

FINAL

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**APRIL 10, 2000**

**7:30 P.M. - MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - HANOVER, NH**

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman, Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Marilyn Black, Vice Chairman; Katherine S. Connolly; John Manchester; 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.**

There was no public comment.

**2. FINAL DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**

In reviewing the proposed Housing and Community Development Plan, Ms. Connolly commented that she feels a change should be made in the fifth policy under Housing which reads "engage in new activities that will result in the involuntary permanent displacement of lower moderate income citizens". She suggested that a period be placed after the word "citizens" and the rest of the sentence reading "if this is unavoidable, the Town will work to find suitable replacement housing" be deleted. Jonathan Edwards informed the Board that the striking of this language would not be acceptable to the Federal government; it is the only phrase in the Development Plan that is Federally required.

Ms. Griffin explained that her experience with CDBG money leads her to believe that the government wants to be sure if a Community Development Block Grant project ends up displacing individuals that the Town will be committed to finding replacement lower to moderate income housing for those individuals. She does not feel that this is likely to be an issue in Hanover, but would apply to fairly significant economic development projects of an urban renewal nature.

Ms. Black suggested that language such as "most of the rental units in Hanover that would be appropriate for low and moderate income housing are rented by students" be inserted in the last paragraph of the first page of the draft proposal. She pointed out that such units do exist in Hanover but are occupied by students.

Regarding Ms. Connolly's earlier suggestion, Mr. Walsh stated that he would not have trouble leaving in the language "the Town will work to find suitable replacement housing" and adding "It is understood that Dartmouth College students are not deemed to be low and moderate income citizens". He does not feel it is the Town's responsibility to provide inexpensive housing for Dartmouth students.

Ms. Connolly pointed out that Dartmouth has taken it upon itself to try to increase the number of undergraduates living on campus which, if successful, will make a great difference in the availability of moderate income housing.

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to approve the proposed Housing and Community Development Plan, as amended. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AS AMENDED.**

**3. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TO THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING.**

Ms. Griffin indicated to the Board that the only modification to this application came up in a meeting with the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee recently; they requested that the Board consider as part of the feasibility analysis that an architect or planner who would be retained be asked to look at the cost benefit analysis of a new senior center versus renovating and expanding the current senior center on its footprint. She noted that perhaps including this as part of the grant application may make everyone feel from a fiduciary standpoint and in terms of feasibility that all of the options were being considered.

Ms. Black noted that 90% of the grant application deals with moderate and low income housing and housing for the disabled, while very little is mentioned about the seniors' needs.

Ms. Griffin stated that one reason for looking at utilizing these funds is that in order to become eligible for CDBG money among other things the Town needs to be able to demonstrate that there is a percentage population of low and moderate income individuals, whether seniors or otherwise, that would be served by a potential enhancement of a facility such as the senior center. Ms. Black indicated that while she understands that, she would like to see the senior center get a little more emphasis.

Ms. Griffin explained that the Town is applying for Community Development Block Grant feasibility money. The Office of State Planning divides the money up into \$12,000 increments to accomplish two things -- in Hanover's case, to look at the low and moderate income housing and facility needs, as well as to consider the feasibility of an enhanced or new senior center, potentially partnered with some sort of low and moderate income housing program. Until the assessment is done to consider the need, particularly among seniors, it is unknown whether it would make sense to try to package that kind of a project. The feasibility analysis needs to be done before a larger CDBG grant can be applied for.

Mr. Walsh opened the public hearing.

Ms. Connolly stated that she was worried about the implications of some statements contained on page four of the plan. She wondered if the language "recognition that intervention by the public sector is necessary given the evident failure of the private sector to provide diverse and

affordable housing" might be too strong considering the present tax structure and economy. Ms. Griffin explained that the language means to imply that even in communities such as Hanover because of the potential benefit to the developer by constructing something other than low and moderate income housing, it may be important or necessary for federal funds such as CDBG funds to be partnered, with or without local funds, to facilitate the development of low and moderate income housing opportunities.

Ms. Black noted a potential problem on page two, second bullet, and suggested that a period be placed after the word "needs" and the rest of the sentence be deleted. She pointed out that there are no ordinances that allow this. Ms. Griffin stated that in some communities some percentage of units that are constructed by a developer are required to be low or moderate income affordable housing. Ms. Black noted that this has to be put in the form of an ordinance or regulations before the Board could say they would do it. She feels that including the language would be making a premature commitment.

Mr. Walsh asked if the Planning Board has had a chance to review the proposed Housing and Community Development Plan. Ms. Connolly answered that the Planning Board never really discussed it as a Board, although feedback was received from some individual Planning Board members. Mr. Walsh stated that he would not like to have the Selectmen move forward without having the Planning Board's concurrence on the Plan. He requested that the Planning Board be asked to put this issue on their agenda. Ms. Griffin indicated that the Planning Board will next meet on April 18th; the Selectmen have a meeting scheduled on April 24th, so if there was substantive feedback from the Planning Board the issue could be put back on the agenda for the Selectmen's meeting.

Jonathan Edwards offered the following changes to the proposed Plan. On page one, he suggested that there be a new bullet which says "to quantify, refine, elaborate, and prioritize the action strategies contained in the Town of Hanover's Housing and Community Development Plan". He also suggested that there be a new bullet number three which says "to inform and provide input into the current efforts by the Hanover Planning Board to update and revise the Town-wide Master Plan.". On page two Mr. Edwards proposed adding at the bottom of the third paragraph a reference to the Town Meeting Warrant Article about the purchase of 48 Lebanon Street, and on page five add as part of the consideration for matching funds another reference to that Warrant Article of \$135,000 which is proposed to be appropriated.

Ms. Black suggested that there could be another bullet on page one regarding looking at the present senior site to determine the feasibility of new construction versus renovation.

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to close the public hearing. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

**4. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED WARRANT FOR THE 2000 TOWN MEETING.**

Ms. Griffin explained that the draft currently before the Board of the Town Warrant reflects final input from the Department of Revenue Administration as well as the Town's attorney, Walter Mitchell. She also has available for the Board her first draft of the background information to which she will attach as an appendix the actual wording of the Zoning Ordinance Amendments.

Mr. Walsh asked if the Planning Board members will be offered the opportunity to comment on the Zoning Ordinance Amendment language. Ms. Griffin answered that the Zoning Ordinance background information will be distributed to the Planning Board at their next meeting for their feedback.

Regarding Article 6, Ms. Black noted that there are a couple of houses being built out in the Rural Residential area that would serve no other good purpose than a hotel if the present owners were to no longer own the property. Ms. Connolly agreed that they are very large houses with very few people in them; however, the Zoning Ordinance Amendment does not remove the ability to have a bed and breakfast or tourist home located there.

Ms. Griffin noted that beginning with Article 10 is where the Board essentially has purview, and she asked the Board to take a position on each of the Articles so that the Board's vote can be indicated on the Warrant.

Regarding Article 10, Ms. Griffin indicated that none of the present fence viewers or surveyors of wood and timber wish to relinquish their roles. She added that the Board does not usually take a position on this Article.

Article 11 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$135,000 for the purpose of acquiring the property located at 48 Lebanon Street for future construction of a new Senior Center, and to authorize funding of this amount by withdrawal from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund with no funds being raised by taxation."

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 11. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Mr. Walsh stated that he is worried that the wording of the Article is so specific to the Senior Center that if in the future a more multi-use structure was desired it might be necessary to go back to Town Meeting for an amendment.

Ms. Griffin suggested that language could be modified as follows: "for future construction of a new senior center and community meeting rooms."

Ms. Black stated that she feels the seniors would vote against this Article if the uses were combined as suggested. Ms. Griffin explained that the term "community meeting rooms" feels a little less intimidating than "community and senior center". The intention is to do something in the

morning and afternoon related to the Senior Center and by late afternoon or early evening or during the weekends it could become a community meeting place.

**The Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 11, AS AMENDED.**

Article 12 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and authorize payment into the capital reserve funds in the following amounts for the purposes for which such funds were established - Police vehicle reserve \$45,000, Howe Library \$10,000, Public Works equipment reserve \$135,000, Fire Fund equipment reserve \$70,000, Sidewalk Fund equipment reserve \$16,000, Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund equipment reserve \$103,003, Ambulance Fund equipment reserve \$24,500, and Parking Fund equipment reserve \$2,660."

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 12. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 12.**

Ms. Griffin explained that Article 13 deals with the appropriation of money out of various equipment reserves for the purchase of equipment, including the Public Works equipment reserve, the Fire Fund apparatus replacement with either a new or potentially lightly used piece of fire apparatus, a sidewalk machine and Wastewater Treatment Plant fund equipment reserve.

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 13. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 13.**

Article 14 - "To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate to pay the expenses of the Town for the 2000/2001 fiscal year for the purposes set forth in the Town budget." Ms. Griffin explained that appropriations for Articles 11, 12 and 13 are included in this Article, and the Moderator will move the main number at this time.

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve Article 14 in the amount determined at Town Meeting. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO APPROVE ARTICLE 14 IN THE AMOUNT DETERMINED AT TOWN MEETING.**

Ms. Griffin explained that Article 15 deals with the collective bargaining agreement for the Professional Firefighters of Hanover union.

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve Article 15. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION, and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO APPROVE ARTICLE 15.**

Ms. Black explained that Article 16 deals with the collective bargaining unit with AFSCME for the Public Works Department; it is a two year contract calling for 2% this year and 2 1/2% next year.

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 16. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 16.**

Article 17 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,350 for deposit in the Conservation Fund to authorize funding in this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Fund 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 Fund for FY 1998/1999."

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 17. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 17.**

Ms. Griffin explained that Article 18 takes the amount of \$30,350 and puts it into Land and Capital Improvement Funds.

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 18. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 18.**

Ms. Griffin stated that Article 19 takes the fairly small amount of money received in timber sales from Town owned land, \$1,037, and appropriates it into the Conservation Fund from the unreserved fund balance.

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 19. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 19.**

Article 20 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the purchase of an electronic ticket writing system for the Parking Division as approved in the Capital Improvement Program and to authorize funding this item by withdrawing from the Parking Fund capital reserve." Mr. Walsh asked why this is a separate Warrant Article. Mr. Gilbar answered that it was an item in the capital improvement program which was not done this year; in order to roll it into a part of capital reserve purchases separately so that it is not included in next year's budget it has to be done as a separate Warrant Article. Ms. Griffin noted that she had not yet written the background information on this Article as it is sufficiently confusing and she does not want to write in inaccurately. Ms. Black noted that the language is very easy - it was budgeted for this year, it was not spent, and a Warrant Article is necessary to roll the funds over to next year and spend them next year.

**Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 20. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 20.**

Ms. Griffin explained that the Bike Path Committee asked the Selectmen to consider putting Article 21 back on the Warrant again this year. If the Board is inclined to do so, it will be necessary for them to meet on April

24th to hold one more public hearing on this issue. She noted that she had missed the deadline for advertising in the newspaper by one day. The intent of the Article is to see if the Town will vote to collect an additional motor vehicle registration fee or surcharge of up to \$5 per vehicle for the purpose of supporting a municipal transportation improvement fund for the purposes set forth in RSA 261:163-6, and further to vote to establish said fund. Proceeds from said fund are to be used to support eligible local transportation improvement projects such as public transportation, roadway improvements, signal upgrades and development of new bicycle and pedestrian paths. Ms. Griffin explained that this item has to be voted on by ballot, it cannot be a show of hands.

The Board discussed the advisability of putting a paper ballot in the middle of the meeting which might encourage people to leave as opposed to having it at the end of the meeting. Ms. Griffin pointed out that she believes the matter can also be put on the ballot for voting during the day.

Mr. Walsh stated that he would like to see this Article be on the ballot to be voted on during the day, but feels that it is very important that the background information state that since it had to be voted on by paper ballot, the Board examined whether to place it at the end of Town Meeting, to interrupt the flow of Town Meeting by having it in the middle, or to put it on the ballot for voting during the day. He suggested that the information also include language indicating that the Board decided to have it on the ballot for voting during the day so as not to interrupt Town meeting, and not so as to avoid conversation.

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 21. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 21.**

Mr. Walsh stressed that he would not like to have the Board put in the position where anyone would think that the Board was trying to avoid conversation about this issue. Ms. Griffin noted that Mr. Colligan had felt that there was not enough specificity to this issue in terms of the need to collect the surcharge. One of the things that he hoped would be addressed would be information specific as to what the funds might be used for as opposed to a nebulous transportation improvement fund with lots of different options available to it. Ms. Black suggested that the Bike Committee might not like it placed on the ballot because there can be no discussion.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to leave Article 21 where it is on the Warrant and perhaps hand out paper ballots to people as they check in to allow them to vote from their seats rather than stopping the meeting. Ms. Griffin is to talk with the moderator about the best way to do this.

Article 22 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to support the services provided by CATV 6."

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 22. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 22.**

Article 23 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to use by the Town of Hanover in the furtherance of cultural student and adult exchanges between the Town of Hanover and its sister city, Joigny.

**Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 23. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 23.**

Article 24 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to use by the Town of Hanover in the furtherance of cultural student and adult exchanges between the Town of Hanover and its friendship city, Nihonmatsu, Japan.

**Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 24. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 24.**

Article 25 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to support the services provided to the Upper Valley by the Aids Community Resource Network (ACORN)."

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 25. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 25.**

Article 26 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to support the services provided to the Upper Valley by The Family Place."

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 26. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 26.**

Article 27 - "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to support the services provided to the Upper Valley by The Haven."

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 27. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Mr. Walsh asked for an explanation of the request for \$5,000. Ms. Black answered that The Haven is running a capital campaign to double the size of the living quarters for the guests at The Haven. The \$5,000 requested is for the capital campaign. Mr. Walsh suggested that language be included in the Article indicating that the \$5,000 is to be used to support the capital campaign.

**The Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 27, AS AMENDED.**



Article 28 - "To see if the Town will vote to send the following resolution to the New Hampshire General Court - RESOLVED that New Hampshire's natural, cultural and historic resources in this Town and throughout the State are worthy of protection, and therefore the State of New Hampshire should establish and fund a permanent public private partnership for the voluntary conservation of these important resources."

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 28. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 28.**

Mr. Walsh asked for public input. A member of the audience stated that she would appreciate something being published in the Valley News indicating, for example, where 48 Lebanon Street is and perhaps maps regarding the Zoning Amendments. The Board agreed that such maps would be a great idea and would be very helpful.

With regard to Article 21 and the motor vehicle registration surcharge of up to \$5, Ms. Black stated that she would rather go with a flat \$5 to avoid having to hold another public hearing to determine a fee from zero to \$5. It was the consensus of the Board to have Article 21 indicate the fee of \$5.

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to close the public hearing. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

**5. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER COLLECTION OF ADDITIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION SURCHARGE PURSUANT TO RSA 261:153, TO ENABLE CREATION OF MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

Ms. Griffin stated that it is not necessary to hold this public hearing; she will simply indicate that the Board will table the public hearing to April 24th and she will be sure to have the proper seven day notice in the newspaper.

Mr. Walsh explained that the Board will hold a public hearing on April 24th at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the possibility of adding a \$5 fee to motor vehicle registrations to support municipal transportation improvements, primarily for bicycles, by foot, or bus, as well as signals.

A member of the audience asked whether it might be possible to have the Valley News write a story explaining in detail the need for the additional \$5. She suggested that many people do not see the legal notices that are printed in the paper. Ms. Griffin will talk with Alex Leary about the possibility of a story in the Valley News with regard to the \$5 motor vehicle registration surcharge. She noted that he had done a story on this issue last year because Hanover was one of the few communities in the State that had attempted to apply the surcharge. It was mentioned that letters to the editor can also be an effective tool in getting information out to the public.

**6. REVIEW OF AUDIT FOR FY 1998/1999.**

Mike Gilbar gave a brief recap of the highlights of the audit for fiscal year 1998/1999 and explained the format of the audit report.

Ms. Griffin explained to the Board that undesignated fund balance is essentially the outcome of tighter budgeting. Looking at the years from 1994, 1995 and 1996, she feels that the Town was budgeting more than it needed to, resulting in significant savings at the end of each year. Starting in 1997 tightening of the budget can be seen in terms of going with a very modest tax rate increase. The downside of this is that the year does not end with a significant amount of unexpended appropriation. Over the past several years the Town has eased the pain of avoiding large tax rate increases by using a fair amount of undesignated fund balance or surplus to balance the budget. This has resulted in bringing the undesignated fund balance down fairly low. Ms. Griffin explained that this is why she indicated to the Board that for the first time this year the Town has started weaning itself off needing as much surplus to balance the budget. The downside of this is that it is necessary to continue to tighten the belt to manage the budget without relying on usage of surplus. The goal would be over the next two years to continue to wean the Town off using surplus so that the undesignated fund balance can be built back up; it should be at 5 to 10 percent of the total General Fund appropriation so that the Town has what the rating agencies would say is an adequate reserve for a community of Hanover's size and level of activity in the event of a fairly catastrophic situation.

Mr. Gilbar estimated that, depending on revenues received, the Town will be probably be at approximately 4% or 4 1/2% of undesignated fund balance at the end of this current fiscal year.

Ms. Griffin explained that her reason for highlighting this is that the Board will continue to be encouraged to move toward the goal of trying to wean the Town off using surplus to achieve a tax rate, and in fact to achieve that tax rate through the operating budget and not through the utilization of surplus in order to build the surplus back up to help beef up the undesignated fund balance.

Mr. Gilbar mentioned that there are new regulations contained in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34. Some of the changes that will be seen are that there will no longer be specific fund types as they are seen in the budget report. They will be categorized by major fund types, such as the high revenue type funds of General Fund, Fire Fund, and Parking Fund, and the rest will be lumped together into one category. Detail will still be provided in the budget, but it will have to fit with the GASB requirements to avoid having to do three or four types of different reports for each entity. He noted that this is another unfunded Federal mandate which he feels all of the New England states will object to.

Mr. Manchester asked about the possibility of using a higher deductible for insurance on town vehicles to lower the premium cost. Ms. Griffin answered that the Trust has looked at the premium impact of various

deductibles, but has not opted to offer a variable deductible program. Mr. Manchester indicated that he feels it would be worth talking with the Municipal Trust about this issue; Ms. Griffin answered that she is on the Board of the Trust, so she will certainly bring it up to them.

Mr. Gilbar stated that the new accounting standards also demand that the Town use fixed assets accounting and infrastructure assessment and reporting. It will now be necessary to get some sort of dollar amount that will be set as the ceiling for the base amount for items that will be included in fixed assets such as tables, chairs, computer equipment, etc. It will be necessary to do a full inventory of these types of assets as well as an inventory of the infrastructure, and to report the value of everything with any debt related netted out.

Ms. Griffin explained that these new requirements are coming out of the phenomenon of infrastructure deterioration in American cities and towns. GASB is essentially requiring that over time communities become more diligent in valuing their assets, with the assumption that to the extent a Town is in better command of the value of its assets, it will be more responsible for the managing of its infrastructure in a responsible fashion rather than letting bridges, streets, sidewalks and buildings deteriorate because their value is not being tracked. The problem is that a lot of time and money has to be spent up front to do the valuation. Ms. Griffin explained that most communities have continued to put this work off because there are always more pressing matters to be dealt with. She feels that the Town may be better off hiring someone to do the work. Mr. Gilbar stated that he has no staff that could devote the time necessary to do this valuation.

Mr. Walsh stated that he has problems with these GASB requirements. He feels that the Town has good records on major pieces of infrastructure, with the exception of the Water Company, in terms of roads and capital improvement program, in terms of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and in terms of the Town's vehicles, as well as good reserves. He feels that spending time and effort to create "artificial fixed asset accounting" is not going to improve the Town's ability to manage the fixed assets necessary to run the Town. He suggested that the Board write a letter to GASB or whatever entity is appropriate expressing these concerns. He asked what would happen if the work is not done. Ms. Griffin answered that there would be a letter included in the audit that indicates there were material deficiencies. Mr. Gilbar indicated that the letter would be similar to the one included in the audit each year, but would be worse.

Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Gilbar if he felt implementing the new requirements of GASB 34 would do anything to improve the Town's management of its fixed assets; Mr. Gilbar answered that it would not. Mr. Walsh indicated that he would like the Board to send a letter to the appropriate people expressing the Board's feelings in this regard. Ms. Griffin suggested that over the next few months this issue will gel statewide, and that the letter be written at that time.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT.**

Ms. Griffin reported that the bulk of the Town Report has been sent to the printer, with the remainder of the Report including the Warrant and the background information to be sent at the end of the week. It will go to the mailing house on the Monday of the last week in April and will be out in the mail on Wednesday of that week.

Ms. Griffin noted that there are a series of recommendations in the Parking Facility Task Force's report which are tied to the revenue and expenditure issues the Board focused on specifically in the context of the Parking Fund budget. She suggested that at some point in the next six weeks or so it would be advisable for the Board to focus specifically on some of the implementation suggestions that the Task Force made. Ms. Griffin suggested that the Task Force may be able to meet with the Board at their meeting of May 15th; she will contact the members of that committee to see if they can join the Board on that evening.

Ms. Griffin indicated that Mike Ryan will be attending a meeting of the Coalition Committee at the Municipal Association at which they will release their full report. She added that several communities have appropriated money at their Town Meetings to buttress this effort, and there should be an accounting update available by then in terms of who has contributed.

**8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.**

**Ms. Connolly**

Ms. Connolly reported that at the last Planning Board meeting she sat on a case regarding approval of one subdivision and a lot line adjustment. All of the other cases involved Dartmouth College.

**Ms. Black**

Ms. Black reported that Dartmouth College was before the Planning Board requesting some site plan modifications to their tennis and turf field. These modifications involved moving some poles in the driveway behind the bleachers to allow maintenance vehicles to gain access, and the cutting down of some trees that were not supposed to have been removed and the replanting of replacement trees. Other cases involved approving converting Pike House into a student residence for Caribbean student studies, and a small cement platform for air conditioning of the office at Roth Center. In addition, the College had a request to add a new lighted tennis court; this request will be coming back before the Planning Board. The Board also approved a planned residential development on the corner of Park and Wheelock Street which will result in an increase of 22 living units.

Ms. Black also reported that there will be an NHMA dinner on Tuesday, April 11th at 6:30 p.m.

**Mr. Manchester**

Mr. Manchester reported on the party held at the Hanover Inn for the Howe Library Centennial Celebration. Mr. Walsh commented that it was a very special day for the Town.

**Mr. Walsh**

Mr. Walsh reported that he had written the Selectmen's letter for inclusion in the Warrant.

**9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 3, 2000**

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of April 3, 2000, as corrected. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED TWO IN FAVOR, TWO ABSTAINED (MR. WALSH AND MR. MANCHESTER) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2000, AS CORRECTED.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business to come before the meeting.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to go to non-public 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 NON-PUBLIC SESSION TO DISCUSS A MATTER WHICH MAY AFFECT THE REPUTATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

**SUMMARY**


- 1. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to approve the proposed Housing and Community Development Plan, as amended. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AS AMENDED.**
- 2. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to close the public hearing. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**
- 3. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 11, as amended. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION. The Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 11, AS AMENDED.**

4. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 12. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 12.
5. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 13. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 13.
6. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve Article 14 in the amount determined at Town Meeting. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO APPROVE ARTICLE 14 IN THE AMOUNT DETERMINED AT TOWN MEETING.
7. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve Article 15. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION, and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO APPROVE ARTICLE 15.
8. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 16. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 16.
9. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 17. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 17.
10. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 18. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 18.
11. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 19. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 19.
12. Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 20. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 20.
13. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 21. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 21.
14. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 22. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 22.
15. Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 23. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 23.

16. Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 24. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 24.
17. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 25. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 25.
18. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 26. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 26.
19. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 27. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION. The Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 27, AS AMENDED.
20. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen support Article 28. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, ONE ABSENT TO SUPPORT ARTICLE 28.
21. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to close the public hearing. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.
22. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of April 3, 2000, as corrected. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED TWO IN FAVOR, TWO ABSTAINED (MR. WALSH AND MR. MANCHESTER) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2000, AS CORRECTED.
23. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
24. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to go to non-public 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 NON-PUBLIC SESSION TO DISCUSS A MATTER WHICH MAY AFFECT THE REPUTATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Colligan, Secretary

These minutes were transcribed by Nancy Richards.