

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 21, 2000

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, Vice-Chairman; Marilyn Black; Bill Baschnagel; Judson Pierson; 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.

Ms. Connolly displayed a ribbon from the formal ceremony of the opening of the Ledyard Bridge. She noted that she was delighted to view the opening of the bridge and thanked NH DOT for joining the Town in the celebration. Ms. Black wished to particularly thank Ray Burton who helped make the whole project possible.

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO BE REIMBURSED BY SIMPSON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF LADD RD.

Mr. Walsh opened the public hearing.

Ms. Griffin explained that a public hearing is required at the suggestion of the auditors and the DRA because the Town had not included in its budget adopted at Town Meeting in May an appropriation to receive the funds as revenue in exchange for the Town's services. It was suggested that a special public hearing be held simply to recognize receipt of the revenue. Ms. Griffin added that the funds are repayment for labor and materials the Town was expending to rebuild Ladd Road for the Hauri subdivision.

Mr. Walsh asked if revenue equals expenditures; Ms. Griffin answered that it does and she has verified that the Town is billing as it expends and being paid as it bills.

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

Mr. Walsh stated that if a member of the public joins the meeting and wishes to comment on this issue he will ask for a motion from the Board to re-open the public hearing.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the expenditure of funds to be reimbursed by Simpson Development Corporation for the reconstruction of Ladd Road. Mr. Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO BE REIMBURSED BY SIMPSON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF LADD ROAD.

3. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY NEW ENGLAND ORGANICS REGARDING REVISED COMPOSTING FACILITY TIPPING FEE.

Ms. Griffin noted that this discussion is intended to be the first of what will likely be two or three discussions the Board may choose to have on this issue. It is an important and relatively complex issue. She added that the staff has spent a lot of time with Jamie Ecker from New England Organics together with Bill Mathieu, Peter Kulbacki and Mike Gilbar taking a look at the New England Organics proposal.

Ms. Griffin summarized for the Board that two years ago in August ROT (Resource Optimization Technologies) began its composting facility operation. She added that ROT was a partnership of Dartmouth College, DSM Environmental, Casella - Northeast Waste, and Tim Shadd who was the original developer of the particular technology used in the composting facility. The Town of Hanover provided the property at the old closed landfill for a dollar a year plus property taxes paid on an annual basis, and agreed on a price which at that point was supposed to be comparable to what was being paid to White Mt. Resource Management Inc. for land application of sludge. For a number of reasons, including the fact that Hanover's sludge on a seasonal basis tends to be wetter than average, it became too expensive to process because more dry amendment needed to be added to the recipe before it could be composted. Additionally, there was not much of a market analysis done that yielded revenue sources for the compost, and the facility has really struggled over the last two years. Ms. Griffin noted that Dartmouth College has been unable to provide the full amount of food waste that they originally envisioned they would be able to provide for the facility.

Ms. Griffin stated that in order to try and boost revenues and maximize the productivity of the facility, it began taking some of the sludge from Lebanon a little less than a year ago. Because Hanover's sludge tended to be too wet, the Town ended up sending about 60% of its sludge for land application and 40% to composting. She indicated that there are things that can be done to yield a dryer sludge, including centrifuge which would be a significant investment. However, the staff has started to look at the cost benefit analysis of providing dryer sludge. New England Organics has indicated that the Town's tipping fee would be reduced as a price incentive to look at modifications to the Waste Water Facility that might, in fact, yield a dryer sludge.

Ms. Griffin stated that this spring DSM asked to be relieved of the responsibility of managing the facility on a day to day basis. Subsequently, New England Organics, which had been acquired by Northeast Waste - Casella Management back in January of this year, was brought in to look at the feasibility of the plant and to reassess the financial situation of the plant. She noted that Jamie Ecker then came to the Town with a proposal that costs substantially more than what was previously being paid for ROT.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that the Town is now faced with a dilemma in that Hanover made a commitment to Dartmouth College five years ago; that commitment was a five to ten year commitment to participate in a composting project with the College, and additionally, the Town owns the land on which the facility is located. In order for the facility to be successful, it is necessary to import sludge from other communities. Ms. Griffin noted that she is aware that there are some odor issue concerns as well as concerns with the facility becoming a regional facility, but on the other hand the Town would get a cheaper tipping fee if it opted to go with land application through White Mt. Resources.

Ms. Griffin stated that the dilemma that the Town is faced with is that there are fairly widely differing perspectives on how sustainable land application Class B sludge will be in New Hampshire. She explained that Hanover produces a Class B sludge, and every year for as long as she can remember town managers have been asked to write letters to beat back legislative proposals that are floating through the statehouse in Concord to either place severe restrictions on land application, moratoriums, or to somehow limit what could be land applied. She feels that Class B sludge is probably more vulnerable than Class A sludge in this regard.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that New England Organics would obviously prefer to have all of Hanover's sludge, but she would just as soon keep one foot in each door as has been done the past two years. She explained that the problem with continuing to do some land application and some composting is that the composting facility needs additional material to be profitable, which means bringing in sludge from outside. Ms. Griffin noted that the more the issue is reviewed, the more she believes in the advisability of bringing in a consultant who is totally objective in this area to advise the Town.

Ms. Griffin stated that the good news is if the decision is to continue composting exclusively, there has been more money budgeted in the Wastewater Treatment Plant Fund for fiscal year 2000/2001 because of concerns that land application might be banned for some reason that could not be predicted this year, or that a moratorium might be enacted legislatively. She added that with the amount of money in the budget this year, she is not certain if there would even be enough to landfill, but at least there would be enough to landfill through part of the year. She has told New England Organics that the bottom line is that they needed to come in with a tipping fee that the Town could afford knowing what the budget situation was. Ideally, if they were talking about a reasonable tipping fee based on their costs, she informed them that discussions could begin about a plan where the Town would be guaranteed no more than the CPI increases over the next few years barring some major change in the environmental landscape such as some new regulation from the EPA.

Mr. Walsh commented that for year one land application of sludge the cost would be \$57,000, composting would be \$85,900 and complete landfilling would be \$104,000, as referenced in the analysis of biosolids prepared by Mr. Gilbar. Mr. Walsh noted that the total sewer fund budget is a little over a million dollars which is supported by users of the sewer through fees, therefore, going from the smallest cost of \$57,000 to the largest cost of \$104,000, the cost would represent 5% of the total sewer fund budget.

Mr. Pierson asked what the legislative thinking on biosolids is currently. Charlie Hanson from White Mt. Resource Management explained that over the last five years since emergency rules were put into place in 1995, biosolids have been the environmental "whipping boy" in New Hampshire. As a result, there has been legislation for each of the last five years to address this issue. He noted that Class B sludge is more subject to regulation than Class A, although legislation last year would apply to Class A as it would to Class B. Mr. Hanson commented that the trend over the last three years has been that legislation has been more favorable in terms of people taking a more rational approach. He would expect to see some sort of restriction or another ban come up this year and added that there is still a bill in the Senate that could be brought back this year; this is a restriction that would ban both Class A and Class B biosolids.

Mr. Baschnagel asked for an explanation of the difference between Class A and Class B biosolids. Mr. Hanson explained that the classification refers to pathogen levels. Mr. Baschnagel asked if the standards for Class A are more rigorous than for Class B. Mr. Hanson answered that in terms of potential pollutants there really is no difference; it is the same material except for pathogen level. Class B is treated, but Class A is treated even further with an additional step in the process.

Mr. Ecker agreed with Mr. Hanson that technically Class B land application is sound. He added that his company has land applied a lot of Class B sludge around New England. Mr. Ecker stated that political instability of the issue has been particularly difficult to deal with business-wise. He believes that the technical reasonability through all of the risk assessment that has been done over the last thirty years will hold up, although it is under a lot of pressure and scrutiny right now at the federal and state levels with regard to Class B sludge. He thinks that the greater issue to look at is what has gone on around New England and where waste water treatment plants have gone over the past ten years. Mr. Ecker pointed out that Vermont is a great example; ten years ago around 75% of the sludge in Vermont was Class B and land applied. That ratio is now less than 25% with a lot of it either going to composting or to the landfill primarily due to tightening of rules and local and political instability.

Ms. Black noted that the product of composting is land applied and asked if people are as concerned about that as they are regarding regular sludge. Mr. Ecker answered that they are generally not as concerned, and added that his company markets about 150,000 yards of Class B

material in New England, all of which is sold. He pointed out that in the past there have been problems at the ROT facility with marketing the product, but added that marketing has not been an issue for his company.

Ms. Connolly commented that because only 40 percent of Hanover's sludge is used she would suggest trying to negotiate something that would provide for both facilities being used.

Mr. Ecker explained that his company was called in because DSM had decided it could no longer sustain the losses at the composting facility. He stated that the facility is not expandable at its present location; expansion is not an option. Mr. Ecker indicated that generally speaking for a compost facility to be economically viable it would be in a 50 to 80 ton a day range; they estimate that taking into account landfilling and other options, they need to have the facility up around 100 tons a day. He feels that this particular facility will never get above 8 tons a day, and that they will never be able to earn a capital return on the facility. The goal at the present time is just to try to break even. He noted that if the company had to earn a reasonable return between 15 and 20 percent, the tipping fee would easily be in the hundreds of dollars. He stated that the rate they have settled on is the highest reasonable rate they can have with a hope of just breaking even.

Mr. Ecker continued to say that they would prefer all of the sludge to be Hanover's sludge. He also feels that it would not be a good idea to have two contractors in there for a variety of reasons. He indicated that the facility easily has enough room to handle Hanover's sludge and could probably also handle a little of Lebanon's. Addition of Lebanon's sludge would result in the opportunity and chance for an odor problem.

Mr. Ecker noted that one of the questions that has been posed is what is to prevent them from coming back in two years and saying that the facility still does not work and they want more money. He noted that they are willing to revise the memo of agreement with backup options at the same price, and if the facility were to be shut down tomorrow they would still be obligated to take the material at the price stated in the contract. Mr. Ecker stated that the idea contained in the proposal is for the company to get closer to the break even point, and to have something that is fair, progressive, and gives the Town the stability of knowing that it will not have to pay more beyond the normal CPI adjustments.

Ms. Connolly stressed that one of the reasons the facility was established was to take care of Dartmouth's food and paper waste. She feels that Dartmouth has a built-in benefit from the establishment of the facility; it was not something established entirely to benefit the Town by any means.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that Dartmouth does pay a tipping fee, and added that one of the things that Dartmouth has found during this process is that it is much more difficult to generate the level of food waste that they had originally projected, and also significantly more expensive to gather and transport it than they had originally suspected. It has not been an absolute bargain for the College by any means, but they felt they had made a commitment to the students on campus and a significant investment in the facility. Ms. Griffin indicated that Mr. Ecker has worked with Elizabeth Ashworth in the Facilities Operations and Management department of the College in the last couple of months on fine tuning what Dartmouth could do. It is felt that it is important for Dartmouth to stay in the project as long as possible to see if it can be seen through the early years, and to a position of being a responsible alternative to landfilling which is what the College was doing with its food waste prior to the opening of the compost facility.

Mr. Ecker pointed out that the it would be hard for the College to justify a return on the \$250,000 they invested in the facility, and that they have some other internal reasons why they want to see the facility continue. During a review of the College's collection system a month ago, it was determined by their own data that they were only paying a 10% to 15% premium by going to the composting facility over going to the landfill. He added that they do pay a tipping fee as well, but if they could gain one or two more restaurants into their system then their fee would be

comparable to landfilling, which was their goal. Mr. Ecker noted that from everything he hears from the College they are totally committed to keeping the facility running. The way they have set it up is that one day the facility would be dedicated to Dartmouth's food waste and paper, and the other two days it would be dedicated to Hanover's biosolids.

Mr. Pierson asked why someone would go into an operation like this knowing that they were never going to break-even. Mr. Ecker answered that the genesis of this project was that it was a partnership between the Town, Casella and Dartmouth. He feels that Casella really invested in the project from the beginning as a ten-year pilot, and they are committed to seeing the facility succeed. Mr. Ecker added that his company would have to invest another \$50,000 to \$100,000 to make the facility work properly, but they feel it is important to prove that these kinds of projects can be done close to home. The company feels that at this point they have spent the money, they have committed to service in this area, and they want to follow through.

Mr. Baschnagel noted that the facility only handled about 40% of Hanover's sludge last year, and the company is now proposing to handle 100%. He stated that it is his impression that this can't be done. Mr. Ecker replied that with all due respect to the other people who were operating the facility, they are consulting engineers by their own admission, not operators of waste management facilities or composting facilities, nor are they marketers. He feels that the fact that the facility only handled 40% of Hanover's sludge last year is partly a reflection on lack of experience, and he is confident that his company can handle all of it. They had set a realistic date when discussions first began with the Town of October 31st; they are sticking with that target, but he pointed out that there are a lot of things to clean up at the facility. Most of the material at the facility had not been composted properly, and they had to re-compost almost everything that was there. A good part of the summer was spent re-composting and screening. If it is determined that the facility cannot handle all of Hanover's sludge, they would send it somewhere else at the same price and the Town would not even need to get involved.

Ms. Black stated that the Town made a commitment at least seven years ago to form a partnership with Dartmouth College to form this composting facility, and to even be discussing pulling out or not giving it 100% she feels is bad faith. She noted that according to current literature the future of sludge is going to be composting. The partnership to form the facility was done as a demonstration unit as to how this could be done in small towns, and she feels that it would be almost criminal to say the Town wants to pull out now. Ms. Black pointed out that more than enough has been budgeted to handle the increase in the tipping fee, and if the sludge can be made dryer that tipping fee can also come down. She noted that Mr. Ecker has said that more storage space is needed for the amendments and the product, and she stated that she would like to see a plot plan of where the storage area will be on the site. Also, she noted that some of the material was to come back to the Town to be used in gardens and fields, etc., and she wondered if that is still part of the agreement. Ms. Griffin explained that the Town really has not needed it; Ms. Black pointed out that if the new athletic field is developed it might be needed.

Mr. Ecker indicated that he has talked with Peter Kulbacki a couple of times over the summer about the extra storage space. He noted that about 20,000 additional feet will be required and that they have just recently agreed on an area for the location of the storage space that does not conflict with any future plans on the landfill cap for a ballfield or with the asphalt processing area. Secondly, he pointed out that there already is a provision in the agreement whereby Hanover can buy composting at a reduced rate. He noted that there is about 150 yards ready to go and another 150 yards that needs to cure a little longer. None of the material has been moved since his company took over on June 5th; it has now all been sold to other entities. Mr. Ecker stated that since June 5th they have marketed about 50% more than was marketed the entire 12 month period beforehand.

Regarding marketing, Mr. Ecker explained that his company has a group qualified to handle marketing. They run two major facilities in New England and also run quite a bit of direct land

application as well, which constitutes about 40% of their \$8 million dollar business. He explained that one of the company's divisions is a marketing division. There are six people in this division who cover all of the New England states and New York; they work with about 150,000 yards of Class A compost each year.

Mr. Walsh asked what the best way would be to proceed on this issue. Ms. Griffin suggested that the Board table this discussion until its next meeting as staff has some more work to do on the matter.

Ms. Connolly indicated that at the next meeting she would like to see a plat of exactly what is recommended for expansion.

Mr. Walsh noted that looking at year 1, the cost of \$57,000 for land application versus \$85,000 for composting translates to roughly a 3% increase in the sewer fee taken against the total budget. He looks at the issue as a 3% premium for seven years of a guarantee that Hanover's sludge is disposable as opposed to taking a chance with DES and the legislature and what may be decided about land application of uncomposted sludge.

Mr. Baschnagel stated that there has been an appropriate commitment by the Town; whether or not the Town can afford it is the question.

Ms. Black indicated that taking the finances out of it, the project was a good way to go and was thinking into the future rather than just dealing with every day costs. She added that White Mt. Resource Management has been wonderful to work with and they do a great job. She noted that the political climate in Concord is getting more favorable to land application, but there are candidates running from Hanover's district who are totally against it and are vocal in their opposition.

Mr. Hanson pointed out that there is a long waiting list for Hanover's sludge; there are farmers who have used it previously and want to continue to use it. He feels that Class B land application is here to stay, and he feels that due to the fact that Hanover has been in the program and participated in some of the letter writing, etc., that they are further ahead than they would be by going in a new direction to a certain degree.

Mr. Hanson commented that the allowed copper level at this time is 1,500; Hanover's copper level tends to be between 1,200 to 1,600 parts per million. This is due not only to the environment, but also because the sludge is anaerobically digested which concentrates it.

Ms. Griffin asked what happens when the copper levels exceed 1,500. Mr. Hanson explained that the stockpiles have to be tested prior to land application; if the stockpile levels are excessive, material has to be added so that the final product is diluted. Ms. Griffin asked if it was safe to say that copper has been Hanover's particular problem, both in terms of land application and also on the composting side. Mr. Ecker answered that there is not a problem with composting with regard to the copper levels.

Ms. Connolly asked what would have to be done to reduce the amount of water in Hanover's sludge. Bill Mathieu answered that the percentages range between 14 1/2% to 15% up to 17% and 17 1/2% solids. It may be necessary in the future to look at acquiring a piece of equipment to reduce the amount of water in the sludge.

Ms. Griffin noted that the New England Organics proposal refers to a tipping fee that would go down as the percent solids goes up as sort of a financial incentive to do a cost benefit analysis to determine if it is worth investing in additional de-watering equipment.

Ms. Black commented that historically at the conception of the project the plan was to take yard waste and food waste from Dartmouth and yard waste and food waste from Hanover. Because of

mistakes on every parties' part in a lack of understanding how to do this, it was necessary to start taking sludge from Lebanon to make the project anywhere near viable. Ms. Black noted that it is possible to smell Lebanon's sludge from the beginning of April through the end of November because it is not anaerobically digested. She indicated that she would do anything at this point, including paying a higher tipping fee, to eliminate the use of outside sludge in the plant because of the odor problem.

Ms. Griffin noted that in talking with City Manager McSweeney from Lebanon over the last couple of weeks, she has found that Lebanon is exploring with DES the possibility of being able to dispose of their sludge in their landfill. She is also aware that they have talked with New England Organics about other options. Therefore, it is not as if Hanover would be leaving Lebanon in a lurch if suddenly their sludge was not taken to the composting facility.

Mr. Ecker strongly urged the Board to get as much objective opinion as possible about this issue from regulators, consultants, legislators, etc. He stated that his company is investing a lot of money in Class A sludge; he added that although Class B sludge is getting backed into a corner, it is not necessarily a technical issue. It is a political issue which is out of their control. Mr. Ecker stated that a lot of people see composting or Class A stabilization as one politically palatable way to allow treatment plants to still be used beneficially. He also noted that the value of Class A sludge is demonstrated; they sell every bit of their 150,000 yards.

Ms. Griffin reminded the Board that the next meeting would be held September 11th at 4:00 p.m. rather than 7:30 p.m. Her intention would be to have staff work wrapped up for the Board by that meeting regarding this issue.

Mr. Walsh noted that there are two possibilities on the table; one of which is to contract with ROT for all of Hanover's sludge for a seven year period at a fixed rate, and the other is not to do that, but to basically be in a position to sell it on the open market for land application. Mr. Ecker explained that the Town has a contract in place right now; they would be amending that contract. He pointed out that the Town does not have a backup with the current contract.

Mr. Hanson stated that the Town's backup would be White Mt. Resource Management, and that they have been acting as the backup since ROT started.

Mr. Walsh asked if a third option would be to simply do nothing as there is an existing contract. Ms. Griffin explained that this would not be an option because the only way New England Organics could continue to take the Town's compost is at an adjusted tipping fee.

Mr. Walsh asked if ROT would effectively go into bankruptcy or cease operations if the Town were to stay with the present contract. Mr. Ecker answered that this would be a distinct possibility. He added that he is amazed at how every party is so open and willing to talk; no one is pointing fingers or getting mad at one another. It is a great environment to work this problem out, and at this point they have not considered the possibility that the facility would be shut down.

Ms. Griffin asked if there was any other information the Board would like other than the site layout for the additional storage. Ms. Black stated that she would like information on drying the sludge; what it would take, how much, and what the percentages would be.

Ms. Connolly asked how the company got the material that is mixed with the sludge to form the correct recipe. Mr. Ecker answered that a moisture content of high 30's or low 40's is desired, once the material is mixed with an amendment. Secondly, it is necessary to have the right carbon/nitrogen ratio. The amendment that is added is typically sawdust or woodchips which serves to provide carbon as well. It is also desired to get a mix that would be aerated. On all three counts, the recipe that was being previously used was not a good one. Mr. Ecker explained that they have to typically buy sawdust although they do get some woodchips from Lebanon.

In response to a request from Mr. Baschnagel, Ms. Griffin stated that she would provide the Board with the last proforma from the previously operating facility.

Mr. Walsh changed the order of the agenda.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING REAPPOINTMENT OF BIKEPATH COMMITTEE.

Ms. Griffin noted that the Bikepath Committee has taken on a life of its own, tackling some of its own issues since it was appointed by the Board. Members of the Committee have pointed out that the Board reappoints other committees, but the Bikepath Committee has yet to be officially reappointed.

Ms. Black stated that one of the reasons for not reappointing the Committee is that the Board had not thought they would have a life of their own to continue.

Ms. Griffin stated that originally it had been assumed that the Committee would be focused specifically on the short-term issue of dealing with the final design of the bikepath in connection with the ISTE A money, and then in a relatively compressed period of time would develop additional criteria.

Ms. Connolly asked if it would be fair to say that there has been an evolution of the group into a standing committee dealing with issues of bicycle facilities as they crop up. Ms. Griffin answered that certainly the group has, of their own initiative, looked at some issues in Town. They have not been shy about speaking up about something that would be helpful with regard to bicycles.

Mr. Pierson asked for an explanation of what reappointment means. Ms. Griffin explained that reappointment would say that the Committee could continue to have an official life as the Bikepath Committee. Looking at the original membership list, she noted that there are a couple of people on the list that are no longer active on the Committee.

Ms. Black suggested that those members who have expressed interest in being on the Committee be reappointed, and then membership be opened up to anyone else who might like to serve.

Mr. Walsh asked if it was the Board's sense that a Bicycle Committee is something that should be continued. He wondered if the Bicycle Committee would at some point in time have brought the Town up to a level where the standing of the Committee may or may not be necessary. Mr. Walsh added that there is more work to be done regarding bicycle friendliness and accessibility throughout Town at this point. He stated that he would favor this particular group of people on the Committee who have done good work, or a group like them, to continue with the charter.

Mr. Pierson asked if the Committee were to be reappointed whether they would have an unlimited life, or just a life until the Board decided not to reappoint them.

Ms. Black indicated that she feels the Committee should be reappointed for a three year term, but suggested that someone first call the people who have served on the Committee to see if they are willing to continue to serve, and then open up membership to see if more members of the public would like to serve.

Mr. Walsh stated that he would like the Board to be provided with a suggested charter and a list of people who have been on the Committee in the past who would like to continue to serve. His sense is that the Committee should be reappointed for three more years, and be reviewed after that time.

Bob Norman indicated that at the present time the work which the Committee did between August

and December of 1997 to lay out plans for the bike route from DHMC down to the Ledyard Bridge still has not come to pass, and there are still a number of potential things the Committee would like to do with regard to that project. The members of the Committee recognize that their term is up, and they thought the Committee needed to be reappointed to continue to do their work.

Ms. Griffin will come back to the Board in late September or early October with a proposed charter from the Bike Path Committee, and during that time she will verify which Committee members are interested in continuing to serve.

4. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2000-2001.

Members of the Board held a lengthy discussion of the proposed Board's proposed goals and objectives for FY 2000-2001, and presented the following comments.

Ms. Black indicated that she has a problem using the Town's status as a donor community as a basis for financing Town government. She feels that the budget needs to focus on staffing and services, not just on what has to be paid to the State. She feels that more is being expected from the Town's employees and that they are being made to work harder and being stretched further, resulting in some gaps in services provided by the Town. She feels that it is time to address this problem; if the proposed budget does not meet the rate of inflation, she stated that she would not have a problem with that, but she is interested in keeping the level of services going and not expect people to extend themselves beyond a reasonable limit.

Ms. Connolly noted that her interpretation of this particular goal and objective is that regardless of the statewide property tax and other commitments that are not entered into voluntarily by the Town, that the Board will try to keep the increase of the municipal tax rate around the rate of inflation. She does not feel that this means the Board would exercise any municipal martyrdom in consideration of the statewide property tax.

Ms. Black responded that she feels the goal that the increase in municipal tax does not exceed the rate of inflation is too restrictive. She would rather do a needs budget than to lock into the rate of inflation because she sees some of the Town's needs being compromised in recent years.

Mr. Baschnagel stated that philosophically he would not argue with Ms. Black, but he happens to think that the discipline of a bottom line number is exceedingly valuable in the budgeting process.

Mr. Walsh pointed out that the rate of inflation does, in fact, fund measurable increases in expenses, and that the proposed budget also includes a wish list and a cut list. He feels that this has been a very positive process in terms of budgeting. Ms. Black stated that she is not disagreeing with the process, she is just objecting to the phrase "not to exceed the rate of inflation".

Mr. Baschnagel commented that these are goals and objectives, not rules, and the Board's goal might be to stay with the rate of inflation. He added that he is very comfortable establishing that as a goal, and also very comfortable as to making assessments if there are needs to exceed that goal. He stated that there is a clear distinction between a goal and a barrier.

Ms. Black stated that Hanover has a Town Manager who has previously kept some services out in order to meet that goal, and she feels that Ms. Griffin is sometimes too tightly disciplined. She pointed out that supposedly this is the best economic time the country has had in years, and if the Town cannot get some services in the best of economic times, she wondered what would happen in hard times.

Mr. Walsh stated that he will try to rewrite this goal and objective, focusing on the budgeting process with a nominal rate of inflation, a wish list and a want list as a part of the process. He

feels that there is value to having a target to start with and that this helps the budgeting process substantially.

Regarding the issue of a senior center and community center, Mr. Baschnagel noted that three years have been spent debating and discussing the issue. He personally has a lack of enthusiasm for trying to come up with a master solution for both needs, and feels there are gains to be made by not trying to push the two together. Mr. Baschnagel continued to say that he feels the Selectboard's interest in trying to arrive at a combined solution for the two needs has, in fact, pushed people to a combined solution. Ms. Black pointed out that the Board has never really discussed what direction anyone should take. Mr. Baschnagel replied that there is, however, that perception.

Mr. Walsh stated that he had clearly pushed that the needs of the Town library, the seniors and the Rec Dept. be looked at as a whole because they are in many ways going forth with the same kinds of money, and there is overlap in the programs offered. That is why he asked that they be looked at as a whole, and he continues to push in that direction.

Mr. Baschnagel indicated that there are many people who interpreted Mr. Walsh's and others' interests as promoting a single facility. He agrees that there has to be a coordinated program in terms of issues of financing, etc., but there is a distinct difference between a coordinated program and a single facility.

Mr. Walsh stated that he does not think that he ever pushed for a single facility, but rather promoted a rational understanding of how all of the needs work together.

Ms. Black will rewrite this goal.

With regard to the goal and objective of having the Board visit each of the Town's departments, Ms. Black noted that she feels this is very educational and helps with the budgeting process.

Ms. Griffin asked members of the Board to identify meeting dates when they would be available to begin meetings early to allow additional time to tour the departments.

Referring to the goal and objective of developing a dog ordinance, Ms. Connolly explained that there are varied opinions on how effective the Town's dog ordinance is now. There are problems with enforcement of it in terms of dogs which are either dangerous or major nuisances.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that the police chief would argue that there is no need for a dog ordinance because State law can be used, and that State law is sufficient to enforce against problem dogs. She added that there has been an ongoing debate between the College and the Town as to whether a dog ordinance is needed that would address living in a college community.

Ms. Connolly stated that there is a question as to whether the Town can, in fact, utilize State laws without changing the current ordinance.

Regarding the proposed objective for a noise ordinance, Ms. Connolly commented that there are problems with party noise, noise of waste collectors at incredibly early hours in the residential districts, and several other noises that make life difficult and make it difficult to sleep.

Mr. Baschnagel indicated that his concern is that there are some very stringent regulations in the Zoning Ordinance, and it is not clear to him why those regulations are not enforceable. Ms. Connolly explained that the Zoning Ordinance cannot be enforced with the Police Department; it would require an assortment of lawyers, injunctions, etc.

Mr. Baschnagel noted that the kinds of situations and the ordinance that Ms. Connolly is describing are, in fact, miscellaneous mischief types of situations which would not be amenable to

a reasonable noise ordinance.

Mr. Walsh stated that he is not ready to sign up to provide a noise ordinance on the level of the Selectmen's goals and objectives; he is ready, however, to sign up for the Board to explore the need for and the possibility of a noise ordinance.

Ms. Black added that she would also like to see noise ordinances from other college towns.

After discussion the Board agreed to shift the goal and objective of preservation of historical records to administration. It was noted that there is money committed each year in the budget for this ongoing program.

Ms. Black brought up the issue of affordable housing, and stated that she would like the Zoning Board and Planning Board to look at how the new fee structure can work toward getting affordable housing in subdivisions to guarantee that there will be a mixture of people in Hanover.

Ms. Connolly noted that the President of Dartmouth has declared that one of the College's first projects will be to provide 500 units of undergraduate and graduate housing. She indicated that approximately 650 undergraduates live in Town; if 500 of them are removed, that will create affordable housing.

Mr. Walsh stated that he would like to see the Selectmen explore ways that the cost of being in Hanover that is under the Town budget controls could be influenced to make it more possible to have affordable housing, and that the Selectmen request that the Planning Board look at what things are under their control or ability to put in front of the voters at Town Meeting. He will draft language to this effect.

Mr. Walsh indicated that he would like to see an objective for the administration relative to the operations, safety and financing of the parking facility in its first year of operation.

Ms. Black referred to the issue of expanded hours at Town Hall. She noted that if a person works 8:00 to 5:00 they cannot get into Town Hall to conduct Town business unless they take personal time or use their lunch hour. She feels that the Town has an obligation to its residents to have at least one night when working people can do their business in Town. Mr. Baschnagel agreed, but wondered how difficult this would be from a personnel standpoint. Ms. Griffin explained that it would require staggered shifts, and there is also the problem of security with one person being in the building by themselves. She noted that discussions have already started regarding this, but the staff does not feel there is a demand for expanded hours.

Mr. Walsh suggested that Town Hall be open late on Wednesday evenings when the other stores in Town are open. He feels that the demand would exist if the expanded hours were on a night when there was other action in Town, and he would like to see this be a goal for the administration.

Mr. Baschnagel asked Ms. Griffin if there are other administrative goals that should be included. Ms. Griffin noted that she would have to give this some thought.

Ms. Black pointed out that the list of goals and objectives should include reorganization of the Hanover Water Works Company, its operations and its assets.

A revised list of goals and objectives will be provided for the Board's review at a later date.

6. APPOINTMENT OF SELECTMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE TO NHMA LEGISLATIVE POLICY CONFERENCE.

Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Hanover will be the voting delegate at NHMA unless he is not in attendance, in which case Ms. Black will be the voting delegate. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF HANOVER WILL BE THE VOTING DELEGATE AT NHMA UNLESS HE IS NOT IN ATTENDANCE, IN WHICH CASE MS. BLACK WILL BE THE VOTING DELEGATE.

Mr. Walsh changed the order of the agenda.

8. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEW JOB TITLES:**
 - A. **PARKING CONTROL/FACILITY TECHNICIAN - LG11**
 - B. **PARKING FACILITY CASHIER - LG6**

Ms. Griffin explained that the Parking Control/Facility Technician and the Parking Facility Cashier were the two positions that were funded as part of the Parking Fund budget to staff the upcoming parking structure.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to accept the job descriptions and job titles of Parking Control/Facility Technician - LG11 and Parking Facility Cashier - LG6. Mr. Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION.

Ms. Connolly stated that she has a problem with the labor grade for the Parking Control/Facility Technician. She feels that it is at least one notch too high looking at other LG11's throughout Town.

Ms. Griffin stated that the position has been graded taking into account the Town's Class and Compensation system grading structure, which is very detailed. She feels that to reduce the position to a labor grade 10 would be to fall outside the Class and Comp system for labor grades.

Sgt. Patrick O'Neill explained that the position involves a variety of duties as well as act in his absence to supervise the parking facility.

Mr. Pierson asked why this position did not include language referring to "performing all other related duties as assigned". Ms. Griffin answered that the new nomenclature of job descriptions in the municipal sector typically does not include that language. She added that there have been some civil rights issues around that phraseology. Mr. Pierson then asked if that language should be deleted with regard to the labor grade six position; Ms. Griffin will check into this further.

The Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND JOB TITLES OF PARKING CONTROL/FACILITY TECHNICIAN - LG11 AND PARKING FACILITY CASHIER - LG6.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF HOME RULE LIAISON.**

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that Ms. Griffin act as the Home Rule liaison. Mr. Pierson SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT MS. GRIFFIN ACT AS THE HOME RULE LIAISON.

9. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT.**

Ms. Griffin reported that she is not certain that the parking garage will be done by September 21st. There is a substantial amount of work still remaining, however, the contractor has stated that it will be done by that date.

10. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Ms. Black

Ms. Black reminded Board members that Dagmar's Place, the new pocket park, will be dedicated on September 2nd at 10:00 a.m. She also reported that she had sent copies of two drafts of bond issues for the Board's information.

Ms. Black indicated that the Rec Board, the Sr. Citizens Advisory Committee and Howe Library Trustees had a good discussion prioritizing who would be responsible for what. The Sr. Citizens Advisory Committee and the Rec Board are to come up with their minimum basic needs for space before the next meeting, and there will be a tour of the two facilities before that meeting for everyone to become aware of what the problems are.

Ms. Connolly

Ms. Connolly reported that the Planning Board had met in early August to handle a couple of site plan modifications and College cases. She stated that on September 5th there will be another informal discussion on the planned construction of the middle school and renovations to the high school as well as the land environment. That meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium, with the remainder of the Planning Board agenda to follow.

Ms. Connolly also reported that she had attended a meeting of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission recently. The Commission discussed a study of the area of the Mascoma watershed.

Mr. Pierson

Mr. Pierson reported that he had attended a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, and that the group is struggling with where they are going. They talked extensively about trying to sponsor different events, but there is never anyone to take the ball and run with it to organize these events.

Mr. Baschnagel

With regard to the Planning Board, the new library project conversion into two phases was approved to allow the library to start to occupy the first phase of the project. The Chase Field project was tabled for another week.

Mr. Baschnagel also reported that the Upper Valley Transportation Advisory Council is trying to put together a scoring system for a transportation project coming this fall.

With regard to parking, Mr. Baschnagel asked for a sense of the Board on a question raised about putting up banners announcing the opening of the new parking facility and also at the entrances to the garage off Lebanon Street and possibly off South Main Street as a way of introducing people to the fact that the garage is open and how to get to it. The Board concurred with the idea of announcing the opening of the parking facility by the use of banners, but noted that there may be problems with hanging them in the vicinity of the entrances.

Mr. Baschnagel also brought up the question of administration of rates for the parking facility and the idea of prorating the fee. He noted that the computer allows proration on a five minute basis; his inclination would be to round it up to a quarter. The Board members agreed that rounding to a quarter would make sense.

Mr. Walsh

Mr. Walsh reported that he had been spending quite a bit of time with the Hanover Finance Committee and the Dresden Finance Committee relative to the schools. The Hanover Finance Committee has taken a strong position that the formula to pay for the bond issue should remain as it has been in the past, and be based on a per student basis rather than a 50/50 option, half on real estate values and half on numbers of students. There is continuing work by both finance committees to understand comparables and to understand square footage basis, cost per student basis and understand the cost structure in the \$39.1 million number; this work will continue.

The following Board members will cover the polls at the times indicated below on September 12th:

7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. - Mr. Walsh
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 - Mr. Pierson
12:00 to 2:30 p.m. - Mr. Baschnagel
2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Ms. Black
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Ms. Connolly

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JULY 10, 2000, JULY 24, 2000

Mr. Walsh abstained from voting on the minutes of July 10th as he was not in attendance at that meeting.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of July 10, 2000 as corrected. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2000 AS CORRECTED.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to approve the minutes of July 24, 2000, as corrected. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2000, AS CORRECTED.

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.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to go to non-public session to discuss a matter which may affect the reputation of an individual. Ms. Black 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. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to close the public hearing. Mr. Pierson SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**
- 2. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the expenditure of funds to be reimbursed by Simpson Development Corporation for the reconstruction of Ladd Road. Mr. Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO BE REIMBURSED BY SIMPSON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF LADD ROAD.**

3. **Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Hanover will be the voting delegate at NHMA unless he is not in attendance, in which case Ms. Black will be the voting delegate. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF HANOVER WILL BE THE VOTING DELEGATE AT NHMA UNLESS HE IS NOT IN ATTENDANCE, IN WHICH CASE MS. BLACK WILL BE THE VOTING DELEGATE.**
4. **Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to accept the job descriptions and job titles of Parking Control/Facility Technician - LG11 and Parking Facility Cashier - LG6. Mr. Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION. The Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND JOB TITLES OF PARKING CONTROL/FACILITY TECHNICIAN - LG11 AND PARKING FACILITY CASHIER - LG6.**
5. **Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that Ms. Griffin act as the Home Rule liaison. Mr. Pierson SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT MS. GRIFFIN ACT AS THE HOME RULE LIAISON.**
6. **Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of July 10, 2000 as corrected. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2000 AS CORRECTED.**
7. **Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to approve the minutes of July 24, 2000, as corrected. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2000, AS CORRECTED.**
8. **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.**
9. **Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION to go to non-public session to discuss a matter which may affect the reputation of an individual. Ms. Black 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 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Pierson, Secretary

These minutes were taken and transcribed by Nancy Richards.