

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

JUNE 21, 1999

4:00 P.M. - MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - HANOVER, NH

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine S. Connolly; John Manchester; John Colligan; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; and members of the public.

Mr. Walsh announced that this meeting was being taped by CATV 6 and that hearing enhancement equipment was available for anyone who wished to use it.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Anne Morris wished to thank the Board for changes in the Planning and Zoning office that have taken place in a period of less than a year. She feels that the Town is well on its way to a much higher and necessary level of enforcement. She added that the planning end of it can be seen in the Etna planning meetings, and noted that the staff is extremely helpful and very solicitous of the public's input. In addition, Ms. Morris pointed out that she has personally been witness for the last two and a half years to changes in enforcement. She feels that without good enforcement, government is a sham. If there is no support for enforcement, then all of the planning, arrangements, agreements and conditions of approval mean nothing. She stated that she is personally very grateful for the changes in the Planning Office, and feels that there is a lot of public support for those changes.

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON TOWN OF HANOVER'S YEAR 2000 READINESS PLAN.

Mr. Walsh introduced Vickie Beede, the town-wide Chair of the Technology Committee, and Michael Gilbar, Director of Finance.

Ms. Beede explained that the Technology Committee was assigned the task of investigating preparing the Town of Hanover for the year 2000. In the process, the Committee realized that the public was not only interested in what the Town was going, but also in what public utilities and other businesses would be doing. The Committee felt that a public forum would be the best means to convey this information to the public.

Mr. Gilbar introduced Jim VanDugan, Public Affairs Manager with the New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management. Mr. VanDugan stated that the Office of Emergency Management does not believe there will be catastrophic failures of major infrastructure systems related to Y2K, and that the changes of such a major catastrophe occurring would be practically nil. He added that a great amount of work has gone into this project, but there is always the possibility that something was missed.

Mr. VanDugan commented that the three major sectors mentioned most frequently, and those which he receives the most questions from the

general public about, are the areas of telecommunications, electric power, and financial service centers. Generally, these three sectors in the economy are regulated sectors, for the most part capital intensive, large industries and companies. He explained that these companies have the wherewithal and expertise to deal with these problems, and have been doing just that. In addition to being responsible to their own management and stockbrokers, etc. they are responsible to various Federal agencies. For example, Bell Atlantic spent on its own a billion and a half dollars to address Y2K. The unofficial target date for Y2K is July 1st, and that is the date when the banks have to be ready, according to the Federal Reserve, with most other segments of the economy adopting that date also as their official target.

Mr. VanDugan commented that his office is very concerned about human problems, rather than the technological problems which are more easily addressed. He explained that the economy in this country is based on the "just in time" inventory system for the most part. All it would take is one small buying spree coming out of fear to temporarily cause problems. The way to guard against this is to tell people what is being done, being honest, and encouraging them to do the right thing.

Mr. VanDugan continued to say that at the State level, government preparations are well under way. An audit was done to assess each State agency and rank them in terms of priority. Another audit was requested by the legislature using the GAO format assigning letter grades to different agencies. A second GAO audit was ordered which will be released in July or August.

Regarding the Office of Emergency Management, Mr. VanDugan stated that there are plans on New Year's Eve to activate the emergency operations center in Concord, with increased staffing.

Mr. Gilbar introduced Jim Hearst, Account Manager for Granite State Electric. Mr. Hearst displayed overhead slides of Granite State Electric's efforts regarding Y2K. He explained that Granite State Electric is the primary electric utility for Hanover.

Mr. Hearst indicated that beginning in October, 1996, Granite State Electric began a project spending about 25 million dollars to assess the Y2K issue. This major undertaking involved approximately 75 employees and additional consultants. An inventory and assessment project was commenced, going through the entire company to see what computers there were with embedded chips. Tests and procedures were developed to remediate potential problems with Y2K. In the case of equipment, depending on the critical nature of it to the company's operations, it was either replaced, repaired or recoded.

Mr. Hearst noted that the utility industry has been very fortunate to be affiliated with an organization called the North American Electric Liability Council. This organization has taken the lead in establishing a time line for all utilities in the country to prepare for Y2K, and is also monitoring the progress of all utilities. At this time with the most recent reporting date of May 31st, Granite State Electric is within 100% on the time line of

where they should be.

Mr. Hearst stated that there will be some nationwide drills to test the readiness of utilities on September 8th and 9th.

Mr. Hearst wished to stress that no matter how much effort Granite State Electric makes or how good of a job they do at finding potential problems, it is impossible for them to guarantee that there will be no problems. He suggested that each individual customer look at their own vulnerability and be prepared for the case when their power may be out. Consumers need to understand their individual exposure and make preparations accordingly.

Mr. Hearst announced that for further information there are websites available at nees.com, nerc.com and iso.ne.com. For telephone inquiries, the phone number to call at Granite State Electric is the Lebanon office at 603-443-4235.

Margaret Fanning referred to windowing, which transfers computer problems to some later date, resulting in an easier fix of problems. She asked Mr. Hearst if Granite State Electric was doing windowing. Mr. Hearst answered that he understands the company is doing some windowing as a way to fix problems at the least cost where appropriate.

Ms. Fanning asked how the suppliers are doing with Y2K preparations. Mr. Hearst answered that the suppliers are working with the NERC as well as other regulatory agencies, and are following the same time line as Granite State Electric.

Ms. Fanning asked if there were priorities for the order in which power will be restored in the event of a problem. Mr. Hearst explained that the priorities would fall under the exact same scenario as currently exists, with power to hospitals, for example, being restored as quickly as possible.

Mr. Gilbar introduced Peter Johnson, Sr. Vice-President for Information Systems at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Mr. Johnson explained that the hospital, like many large organizations, is complex because it has to deal with health care needs of a critical nature, 5,000 employees, a helicopter, over 12,000 pieces of medical equipment, as well as being in the hotel business. The hospital understands its role in an emergent way that they need to be operational at the year 2000. As in all emergencies, the hospital has its own power supply in the form of generators if the power goes out.

Mr. Johnson explained that Y2K preparations began at the hospital in 1997. They went through an inventory process with internal deadlines in mid to late October, 1998. In performing an inventory of equipment, there were found to be items that had no internal computers and would, therefore, have no year 2000 issues. Mr. Johnson added that the hospital is on its 3rd round of testing with an anticipation to be completed by July 31st.

Mr. Johnson noted that the hospital has also engaged external people to come and review the hospital to be sure nothing has been missed. He added that the hospital is very concerned about industry hoarding. He

pointed out that hospitals have an interdependency with other health care providers which will be extended around the year 2000.

Mr. Gilbar introduced Punch Taylor, Director of Technical Services at Dartmouth College, and Frank Roberts, Assistant Director of Facilities Operations and Management.

Mr. Roberts stated that like the speakers before him, Dartmouth College had also begun the Y2K process with an audit. Next they reviewed how important each system was to the operation of the facilities. The following three categories were reviewed: 1) Systems such as Granite State Electric which supply electricity to the campus, water and sewer systems, and fuel oil; 2) the power plant which produces heat for the buildings and is also able to produce electricity, as well as building control systems to control the temperatures of the buildings; and 3) fire alarm systems. He added that elevators were rated as a very high priority, and that there were no problems seen to date with regard to the issue of being stuck in an elevator. The College is developing contingency plans and is planning on bringing in extra staff on New Year's Eve. Mr. Roberts indicated that the College can override all of its systems and operate manually if necessary.

Mr. Taylor stated that the infrastructure and video and data network areas all look OK, and added that there are some software updates both in the data network and phone network to be sure those networks are Y2K compatible. He indicated that administrative computing payroll personnel are the highest priority item. Testing will be done in August and September to be sure that the changes made in the systems will function on January 1, 2000. Mr. Taylor noted that the College is using the windowing method because there are rather old programs that did not get updated in time with the new software.

Mr. Taylor indicated that an external audit will be taking place during the month of June, and will be looking at the data processing systems to be sure there are no liabilities. He indicated that Dartmouth has over 10,000 desk top computers, but they are Macintosh computers and do not have a problem with Y2K. The Windows computers have the potential of a problem, and they are making sure everyone has hardware and software that is recent enough not to have a problem with Y2K. Mr. Taylor invited the public to visit the College's website at www.dartmouth.edu/hilda.y2k which provides more detail with Y2K plans.

Mr. Gilbar next introduced Jonathan Brush, Plant Director at Hanover High School.

Mr. Brush indicated that his department went through the School's facilities to determine who should be contacted with regard to this issue. He contacted these individuals with an official letter asking specific questions about Y2K, and has received letters back from all of them indicating that their systems are all Y2K compliant or Y2K unaffected. He does not believe there will be any difficulties at the School.

Mr. Gilbar introduced Ken Greenbaum, Superintendent of the SAU.

Mr. Greenbaum stated that two years ago an audit was done of the SAU's business functions, and it was discovered that they were not Y2K compliant. The SAU Board authorized the purchase of a new accounting system which is in the process of being installed. This system has been tested to be sure it will function after January 1, 2000. Mr. Greenbaum expects to have a very current functional operating system in place at the SAU as of July 1st.

Vicki Beede, Chair of the Technology Committee, was the final speaker. She summarized her committee's work as follows: The committee was formed last summer and consists of six Town employees with computer experience and the Town computer consultant. Y2K issues were researched by reading and visiting web sites and attending workshops. An inventory was completed of potential problematic equipment. Much of the equipment is too old to be problematic. Critical functions and services for the Town were identified and made a top priority. A disclosure statement has been produced which is an ongoing document. Compliance statements are being received from vendors and contingency plans are being developed.

Ms. Beede announced that on January 1st committee members will inspect the Town buildings and equipment and run computer programs to check the status of systems. Members of the committee will also be available for public call in at 603-643-0703 on January 1st, or if the phones are not working, drop in at the Town offices. Times for drop-in will be announced at a later date. Ms. Beede also pointed out that Y2K information is available on the Town web site, hanovernh.org, and also available at the Town offices and at Howe Library.

Peter Kulbacki indicated that the water system is too old or too mechanical to be bothered by Y2K. It is a gravity system so regardless if anything worked at all, the water would still flow. There is standby disinfectant available if needed. The only issue being worked on is standby power and a standby generator if necessary. Mr. Kulbacki added that most of the sewer treatment plant is too old to be affected by Y2K, although there are a number of pump stations that have their own generators.

Mr. Walsh asked for an explanation of the effects of Y2K on the 911 system. Mr. VanDugan answered that the 911 system is completely Y2K compliant. The caveat is that this system depends on Bell Atlantic, and there is nothing that can be done to guarantee Bell Atlantic's service. If the system were to become overloaded or could not function, it would be simply disconnected and each town's seven digit emergency number would automatically be reverted back to. Mr. VanDugan stressed that the 911 system is certainly one of the top priorities for the State, and that it is in good shape.

Mr. Manchester asked if there were anticipated problems with the traffic lights, and Chief Giaccone answered that there were no problems expected.

Ms. Griffin indicated that the State Department of Transportation provides resource support to municipalities who have concerns about traffic lights, and there is also a protocol for State controlled traffic lights. In many cases the lights are too old to be impacted, so the Town is in good shape.

3. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEM ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO SEWER RENTAL RATES AND CHARGES.

Mr. Walsh opened the public hearing; there being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Kulbacki pointed out that the revised rates were intended to deliver revenue that is reflected in the budget. Ms. Griffin added that the revised rates are reflected in the adopted budget, and the Town Report reflects the inclusion of this rate restructuring.

Ms. Griffin explained the revised rates are now \$110 per thousand gal. for residents; \$130 per thousand gal. for nonresidents, and \$200 per thousand gal. for nonresidents coming from communities that ban land application of biosolids. She pointed out that the Town can legally decline to take septage from communities with land application and biosolids bans; she is not recommending that, but would recommend adding a surcharge to reflect the fact that if in the future biosolids land application was banned statewide, then the Town would be paying more to landfill treat septage.

Mr. Kulbacki commented that there are a number of nonmetered services that they intend to meter. There is a provision in the ordinance that a charge can be imposed if the residents refuse to be metered. He added that there are about 100 unmetered customers. Ms. Griffin indicated that these unmetered households have typically been charged the minimal fee based on the number of people in their household because there was no better way of assessing their usage.

Mr. Manchester MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen adopt the proposed modifications to municipal sewer system ordinance relative to sewer rental rates and charges. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEM ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO SEWER RENTAL RATES AND CHARGES.

4. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT CONSERVATION FUND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

Ms. Griffin stated that discussion of the draft Conservation Fund Memorandum of Understanding is on the agenda for the next Conservation Commission meeting. She placed it on the Board's agenda to begin to take feedback on the memorandum. She noted that it looks very much like the letter that was prepared as an outline about two to three weeks before Town Meeting. She asked for the Board's preliminary reaction and feedback on the draft. The Board agreed that the draft memorandum looked very much like what they had expected.

Mr. Walsh indicated recommended that the Board's sense that the draft expresses their understanding be communicated to the Conservation Commission. Once the Conservation Commission has had a chance to review the draft memorandum and suggest any improvements, the Selectmen will discuss it further. Unless there are substantive changes recommended by

the Conservation Commission, Mr. Walsh suggested that this meeting act as the public hearing on this matter. If there are significant changes from the Conservation Commission, then another public hearing would be held.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the draft Conservation Fund Memorandum of Understanding, subject to acceptance by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DRAFT CONSERVATION FUND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

Anne Morris indicated that the key to this matter is an open space acquisition and priorities plan, and she hopes that the Board will place a tremendous priority on formulating that plan.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Planning Office has made this Vicki Smith's top priority for the coming year.

Mr. Colligan reminded the public that the Conservation Commission meeting will be held at 4:30 on Tuesday, June 22, 1999 in the Courtroom of the Municipal Building.

5. CONSIDERATION OF UTILITY POLE LICENSE REQUESTS FOR FERSON ROAD AND RUDDSBORO ROAD.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that pole license requests are received by her office on a regular basis and are quite routine. This request is to put three new poles on Ferson Road and eleven new poles on Ruddsboro Road. The actual placement of the poles does not require a public hearing before the Planning Board, although the Planning Board is aware of the pole location issues as part of the tree trimming proposals which the forester for Granite State Electric brought before them. Typically when the Town receives a pole license petition from any utility, a representative goes out to make sure that the Town is comfortable with the pole location from a road maintenance perspective. She indicated that the Public Works Department has signed off on the location of these poles.

Mr. Colligan asked if all of the abutters were aware of this request. Ms. Griffin answered that the abutters were aware, and no comments have been received. She added that typically many of these pole requests come in because people have requested additional power for new development occurring on the road, or in the case of the Ruddsboro Road, there are a series of old and deteriorated poles that need replacement.

Mr. Colligan MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the utility pole license requests for Ferson Road and Ruddsboro Road. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE UTILITY POLE LICENSE REQUESTS FOR FERSON ROAD AND RUDDSBORO ROAD.

6. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 1999-2000.

Ms. Griffin noted that she had put this item on the agenda to keep it before the Board, since she had not received any feedback from Board members since the last meeting.

Mr. Walsh indicated that he had taken on the task of writing a tax objective, which he has not yet done. He would like to revisit this issue in the fall when it is better understood what next year's change might be in light of the Claremont decision. Part of what he hopes will happen is that the Town Finance Committee will have conversations about objectives that might be offered to both the School District and Town government, and he would like to see if that process actually occurs before the Board sets a tax objective itself.

Mr. Manchester stated that he feels the Town is treading backwards considering that the Town has less than 1/3 of the budget and the School has 60% plus, yet the Town zeroed its budget while the School increased theirs. He feels that the Town should formally communicate to the School District that they should make every attempt to have fiscal restraints in their budget. He feels it is up to the Selectmen as leaders of the community to communicate with the School District.

Mr. Colligan stated that he agreed with Mr. Manchester's sentiment, and feels that there are a couple of ways to accomplish his objective. One might be to have a working discussion with the School District. He feels at a minimum if the Board is going to form its goals at this time of year that this should be one of the most important goals. The second way for the Town to weigh in on the process is to get involved as citizens earlier in the process rather than at the District meeting.

Ms. Connolly noted that there are other goals and objectives which were glanced over at the last Board meeting, and she wondered if these should be put off until the fall as well. She stated that while she had managed to deal with the Land Planning Committee, she still thinks that there should be an objective to complete a lot of the land control and land planning processes.

Mr. Walsh suggested that Board members give their suggestions to Ms. Griffin so that she could prepare a redraft, and that a substantial working session be held on this issue.

Due to conflicts with attendance, Mr. Walsh suggested that the August 2, 1999 meeting be moved back to July 26, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Griffin commented that on the July 12 agenda there will be an item for setting July 26, 1999 down for a public hearing to talk about an Etna Village parking and circulation plan. A proposal will be available for the Board to deal with the bridge and parking issues and the site line problem.

Anne Morris asked if Ms. Griffin's plan was to have all of the Etna issues

decided by the end of July. Ms. Griffin answered that she would prefer to have the plan pretty close to being ready by the end of July. Obviously, that assumes that helpful input is received at the public hearing in Etna so that fine tuning can be done and there will be a couple of options to show the public on that evening and before. She would propose having the plan schematics displayed in Etna prior to the July 26th meeting so that people have plenty of opportunity to see the plans. She indicated that a plan has been developed that all of the abutters to the project agree to.

Ms. Griffin noted that one thought was whether or not some preliminary comment could be received from the public on the night of July 7th, which is the Etna Guiding Growth Committee meeting in Etna. Ms. Griffin acknowledged that she has not yet talked to the Committee about this and she is concerned about not taking up that meeting when the Guiding Growth Committee has their own business. One thought was to convene an hour earlier for people interested in coming in and giving detailed feedback so that further fine tuning could be accomplished and communicated to the abutters. In this manner, the plan that would be looked at on July 26th is a plan that people have already had an opportunity to think about carefully and thoughtfully. Ms. Griffin stated that the only other option is to hold the public hearing earlier. Ms. Connolly pointed out that if things do not go as planned, a request can be made of the Planning Board to ask for a modification of the site plan for an extension of time.

Mr. Walsh expressed the hope that whatever time is necessary can be made available out of the agendas of the meetings in July so that there is full public opportunity to see what the possibilities are and to comment.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin gave an update on the Nihonmatsu Celebration scheduled for Friday, July 30, 1999 at Storrs Pond. She noted that the ceremony will begin at 2:30 p.m. at Collis, followed by dinner at Storrs Pond at 5:00. There will also be dance performances, musical entertainment and fireworks beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Storrs Pond, and a general Town-wide picnic for that evening in advance of the celebration.

Ms. Griffin reported that she is also working on the donor community issue, spending the last three or four weeks talking with town administrators and selectboards in donor communities to continue to gather all of the information to consider whether or not to join litigation, and to also look at strategies donor communities might employ for legislative recommendations. Ms. Griffin indicated that she had volunteered to convene a working group of representatives from some of the donor communities, particularly those donor communities with full-time administrative staff, to spend the summer looking at the dynamics of a legislative alternative. She suggested that the Board may also want to bring in the members of the Town's legislative delegation to receive their input.

Mr. Walsh stated that he feels strongly that the school boards of the donor

communities should be involved in this issue, and would like to see substantial effort put in to involve school boards. He noted that what is happening now is that schools are exercising their right to remain silent relative to this subject. He feels that keeping this as a Town and administrative issue as opposed to getting the schools involved works against the Town's best interest. He would like to make a request that the Town of Hanover ask the Hanover School District and the Dresden School District if they would like to participate in the donor community activities.

Ms. Griffin commented that one of the curious phenomenon that is occurring already is that communities where local boards have bottom line authority on the school district budgets will start to lower their tax rates. Once these tax rates go down, it will be very difficult to get them back up again under the assumption that House Bill 117, for whatever reason, may be scrapped, whether the legal decision determines it unconstitutional or whether the legislative decision is to make the change. Ms. Griffin stated that time is of the essence as other communities start to lower their rates with the monies not being spent on education. Rather, the money is being spent to reduce taxes, resulting in what then is simply an income transfer.

Ms. Connolly pointed out that there is also a reduction in incentive to change House Bill 117 the longer that this is allowed to continue.

Mr. Colligan stated that if there are recipient towns that are already cutting their tax rates before receiving even \$1, it would certainly suggest that the solution is closer to \$200,000,000 than it is to \$1 billion. He finds the lowering of tax rates by these towns outrageous.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that at some point in the not too distant future a decision will need to be made as to whether or not the Town joins the lawsuit. The lawsuit will go forward whether it is sponsored by 6 or 26 communities, and is being prepared at this time. The other issue is the research of the whole equalization process in New Hampshire that the Town has been asked to help fund, regardless of whether or not the Town chooses to become a party to the lawsuit. The Town needs to decide 1) whether the Town's name will appear on a lawsuit filed in late September or early October, and 2) whether or not the Town wants to fund the effort to take a look at the problems inherent in the current House Bill 117 solution.

Mr. Walsh stated that he thinks the conversation about Claremont and Hanover's donor status is much too focused on the Selectmen and needs to include the Hanover School District, the Dresden School District, the Town Finance Committee, and the legislative delegation. The first thing he would like to hear is the Hanover School District's and Dresden School District's response to the request that they be involved in these conversations. If the responses are positive, then some forums could be planned; otherwise, there are other issues that need to be discussed.

In general, Mr. Colligan stated that he thinks Mr. Walsh is correct that the schools have been silent and they have a responsibility to use their leadership in this issue which is impacting the Town. He feels that the School Districts need to be just as aware and concerned as to what is

happening as the Board is, mostly so that it would impact the way they approach their budgeting process. Mr. Colligan stated that he has been very underwhelmed with decision making with respect to the School Board.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that it is a statewide phenomenon that school boards are not monitoring this issue the way municipalities are. The reason is that the municipalities send out the tax bills and collect the revenue.

Mr. Walsh suggested that perhaps the legislature should give the school boards the opportunity to send out their own tax bills. He is attempting to stimulate a conversation so that the impact on the Hanover taxpayer is a conversation that is held at the School District level, not just the Selectmen's level.

Ms. Griffin indicated that she would be meeting with the School Board on Tuesday, June 22 on the Joint Facilities Planning Committee work. She thinks that the best way to advance discussion is to say the Board is feeling the need to connect with the School Board on this issue, because the Town is poised on making some important decisions for Hanover in terms of whether or not to remain silent on this issue or move forward either less aggressively or more aggressively.

Mr. Walsh indicated that one suggestion heard is that the Town should consider joining the lawsuit and spending some money. He noted that he feels the appropriate division of that money would be two-thirds from the School District and one-third from the Town.

Mr. Colligan asked if the Selectmen should make a decision as to pursuing the lawsuit and then make a proposal for funding. Mr. Walsh answered that he feels the decision to pursue or not to pursue is premature.

Mr. Colligan asked if there was a deadline for making a decision on joining the lawsuit. Ms. Griffin answered that there is no hard and fast deadline. The more communities that participate, the less financial burden for each community. Even if a community does not sign on to the suit, there is an information gathering process that will be funded that is a very worthwhile effort in terms of looking at the State equalization process, which many would argue is seriously flawed. She would advocate that the Town think about spending that money regardless of whether or not Hanover is actually a part of the suit. Any lawsuit would not be filed until early October, so there is time to essentially stop momentum if something else occurs legislatively that changes the scenario. The research required to file the lawsuit takes about 3 1/2 months to complete.

Ms. Griffin also reported that the County budget has been approved, with 16 out of the 26 members voting. A County budget increase of 5 1/2% was approved on an \$18 million budget. A lot of time was spent discussing fees for the County budget next year with competing pressures, one being a reduction in State funding that could occur out of the State budget that would impact health and human services.

Ms. Connolly remarked that she had recently had an opportunity to tour

the County facilities, and stated that they are run remarkably well. She pointed out that the nursing home is one of the best of any kind of institutions she has ever seen.

8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Ms. Connolly

Ms. Connolly reported that the Planning Board dealt with an assortment of requests for waivers of site plan reviews. The Board will be going over the Bailey Subdivision, which is still under consideration. The site was visited on May 25. The Board also had a planning meeting and a visual tour via slides of Goose Pond. There are also a couple of site plans that have been put off until the middle of July, and she added that the next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for July 6, 1999.

Mr. Colligan

Mr. Colligan reported that the Conservation Commission will meet in the Courthouse of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 22, 1999 at 4:30 to finish discussions and review of the Grasse Road Phase 2 development. This is an important case with respect to wetlands, particularly given the 1998 amended ordinance.

Mr. Manchester

Mr. Manchester reported that the Howe Library Board will meet on Thursday, June 24th at 3:30.

Mr. Walsh

Mr. Walsh had nothing to report. However, he did observe that the Board made a commitment to the Town at Town Meeting last year that a public hearing would be held on easements relative to 7 Lebanon Street, even though Town Meeting this year gave the Board authority to act without a hearing. He feels that it is important to have this hearing.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 15, 22 AND 24, 1999.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of February 15, February 26 and February 24, 1999, as amended. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, FEBRUARY 26 AND FEBRUARY 24, 1999, AS AMENDED.

10. OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no other business.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Colligan MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen's meeting be

adjourned. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Mr. Colligan MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen go to nonpublic session to discuss a matter which may affect the reputation of an individual. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO TO NONPUBLIC SESSION TO DISCUSS A MATTER WHICH MAY AFFECT THE REPUTATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

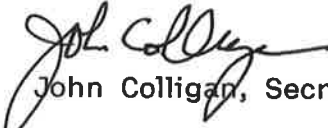
SUMMARY

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2. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the draft Conservation Fund Memorandum of Understanding, subject to acceptance by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DRAFT CONSERVATION FUND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.
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5. Mr. Colligan MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen's meeting be adjourned. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
6. Mr. Colligan MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen go to nonpublic session to discuss a matter which may affect the reputation of an individual. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO TO NONPUBLIC SESSION TO DISCUSS A MATTER WHICH MAY AFFECT THE REPUTATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John Colligan, Secretary

These minutes were taken and transcribed by Nancy Richards.