sure where he comes out on this. He does not want to see the Town divided on this issue, rural versus hydrant district; because of something that was set in a crazy way in 1963.

Selectman Lubrano said because we do have the luxury of some procrastination, it would be useful to get some information about the difference between a class four rating and a class nine rating on a \$500,000 home. It is this real money that is being saved by people who are put in a class four rating by the ISO. Captain said you are not going to get a hard

number. There is a difference between commercial and residential. Depending on the carrier, the difference between a four rating and a six or seven rating is anywhere from one percent and ten percent. Chairman Walsh said we should just take a \$300,000 house that is either in the hydrant district or rural and find out what the cost difference in for insurance. Selectman Lubrano said if the difference is \$200, it would make it more equitable.

Vice Chairman Connolly said she thinks we should investigate all aspects of this before we decide to do anything. Selectman Baschnagel said this needs to stay on the table, we just need to figure out how to get there.

## 6. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION REQUEST

Chairman Walsh said we have been requested to proclaim October 15<sup>th</sup> as "White Cane Safety Day" by the New Hampshire Commission on the blind. There are some very specific words they have asked. This is a national day, which was signed by Lyndon Johnson in 1964. It is also a New Hampshire Day. The Selectmen have the specific wording requested.

Selectman Baschnagel said he is curious why this is the first time this has come up. Ms. Griffin said she doesn't know and she doesn't think this is a new initiative.

Selectman Lubrano said she doesn't see any harm in this.

**Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED and Selectman Lubrano SECONDED that October 15<sup>th</sup> be declared White Cane Day. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> BE DECLARED WHITE CANE DAY.**

## 7. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Griffin said she wants to bring three items she would like to get some perspective on. The first item is Hovey Lane modifications. Ultimately we will have to decide if we want those to be permanent. Our options are to remove the barriers and clear the experiment or replace the barriers with something more permanent or perhaps more aesthetically pleasing, such as landscaping and bump-outs in similar locations to the barriers. Ms. Griffin thinks the Selectmen might want to have a public discussion about this and get some feedback. Another alternative would be for the Selectmen to direct the Ms. Griffin to simply make these permanent. Given the level of organization in that neighborhood, Ms. Griffin said she thinks they would like to come back before the Selectboard to thank them and to ask that the barriers be make permanent. If there is a public hearing it is also likely that there will be many people present would will be in opposition in terms of minimizing access to a public street. Ms. Griffin would like some direction as to how the Selectmen would like her to proceed.

Related to the issue of the barriers, Ms. Griffin has received two letters who would like the Town to install sidewalks. Ms. Griffin has told them if they can negotiate the donation of land in the area before it can be discussed.

Selectman Baschnagel said he is reacting to the continuing enthusiastic that the traffic committee is getting such as Rip Road neighbors. It was not just Rip Road neighbors coming in, but they have raised their consciousness raising activity here. With regard to Hovey Lane, Selectman Baschnagel said we should just make them permanent. We should do this for two reasons; there is not question about the neighborhood maintaining those and having them in place; they have make a significant impact on the amount of traffic going through there. We should demonstrate how traffic calming measures such as that can be made somewhat aesthetically pleasing. Some of the negative reaction has to do with the barriers being unsightly. It would be worthwhile to show how this can be done well.

Chairman Walsh said he has a real clear memory when the Selectmen elected to do this, it was agreed that it would be done for six months and the a Public Hearing would be held. Chairman Walsh feels the Selectmen are honor-bound to hold a Public Hearing.

Selectman Lubrano said this Public Hearing should be limited to Hovey Lane and not to any other area in Town. We need to be clear that this is what the Public Hearing is about. Ms. Griffin said the question should be; do we make the features on Hovey and Buell permanent. Vice Chairman Connolly asked, what about the speed bumps on Currier? Selectman Lubrano said that is what we want to avoid talking about. Vice Chairman Connolly said those speed bumps are part of that whole package. Ms. Griffin said those speed bumps are seasonal. Vice Chairman Connolly said the question should be whether they exist. All the issue should be addressed together. Selectman Lubrano asked if these will need to be separate hearing because there will be separate constituencies with separate views. Selectman Baschnagel said these could be done at the same Public Hearing as long as the discussion is focused on one or the other. Selectman Baschnagel said if there is going to be a Public Hearing he would like to have some sketches or what could be done for permanent measures, such as landscaping.

Ms. Griffin said the Selectmen can vote to set that Public Hearing when they meet next Monday. That same night there is also a informational meeting on the bond vote. CATV has said they can't broadcast both meetings live so they are going to broadcast the Dresden meeting live and the Selectboard meeting will be taped delayed. Ms. Griffin asked the Selectmen if they would like to reschedule that meeting to the following Monday, so the meeting doesn't conflict with the Dresden meeting. Ms. Griffin said the Selectboard has the alternative to meet the second and forth Monday next month. Chairman Walsh said the Selectmen should meet on October 4<sup>th</sup>, because that is scheduled and then meet again on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Griffin said the other discussion that is Hovey related in the discussion about punching through Hovey. The Downtown Traffic committee has come up with their final recommendation after months of wrestling with that issue. This summer Ms. Griffin transmitted all the information to the Selectmen. Ms. Griffin feels a Public Discussion on this is necessary. She would like some feedback from the Selectmen as to what they think makes sense. Do we wait to see what the high school site plan decision results in before we set up that discussion; do we make that a capital improvement discussion; in what venue do

we have that discussion at this level. Vice Chairman Connolly said the traffic committee has recommended a punch-through. She would like to have a discussion, but she would recommend it for November. Selectman Baschnagel said he has to admit he is not as enthusiastic as the Traffic Committee is about this because he does not know what is going to happen when the South Block is up. He thinks there may be some issues as to what is intended in that area. There are two or three major development efforts going on in the middle of this thing over the course of the next five or six year. Selectman Baschnagel feels the punch-through should be talked about in the context of those development efforts. Ms. Griffin said she does have some folks who are advocating that this discussion be advanced to the Selectboard soon. Selectman Baschnagel said he also thinks that the Planning Board should be playing a role in this. The Selectmen should not be acting ahead of the Planning Board. Selectman Lubrano agreed with Selectman Baschnagel; she thinks the Selectmen should wait. Chairman Walsh thinks the Selectmen should have a joint meeting with the Planning Board to talk about it. Having a Public Discussion about this with the Planning Board would be a valuable thing. Chairman Walsh thinks the Selectmen should ask the Planning Board to join them and also ask for a presentation from the Traffic Committee, who is recommending this. There should be a through open conversation about this, not thinking that we would come to some conclusion about it on that particular night. Selectman Baschnagel said the Planning Board needs to get exposed to the recommendation and the background before they meet with the Selectmen.

Selectman Baschnagel ask in the vein of that type of thing; where does staff stand with putting together projections for housing and population over the next five years? Ms. Griffin said they have begun doing some work on it but this is not the type of thing that can be done in two weeks. Selectman Baschnagel said he understands that, he is just anxious to see that information because of the potential ramifications.

## **8 NHRS UPDATE**

Ms. Griffin said this refers to the New Hampshire Retirement System. We have received notice of another increase. Once again the employer portion increase and the employee portion doesn't. John Andrews reminded Ms. Griffin that the employee portion increases have to be done by the legislature and the employer contribution increases only needs to be approved by the board of the New Hampshire Retirement System. The Town is paying for than its fair share of the costs of those increases. Most of the increases are related to all kinds of extra benefits that have been advocated by various labor interest groups. The impact on the Town is about \$50,000 in the general fund. That is 1.2% of whatever tax rate increase the Board approves. Ms. Griffin is working with a group of managers to brainstorm to see if there is any possibility of approaching the legislature to raise the employee contribution. The problem is that the Town doesn't have any recourse; we have to pay that and continue to figure out how to fund it. Ms.Griffin said it will be interesting to see how it might impact our wage scale discussions. This is one way to make the employee share the cost.

## **9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AUGUST 16**

**It was MOVED by Selectman Lubrano and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagel to approve the minutes of August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004 as amended. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2004 AS AMENDED.**

## **10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Ms. Griffin reported that we have had a good interaction with the PUC with respect to the proposed water rate increase that will be necessary to fund the improvements for water filtration and an additional million gallon water tank. Typically the way the PUC works is they hold a series of technical session. Our first technical session was in Concord last Wednesday morning. It last only twenty minutes. The staff said they are completely comfortable with our proposal. They are particularly please that we qualify for the SRF low interest loans. The PUC held a Public Hearing last Wednesday evening, it was very sparcely attended. A flyer was sent out to all our Water Works customers so we could be sure they understand what the proposal consists of and what the potential rate impact could be. It looks like the PUC is going to revise it's schedule to expedite the final approval. What happens is they would grant a final order. The final order grants permission to invest the funds to make the improvements with the notion that once the improvements have been completed, we would go back to the PUC and request a formal rate increase. Hopefully we will gain initial approval from the PUC and go out to bid in January. We will get as competitive a price as we can and hopefully begin construction in May. Chairman Walsh said Peter Kulbacki has done a fabulous job, both in terms of the financing side as well as the technical side.

Ms. Griffin said she would like to remind the Selectmen that she will be looking to them for some guidance as far as tax rate increase, as we come into another budget season. Ms. Griffin said she will be asking the Selectboard to set a tax rate target soon.

Ms. Griffin will also be asking the Selectmen for their availability for the November election. We are preparing for the challenge process. We are working with Dartmouth and there is a special on campus student registration program planned for October 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Griffin said we will have double the number of check list workers. We are also working on creating barricades, which are required by the state, to maintain a certain distance from the folks who are there from the political parties and the folks who have come to vote. There will be a police officer standing out there all day to make sure the political representatives stand on the opposite side of the barricade from the voters. The other thing we need to do is to come up with an improved way to log in the write-in votes. They way we have been doing it doesn't work.

Chairman Walsh asked the Selectmen if they would still like to meet on November 1<sup>st</sup> with the election being the next night. The Selectmen agreed to meet once during the month of November on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 11. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

### **Kate Connolly**

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that she attended the legislative session; everything the Selectboard predicted came to pass.

The Planning Board met on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chairman Connolly was late arriving because of the Primary but arrived just in time to hear a proposal for some housing on Greensboro Road which includes a barn. Also discussed were affordable and zoning amendments. Vice Chairman Connolly was absent for the Planning Board meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>, although she did hear it was quite a lively session.

### **Bill Baschnagel**

Selectman Baschnagel reported the Planning Board approved the Maynard Street Dorms at the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting after two and a half hours of discussion. It went quite well. Everyone got a chance to voice their concerns. There are certainly some neighborhood concerns down there. The College has done a lot to revise the project. They have also made some commitments to maintain green space there.

The other thing Selectman wanted to mention is the Lebanon Planning Board has introduced the idea of updating the regional traffic model with a view toward addressing the Route 120 corridor as well as the Route 12A corridor. This is the first time that Lebanon has proposed everyone getting together. The Upper Valley TMA was asked if they would like to be sponsor or the umbrella for this activity. This would involve bringing in the three area regional planning commissions as well as TMA and TMA membership. This looks like it is coming together.

### **Allegra Lubrano**

Selectman Lubrano reported Howe Library held its wine tasting and auction in conjunction with Rotary last week. It was terrific; the Board was very pleased. The numbers are not all in yet but Selectman Lubrano thinks it's safe to say Howe raised more than \$15,000 after paying for costs.

### **Brian Walsh**

Chairman Walsh reported the Town Meeting Task Force met this afternoon and are continuing to work on a target for the end of October to have a report to the Selectmen. Chairman Walsh thinks the Selectboard is going to want to hold some Public Hearings with the Town Meeting Task Force in November or December to decide if they would like to make any more changes other than the kind that were made last year.



Chairman Walsh said Jen, at the Community Center made him aware of some awards in constructive images that the Community Center has won. Chairman Walsh passed around the awards and pictures for the Selectmen to look at.

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**It was MOVED by Selectman Baschnagel and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:30.**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1. Selectman Baschnagel MOVED and Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED to accept the Discretionary Preservation Easement located at 441 Hanover Center Road through the Historic Barn Tax Incentive Program. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE DISCRETIONARY PRESERVATION EASEMENT LOCATED AT 441 HANOVER CENTER ROAD THROUGH THE HISTORIC BARN TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**
- 2. It was MOVED by Selectman Baschnagel and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly to grant an extension of the Cable Franchise Agreement with Adelphia. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO GRANT AN EXTENSION OF THE CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH ADELPHIA.**
- 3. It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagel to appoint Aharon Boghosian, Tom Byrne, Matt Marshall, Marc Milowsky, Paul Olsen, Jim Rubens and Mary Schouten to the Downtown Services District Advisory Committee and Brian Walsh, Ann Malenka and Bill Geraghty as Ex Officio members to the Downtown Services District Advisory Committee. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT AHARON BOGHOSIAN, TOM BYRNE, MATT MARSHALL, MARC MILOWSKY, PAUL OLSEN, JIM RUBENS AND MARY SCHOUTEN TO THE DOWNTOWN SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BRIAN WALSH, ANN MALENKA AND BILL GERAGHTY AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS TO THE DOWNTOWN SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

4. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED and Selectman Lubrano SECONDED that October 15<sup>th</sup> be declared White Cane Day. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> BE DECLARED WHITE CANE DAY.**
  
5. **It was MOVED by Selectman Lubrano and SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagel to approve the minutes of August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004 as amended. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2004 AS AMENDED.**
  
6. **It was MOVED by Selectman Baschnagel and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. THE SELECTBOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:30.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Allegra Lubrano, Secretary**

These minutes were transcribe by Susan Love