

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

APRIL 25, 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; 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.

There was no public comment.

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER COLLECTION OF \$5.00 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION SURCHARGE PURSUANT TO RSA 261:153 VI, TO ENABLE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Ms. Griffin explained that this public hearing is required to be held prior to Town Meeting in order to consider adoption of a segment of RSA 261:153 VI which enables the establishment of a municipal transportation improvement fund. She added that enabling legislation was passed two years ago by the New Hampshire legislature to allow Town Meetings or City Councils to create a surcharge up to an amount of \$5 which is applied to every motor vehicle registration. These funds would then be set aside in a special fund called a Transportation Improvement Fund. The money can fund a series of types of projects which by State statute are eligible for funding via revenue collected from the surcharge; in particular, items that are allowed to be funded include roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities such as park and rides, and public transportation systems such as Advance Transit or the downtown shuttle, for example.

Ms. Griffin indicated that based on the amount of motor vehicle revenue currently being generated by the Town, which is well in excess of \$1 million at this point, the fund would accumulate approximately \$25,000 a year. She stated that it is important to point out, however, that she does not believe this trend will continue over the long term to sustain \$1 million in motor vehicle registrations on an annual basis. She would anticipate a return to the vicinity of \$850,000 a year in motor vehicle registration revenue and would project anywhere from \$17,000 to \$25,000 a year in revenue to be accumulated in the fund.

Ms. Griffin continued to say that Town Meeting needs to enable the establishment of the proposed surcharge. The Bike Path Committee has approached the Board to consider placing this request on the Warrant again this year. She commented that it was on the Warrant last year; a two-thirds majority is required for approval, and the Warrant article

failed by one vote. She feels that the issue that was probably most debated was what the Town would specifically choose to allocate the funding for. Ms. Griffin noted that the legislature really leaves it wide open for a community to decide what to allocate the funds for, and provides that on an annual basis once the fund is established the budgeting process takes it forward and makes recommendations to Town Meeting as to the proposed use of the funds in any given fiscal year.

Ms. Black asked if a Warrant Article is required each year to spend the money. Ms. Griffin answered that it is her understanding that it becomes just another appropriation line item in the budget as opposed to an appropriation from a segregated fund.

Mr. Manchester asked if the parking garage could take advantage of these funds. Ms. Griffin answered that she feels that would be a stretch, however, it could fund parking facilities. She would prefer to have a written opinion from the Town attorney in this regard, and would sense that it might want to be tied more directly to something which helps to reduce traffic difficulties and parking hassles. She commented that perhaps a more logical funding opportunity might be something like the shuttle system.

Mr. Walsh pointed out that a lot of confusion was created last year by how the funds might be used; he feels that it would be useful to consider what limits the Board may wish to put on the money before it is brought in front of Town Meeting.

Ms. Black stated that she does not believe limits can be put on the spending of the money, specifically if the legislature calls for a whole spectrum of uses. This would be limiting the actions of a future Board which is not allowed.

Mr. Colligan agreed with Ms. Black. He added that he thought the surcharge was a bad idea last year, and he thinks that it is an even worse idea this year given what is happening. He feels that it makes more sense to try to raise money to address the dust problem in Etna than it does to approve this surcharge because at least the taxpayer would know where the money is being spent. He added that he has a very hard time creating a new tax where the taxpayer does not have a say on where the money is spent. Mr. Colligan pointed out that it is a significant addition to the generation of taxes, and he believes it makes no sense at all given that the President of the Water Company has stated there may be a very substantial financial commitment yet to be defined. In addition, he pointed out that Hanover has an overcrowded school and the Town is completely hostage to what is happening in Concord with education funding. He feels that for the Board to create a tax where there is not a very specific purpose defined is reckless and he feels it should not be done.

Mr. Colligan stated that he feels that if the Bike Path Committee has a specific spending need they should incorporate it into the regular budget process. He feels to approve the surcharge would be bad tax policy and is unnecessary. He added that the Town has so far had no problem finding money for things that are needed and can be justified.

Mr. Walsh opened the public hearing.

Bob Norman of the Bicycle Path Committee spoke in favor of the proposal. He pointed out that the fund is an identifiable fund, so if money is spent it should be possible to determine what it was spent on. He also pointed out that there would be a delay in obtaining funds if the Bike Path came up with something they wanted to do in the month of July, for example, and had to wait until Town Meeting in May to get the money. He believes that

there are sufficient needs for the kinds of projects that the fund seems to be primarily aimed at which are the alternative transportation projects.

As far as whether there can be a limit on what the funds are spent for, Mr. Norman pointed out that this cannot be done on the Warrant Article. He sees no reason why the Board cannot adopt a policy as to how the funds would be used. The policy could also be changed if the Board decided to use the funds for another purpose.

Hugh Mellert, also a member of the Bike Committee, spoke in favor of the proposal as well. He noted that the Bike Committee has now been working for approximately three years, and the only funding they have been working with is the ISTEPA funding and the matching funds from the Town, mostly for the bicycle path from downtown to DHMC. During that three years the Committee has developed a fairly long list of other improvements that they would like that range from changing to bicycle friendly and bicycle safe drainage grates to the larger project of bicycle improvements to Greensboro Road. Also included in the list would be traffic lights and loop detectors. He feels that the surcharge would be one way of creating a fund that could be used for these purposes. If the Selectboard is the group that decides where the funds will be spent each year, he would hope that some of the funds could be utilized for bicycle safety improvements.

Bill Baschnagel stated that he would also like to encourage the Board to consider this proposal, and added that he feels the Board should be very careful not to overly define it. He believes that there are needs in the alternative transportation world of which bicycles are a part, but that there are also many other needs that this funding would provide an opportunity to address. He stated that there are a lot of opportunities that exist for use of the funds to provide amounts for seed money as a key to a matching fund, such as biking, bus transportation or putting in sidewalks in the vicinity of the Ray School to get students off the street and safely onto a sidewalk. Mr. Baschnagel stated that he believes there are appropriate and good uses for this fund, and he would encourage the Board's support.

Ellis Rolett, also a member of the Bicycle Committee, stated that he assumed the fund could be used for all forms of alternative transportation. He pointed out that with the issue now regarding the High School development and the possibility that there will be playing fields located in Norwich, there are some people who would like to see shuttle buses servicing this location as well. There are many other items which the Bicycle Committee has identified that he feels are appropriate, and it is not clear whether any of these needs will be met in the future with Federal or State money or otherwise. He wondered whether a compromise situation could be considered where there would be an identifiable item each year at Town Meeting so that the citizens would feel there was an opportunity for citizen input and approval of how the funds would be spent on an annual basis and throughout the year. He noted that the money does not have to be spent each year but could be accumulated for some larger project.

Regarding earmarking of the funds for specific purposes, Ms. Griffin stated that it is her understanding of the legislation that any number of eligible types of projects would be allowed to be funded. The legislation is silent with respect to a community's ability to make a decision to earmark the money for a subset of those projects. It would not be necessary for the Board to indicate at Town Meeting that for the foreseeable future the

money would only be spent on bicycling improvements, for example. It would be adequate to simply indicate that the Board intends to use the money in the short-term to fund bridge projects, bicycle projects, or two or three types of projects as opposed to leaving it wide open. She added that it is really up to the Board after receiving input at the public hearing whether it wishes to say at Town Meeting that it is the Board's further recommendation that in the near term the funds would be earmarked for a subset of the eligible projects for funding by the State legislature.

Ms. Black pointed out that there will be no money until it is actually collected, so there can be no proposals until next year's Town Meeting. She stated that she agrees with Mr. Rolett's idea that at least for the first couple of years the money should be earmarked as to what it would be spent for in the next year. She thinks that discussion at this year's Town Meeting may be premature.

Ms. Connolly stated that she feels the Board should make the intent perfectly clear as to what types of projects the money will be spent for. and added that she feels the intent should basically be for alternative transportation.

In re-reading the RSA, Ms. Griffin noted that it is creating a transportation improvement fund. She assumes that as part of the budget presented to Town Meeting next year an appropriation from that fund has to occur for a specific project as a separate line item as opposed to simply another form of revenue that is lumped into the General Fund sources of revenue from which a multitude of appropriations are made. She indicated that she is not sure whether a separate Warrant Article would be required. If the Board were to be consistent with the Conservation Fund, it would require a specific Warrant Article.

Ms. Black stated that she feels it is only fair that there be a separate Warrant Article at least until the fund is up and running. Instead of being specific as to what the money will be spent on this year, she feels that when the money is collected next year the Board could present a Warrant Article as to what the money would be spent for.

Mr. Colligan pointed out that if the fund is accumulating and taxpayers die, they receive no benefit from the taxes that they have paid in. He still does not understand why these types of requests would not be made as a part of the regular budget process.

Ms. Griffin explained that items such as those discussed are typically included in the capital improvement program in the operating budget, and debated during the Board's sessions when considering the proposed budget, but in addition in separate capital reserve fund expenditures as Warrant Articles. This provides a double check, and is a process put in place to safeguard against things getting lost in the budget where the legislative body loses the ability to have some control over the outcome.

As far as painting and restriping, Mr. Mellert noted that when the bicycle path from Hanover to DHMC is completed and the roads are marked, those markings will need to be repainted at some point in the future. Funds for this work would either come from the regular line item painting budget for the Town or from a fund such as the one proposed.

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

Mr. Walsh noted that it seems to him that regarding the Warrant the question is what, if anything, the Board wants to say to Town Meeting as they debate this issue. Ms. Black suggested that the Board tell Town Meeting that the money will be collected and Town Meeting next year would decide which alternative form of transportation should receive the funds or what other use the money should be spent for. Mr. Walsh added that there will be an annual Warrant Article on the expenditure or non-expenditure of the funds for these purposes.

Ms. Griffin commented that it is also not unusual that the Town might go two to three years without a Warrant Article because it would be accumulating money in the fund for specific projects the Board has in mind for a future year. She feels it is important to say that just because it accumulates, it does not mean that it has to be expended every year.

Ms. Connolly noted, however, that it is a source of funds for the maintenance of the Town's alternative transportation facilities.

If there was to be a Warrant Article each year, Mr. Mellert asked what would happen if the Board decides to spend the funds on a certain project or projects, or decides to hold the funds to accumulate them, and at Town Meeting their proposal is turned down. Ms. Black explained that there can always be a motion from the floor or an Article can be amended at Town Meeting.

Ms. Griffin agreed that it could be possible the Board would recommend a project that was not approved at Town Meeting, in which case the money would simply accumulate in the fund for another year, or an individual could bring a substitute motion from the floor at Town Meeting that the funds be used for another purpose. Mr. Mellert asked if this has happened with other issues in the past, and Ms. Black answered that although it has happened, it does not happen regularly.

Ms. Griffin explained that each year if the Board were to select an eligible project, the Town attorney would provide the Board with an opinion as to whether that project was eligible based on the Statute. Although the Statute is fairly broad, she noted that she is not sure that operating expenses related to a parking structure would be eligible.

Mr. Walsh indicated that he would prefer to take discussions of such items as the parking structure off the table as he does not feel that is the intention of this fund. He noted that the fund has been talked about in the context of alternative transportation, whether bicycle, public transportation or pedestrian; the Board has not talked about it in terms of a substitute or as an addition to the Public Works Department's budget. He feels that it needs to be made clear that funding is not being sought to reduce property taxes, for road maintenance, or for parking facilities.

Mr. Walsh stated that at the last meeting the Board voted in Mr. Colligan's absence to support the proposed surcharge with 4 in favor, none opposed, and one, Mr. Colligan,

absent. He asked Mr. Colligan if he would like the Board to vote again on this. Mr. Colligan thanked Mr. Walsh for his offer, but noted that he is on record as being opposed to the surcharge so he does not feel another vote is necessary.

3. FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND FEASIBILITY GRANT APPLICATION.

Ms. Griffin noted that the only new issue for the Board to consider is that Jonathan Edwards has had discussions with staff at the Office of State Planning with regard to the proposed Housing and Community Development Plan and Feasibility Grant Application. The Office of State Planning offers as a courtesy that before a Town submits an application they will review a draft. They have provided to Mr. Edwards some input as to how to tighten the application in their minds to make it more competitive.

Ms. Griffin explained that none of the suggested changes are substantive, but allow the application to focus a bit more specifically on the 48 Lebanon Street parcel, the Roberts parcel, and the potential for an associated affordable housing component.

Regarding the purchase of the 10 unit apartment building at 8 Summer Street, Ms. Connolly recalled that the Board had a discussion regarding this about two or three years ago, at which time the Board was discouraged from purchasing the property because of its condition and its price. She wondered if it was wise to again consider the purchase of this property.

Ms. Griffin answered that she is not sure if it is wise; the intention was to look at the facility, which is a 10 unit apartment building with an asking price of \$800,000. The property includes eight two-bedroom and two one-bedroom units. She feels that the asking price may be negotiable as the property has been on the market for some time without interest. She explained that what many other communities have done in similar circumstances is to combine CDBG funds with New Hampshire Housing Finance Agency funds to fund a purchase such as this, as opposed to the community buying it with either tax dollars or a bond issue. The Office of State Planning has pointed out that Hanover's point rating is very low with regard to its eligibility for CDBG funds, being the second lowest in the State. One enhancement to the application, therefore, might be to wrap it into a potential affordable housing component like the Summer Street property which is why the Town would propose to purchase it in conjunction with the feasibility of 48 Lebanon Street and the Roberts property.

Ms. Griffin added that the Office of State Planning is encouraging the Town to focus on feasible affordable housing projects as part of the CDBG application because it enhances the Town's ability to compete as a CDBG recipient. She noted that one of the key things that is needed to be determined as part of the Town's feasibility analysis to receive CDBG funds at all is the demand for low and moderate income housing in Hanover. It is assumed that there is such a demand, but the Town needs to be able to demonstrate with essentially a survey instrument just what the demand is both for facilities such as the Senior Center as well as low and moderate income affordable housing units.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Town of Hanover be authorized to submit

the Housing and Community Development Plan and Feasibility Grant Application as presented for CDBG Feasibility Funds. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE TOWN OF HANOVER BE AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND FEASIBILITY GRANT APPLICATION AS PRESENTED FOR CDBG FEASIBILITY FUNDS.

4. REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATION TO PURCHASE PARKING EQUIPMENT FOR PARKING STRUCTURE.

Ms. Griffin indicated that Sgt. O'Neill has done a lot of work reviewing the proposal to purchase parking equipment for the new parking structure. Mr. Walsh commended Sgt. O'Neill's work, adding that it looks like a great piece of work getting the Town a lot more than was thought at a lot less than was put in the budget.

Mr. Colligan asked if the \$23,000 mentioned in the proposal was absolutely necessary today or whether those items could be purchased later. Sgt. O'Neill answered that the \$23,000 is for security equipment.

Ms. Griffin explained that security equipment was not budgeted for initially. Scheduled for the May 15th meeting is a discussion of all of the recommendations contained in the Parking Facility Task Force's report, one of which had to do with pricing of spaces in the parking garage and other recommendations involving security for the facility. Ms. Griffin would recommend that the Board delay discussions involving the recommendations for the parking facility until the May 15th meeting when members of the Task Force plan to be present.

Mr. Baschnagel wished to second Mr. Walsh's comments regarding the fantastic job done by the Task Force and recognized Sgt. Patrick O'Neill and Michael Gilbar for all of their hard work.

Ms. Griffin stated that what is required is an agreement with a recommendation to incur a \$76,351 expenditure to purchase the equipment for the parking facility which has been recommended by staff in order to move forward to order the equipment and prepare for its installation.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to authorize an expenditure of \$76,351 to purchase the total traffic proposal equipment as recommended with options. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE AN EXPENDITURE OF \$76,351 TO PURCHASE THE TOTAL TRAFFIC PROPOSAL EQUIPMENT AS RECOMMENDED WITH OPTIONS.

5. REVIEW OF APPROVAL OF VALLEY NET AGREEMENT.

Ms. Griffin explained that the agreement with Valley Net is a mutual support trade services agreement negotiated by the MIS Coordinator with Valley Net whereby the Town will provide a host site for Valley Net. Valley Net is interested in the Town Hall's basement as a host site because of its proximity to the telephone building on School Street. In

exchange, Valley Net will provide the Town with a wide area network system at a significantly reduced cost from that which would be charged by other vendors in the area. This network system will allow communication with other departments outside of a respective building which will be significantly more efficient in terms of the ability to send documents and information back and forth between buildings.

Ms. Black asked if there was money available in the budget to pay for the services proposed. Ms. Griffin answered that the budget reviewed and approved by the Board included the expenditures for the proposed services.

Michael Gilbar noted that his recollection is that the yearly charge would be approximately \$3,000 for the wide area network which would be divided among departments. He added that the next lowest vendor would charge \$1,500 a month for the same service.

Mr. Manchester asked if there would be any difficulties in communicating with the new parking garage or with the police department's laptop computers. Mr. Gilbar answered that there will be no difficulties encountered; each location will be using the same equipment and Town Hall should be able to monitor the parking facility. Regarding the police department's laptop computers, Mr. Gilbar noted that the laptops transmit and receive directly from the mobile data system at the police station; everything would be done through that file server.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to approve the Valley Net agreement as proposed, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into the agreement. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE VALLEY NET AGREEMENT AS PROPOSED, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE AGREEMENT.

6. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO ALLEN STREET.

Ms. Griffin explained that she brought this matter to the Board's attention because she was unaware if a history existed regarding the particular granite pavers that are located at the entrance to Allen Street. She noted that Keith Southworth and Peter Kulbacki had come up with recommendations to change the material used in that area to make it easier to maintain.

Ms. Griffin also pointed out that she had talked with the Stinsons regarding timing of the work, and had agreed to try to do it in late July or early August to try to limit the disruption for the businesses located on Allen Street which find that May and June are very productive months.

Ms. Black recalled that Northeast Waste had dropped a dumpster in that location and broken many of the stones; she asked why they would not be paying for the repairs. Ms. Griffin answered that although they had dropped a dumpster, it was not in this location. Mr. Southworth stated that any damage in the location of the work proposed is as a result of traffic.

Mr. Colligan asked how long the existing pavers have lasted; Mr. Southworth answered

that he believes it has been approximately 8 to 10 years.

Mr. Colligan noted that the proposed option is nine times more expensive than the last time the work was done, and he asked how long the new materials would be expected to last. Mr. Southworth answered that he estimates they will last considerably longer than 8 years. Ms. Griffin added that the intuitive sense is that the Town will save money in the long run in terms of maintenance. Mr. Southworth noted that the disruption to the traffic pattern, etc. should also be considered as well as the week's worth of work for the Public Works Department personnel.

Mr. Colligan stated that he is not questioning the points brought up by Mr. Southworth, he is only looking for what would be gained from spending the \$4,800 proposed. Ms. Griffin answered that she cannot present scientific data that would indicate the materials would hold up three times longer, for example.

Mr. Walsh commented that he feels the trade-off will be to save one or two days in terms of installation plus the fact that the work will only have to be done once every twenty years, for example, as opposed to once every 8 to 10 years.

Mr. Southworth stated that the base for the new stones should last for many years because it is impervious to salt.

Mr. Colligan stated that if the work were to last twice as long as it did previously he would say it would not justify itself.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that normally with this level of expenditure she would not bring it to the Board because she relies on the professional expertise of the Public Works Department to make these types of decisions. She also noted that the work can be done within budget. The reason she brought the issue in front of the Board is because she wanted to be sure there was not some type of reason for not changing to the size of the pavers that the Department is recommending using.

Mr. Southworth noted that the materials recommended would result in no change of appearance. He added that the proposed 4 inch thick stone pavers will be much less susceptible to damage, and the base of asphalt proposed will be less susceptible to salt.

Mr. Stinson commented that the last time work was done on this area it took a month and a half to complete and was done in the busiest time for every business on Allen Street. It was a period of disaster and had a tremendous effect on their income. He added that he appreciates having the work scheduled for July or August. He asked how long the road would be closed. Mr. Southworth answered that it would be closed anywhere from two to four days.

Steve Crory asked if there was any way for the work to be scheduled during the off-hours. He explained that he has been hired to restore the old bookstore building on Allen Street and is trying to figure out how to get a crane or ladder in the middle of Allen Street to accomplish the work.

Regarding scheduling of the work during off hours, Mr. Southworth explained that there

were liability issues while the street was under construction that would be of concern.

Ms. Griffin suggested to Mr. Crory that he try to coordinate his work on the bookstore with the work done by the Town on Allen Street, and that he contact Mr. Southworth regarding this schedule.

Mr. Crory suggested that for reasons of economic cost the work begin with the first shift at midnight; this would allow a half day or a whole day ahead on the work schedule.

Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Crory for his comments. He added that obviously the Town wants to complete the work as expeditiously as possible and thinks it would be a good idea if the opportunity exists for Mr. Crory to complete his work while that section of the road is unavailable to vehicles.

Mr. Colligan repeated that based on the information available he would be in favor of the cheaper option; he stated that he cannot justify the higher number.

In conjunction with the work being done on Allen Street, Mr. Crory noted that the bus stop at the Bookstore should be looked at as he feels it should be changed. He stated that when the shuttle bus stops at that location it paralyzes traffic, and suggested that for temporary relief while Allen Street is closed the shuttle bus might stop at Panda House.

7. REVIEW OF DRAFT PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT FOR 48 LEBANON STREET.

Ms. Griffin stated that the draft purchase and sales agreement for 48 Lebanon Street had been reviewed by the Town attorney and was modified from the original draft submitted by the current owner. The only significant issue is that the owners held the house off the rental market pending taking the matter to Town Meeting; if it does not pass at Town Meeting, the owners want to be sure that their rent is covered, probably for the month of June, if they have to find tenants. Ms. Griffin indicated that she feels this is a very fair request on the part of the owners.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to accept the Purchase and Sales Agreement for 48 Lebanon Street, as drafted. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT FOR 48 LEBANON STREET, AS DRAFTED.

8. UPDATE ON COALITION COMMUNITIES ACTIVITIES.

Ms. Griffin stated that the report of the coalition communities is now available to the public and is on the City of Portsmouth's website. She added that the Town Manager's office has personal copies for anyone who wishes to have them.

Ms. Griffin noted that Mike Ryan had attended the last coalition meeting where the issue was brought up whether Hanover wished to contribute more money to the coalition

communities efforts. She would continue to urge the Board to wait and see how the money trickles in. Ms. Griffin noted that there are two pushes currently for the coalition; one is the issue of whether or not the coalition wants to pursue legislative alternatives, and the second is preparation of the court case which will be heard by Rockingham Superior Court the second week in October. Preparation for this case will result in additional legal fees and presumably additional fees charged by the consultant in preparation for providing the expert testimony in that case. She indicated that contributions are now over \$178,000 in accumulated receipts. It is hoped that communities that can afford to will contribute an additional \$10,000 to the effort, but she will ask to be provided with a projected budget of expenditures associated with various components of this effort. She suggested that time is needed for the report to settle in and for people to digest and respond to it. She continues to believe that it makes more sense for Hanover to wait and think about the outcome and recommendations contained in the report, and to see what the coalition decides they wish to do.

Ms. Connolly pointed out that the report does not recommend any of the processes currently going on, and has nothing good to say about most of the way things are done statewide as well as locally.

Ms. Black stated that she has a real problem with the term "coalition communities" because she thinks the problem is much bigger than that now and she does not wish to be associated with a narrow group.

Ms. Griffin noted that she believes the report should be circulated to every community in the State. Ms. Black repeated that it is a statewide problem concerning every community in the State. She feels the focus of the report is on a small group of people whining about paying too much, and she does not see it that way.

Ms. Griffin explained that the report was designed to pinpoint flaws associated with the current funding mechanism. It does not make broad recommendations for any alternative taxing vehicle, it simply says that in the opinion of the consultants there are significant flaws in the way in which property tax can be equalized on a Statewide basis for the purpose of funding education.

Mr. Manchester pointed out that the RSA indicates that there is to be an assessment every five years, yet nobody has done this. He noted that 25% of towns do not even have sales files. He asked why this has been neglected if it is this important, noting that assessing, which is the mechanism that gets all the revenue for a town, is neglected.

Ms. Griffin answered that Hanover's assessing activities are not neglected, but she feels the issue for many communities is that they have no priority to fix the situation, and in the opinion of many of those communities it does not need fixing. She suggested that the reason for this could be that change is difficult. DRA would argue that there is not sufficient staff, and that there has always been some reluctance until the equalization ratio gets below 85% to mandate that a community do a revaluation. Ms. Griffin commented that the average time frame for revaluations within the State is around 10 years, and that even then communities have to be forced to do it. She explained that revaluations are expensive, upsetting and tend to destabilize things for awhile resulting in many requests

for abatement. Ms. Griffin noted that Hanover is in the process of going through a revaluation update; Mr. Ryan's goal is to get to the point where regular updates of segments of the Town's real estate are done every year.

Ms. Connolly commented that the last time a townwide revaluation was done in Hanover the equalization ratio was 38%.

Mr. Walsh pointed out that Hanover School District participated with the Town in funding the report, and he wondered if School Board members had received copies. Ms. Griffin answered that they had not, but she will see that copies are sent to them.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin noted that at the last meeting it was not decided who would move Article 10 of the Warrant regarding positions that are filled by Town Meeting; Mr. Manchester volunteered to read this motion.

After a brief discussion Ms. Black volunteered to write the resolutions for the three retiring Town employees; these employees are Caryl Miller who retired from the Wastewater Treatment Plant on January 28th; Larry Ranslow who retired from the Police Department on February 25th; and Peggy Hyde who retired from the Howe Library on April 7th. Mr. Walsh will read the resolutions for Caryl Miller and Peggy Hyde and Ms. Connolly will read the resolution for Mr. Ranslow.

Ms. Griffin also reported that the new Town Report will be mailed on April 26th to Town residents. She asked for the Board's feedback, noting that she feels the larger size of the report will result in a more enjoyable and readable format for people to utilize. She added that also distributed will be a copy of the League of Women Voters "Know Your Community" guide. She noted that the League, and in particular Mary Munter, are to be thanked for all of their time and effort that went into gathering all of the information and editing it in both their guide as well as the Town Report.

Mr. Walsh stated that a superb job was done on the Town Report and thanked Penny Hoisington, Ms. Griffin and everyone else who contributed to the effort.

10. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Ms. Connolly

Ms. Connolly reported that over the last two meetings the Planning Board had worked on visions and last week made progress on a preliminary review of the Simpson Development, which she feels will prove to be very interesting. Two more units were passed for Kendall, and the Board approved the moving within a subdivision of housing envelopes. In addition, a slight enlargement of the C & A Pizza building was approved. Ms. Connolly noted that Randall Arendt, who is a wonderfully ingenious planner whose work combines excellent planning and conservation, spoke at the Montshire Museum recently. She commented that he seems to be covering a part of the United States with nicely planned developments and is seen to be sprawl's worst enemy.

Ms. Connolly also reported that last week the Planning Board heard a report regarding the Biodiversity Grant, and she assured the Selectmen that the Town had very much got its money's worth. She added that Hanover is about the only community which acquired this particular grant, and noted that work has begun to catalog the Town's flora and fauna, missing and not missing, endangered and not endangered. She stated that it is a very unique and fascinating study.

In addition, Ms. Connolly reported that she had attended a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting recently. She understands that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission is revising its transportation chapters and will be seeking input from the Board.

Ms. Black

Ms. Black reminded the Board that poll hours have to be assigned for Tuesday, May 9th. Mr. Walsh will cover the period from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; Mr. Manchester from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and Mr. Manchester from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Manchester

Mr. Manchester reported that the Board had received information about the possible relocation of the Howe Library. He noted that there was discussion at the last meeting regarding hiring a full-time person for fundraising; the individual hired will be a Howe Library Corporation employee.

Mr. Manchester also reported that the next Planning Board will deal with approval for the Dartmouth College Chase Field tennis courts and Grasse Road, Phase II.

Mr. Manchester commented that while looking through the 1997 budget and last year's budget it seems to him as if charges for services have not increased that much. Looking at this from a business standpoint, he wondered if those charges for services should be raised in order for the Town to grow.

Mr. Colligan

Mr. Colligan had nothing to report.

Mr. Walsh

Mr. Walsh reported that as the Town's representative he had attended the announcement of Dartmouth College regarding its new Residential Life Initiative. He added that it was good to be there as the Town's representative, and that the College is working hard on a tough issue.

Mr. Walsh also reported that he had been spending a fair amount of time with Ms. Black at the Intergovernmental Relations Revenue Committee of the NHMA. The work involves

basically trying to move NHMA to make statement to the State legislature and the Governor that the State needs to get responsible about revenue sources and how they match up against the State's responsibilities and to stop putting the burden back to the Towns. Ms. Black further explained that the committee is trying to recommend legislative policies. Ms. Griffin noted that each member of the NHMA sends one representative to the Legislative Policy Conference where votes are taken that sets the legislative policies of the Municipal Association for the next funding year.

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 20, 2000, MARCH 27, 2000 AND APRIL 10, 2000

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to approve the minutes of March 20, 2000, as amended. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2000, AS AMENDED.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to approve the minutes of March 27, 2000, as amended. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2000, AS AMENDED.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to approve the minutes of April 10, 2000, as amended. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, ONE ABSTAINING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2000, AS AMENDED.

12. OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no other business to come before the Board.

13. 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.

SUMMARY

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

2. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Town of Hanover be authorized to submit the Housing and Community Development Plan and Feasibility Grant Application as presented for CDBG Feasibility Funds. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE TOWN OF HANOVER BE AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND FEASIBILITY GRANT APPLICATION AS PRESENTED FOR CDBG FEASIBILITY FUNDS.

3. **Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to authorize an expenditure of \$76,351 to purchase the total traffic proposal equipment as recommended with options. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE AN EXPENDITURE OF \$76,351 TO PURCHASE THE TOTAL TRAFFIC PROPOSAL EQUIPMENT AS RECOMMENDED WITH OPTIONS.**
4. **Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to approve the Valley Net agreement as proposed, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into the agreement. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE VALLEY NET AGREEMENT AS PROPOSED, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE AGREEMENT.**
5. **Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to accept the Purchase and Sales Agreement for 48 Lebanon Street, as drafted. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT FOR 48 LEBANON STREET, AS DRAFTED.**
6. **Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to approve the minutes of March 20, 2000, as amended. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2000, AS AMENDED.**
7. **Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to approve the minutes of March 27, 2000, as amended. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2000, AS AMENDED.**
8. **Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to approve the minutes of April 10, 2000, as amended. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, ONE ABSTAINING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2000, AS AMENDED.**
9. **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.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Walsh, Chairman

These minutes were taken and transcribed by Nancy Richards.