

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

DECEMBER 4, 2000

7:30 P.M. – POLICE TRAINING ROOM – 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; Katherine S. Connolly, Vice Chairman; Marilyn Black; William Baschnagel; Jay Pierson; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; Patrick O'Neill, Community Outreach Officer; Michael Ryan, Assessor; Nicholas Giaccone, Police Chief; and members of the public.

Mr. Walsh announced that this meeting was being taped by CATV 6.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. PRESENTATION BY STEVE EPSTEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GRAFTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Ms. Griffin said that the Grafton County Economic Development Council was the merged entity of what previously were three separate economic development councils. She said that when she started with the Town, Hanover belonged to the Economic Development Council of the Upper Valley, which was initiated by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Commission in 1986. She said that while she was a member of the Board for the Economic Development Council of the Upper Valley, they decided to merge the three economic development councils into one. She said that the Grafton County Economic Development Council was the result of their labors. She said that Steve Epstein was hired a year ago as the Executive Director.

Steve Epstein explained that their mission was to serve the residents of the county by providing employment opportunities. He said that was a broad mission. He said that they work with businesses that offer good compensation packages, both in terms of wages and benefits. He said that many business people are presented with opportunities for their business but do not have the time for the background research. He said that by providing contacts and information, the Grafton County Economic Development Council is able to help businesses take advantage of these opportunities. He said that in turn, the businesses often are able to expand and hire additional employees. He said that their work is to help existing businesses stay here and grow here. He said that in most rural areas, such as Grafton County, economic development growth comes from the existing businesses.

Mr. Epstein said that the Grafton County Economic Development Council has a staff of three people. He said that they have been compiling a database to track/target programs. He said that with this current economy, work force development is a huge issue. He said that when he first started in the economic development field, money was the issue. He said that now people don't have trouble finding the money but they can't find the people.

Ms. Black asked what was being done about the labor force which has caused some businesses to close because of lack of employees. Mr. Epstein said that problem was not unique to rural areas but it was more severe because of the transportation issues. He said that Hanover was lucky in that over 80% of its working population was employed in Hanover. He said that it was usually the opposite. Mr. Baschnagel said that although Hanover's residents were employed in the Town, many of the businesses depend on their employees coming from outside of the Town.

Mr. Epstein said that there was a transportation coalition struggling with those issues. He said that this area did have public transportation. He said that Pennsylvania has a wonderful model that has been a success for them. He said that they focused on training the untrainable. He said that they couldn't create more workers. He said that many people already work two or three jobs. He said that by training those who are barely subsisting, they are able to start giving back to society.

Ms. Connolly asked if the training included some additional education as well. Mr. Epstein said that it was both education and training. He said that there were a number of good blue collar jobs that did not require a 4-year college education.

Mr. Pierson asked if the Grafton County Economic Development Council was limited to Grafton County. Mr. Epstein said that they serve just Grafton County. He said that there were 15 other economic development groups that served the other counties.

Mr. Epstein said that the housing issue was another related problem.

Ms. Black said that there was a School to Work program through the Hanover High School. She said that Cathy Terami was the contact person. She said that Ms. Terami's job was recently expanded when the program went regional. She said that the Hartford Career & Technology Center at Hartford High School was another source of young workers.

Ms. Griffin noted that the Grafton County Economic Development Council was funded primarily through a Community Development block grant program administered through the Office of State Planning. She said that Marion Copenhaver was instrumental in getting funding in the amount of \$30,000 secured from Grafton County.

3. CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING AMENDING THE PARKING ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO INTERIM ON-STREET PARKING SPACES

Ms. Griffin said that they left off discussing the parking on Lebanon Street in front of the Catholic Church. She said that there were 14 spaces. She said that there was a recommendation to reduce the parking to 13 spaces given the location of the first space in relation to the intersection with Crosby Street. She said that the Bike Path Committee recommended eliminating the spaces entirely to allow for better bicycle travel. She said that Patrick O'Neill researched the number of temporary on-street rental spaces that also count for zoning. She said

that there were 6 spaces for Molly's, 5 spaces for the Upper Valley Restaurant Partnership, and 11 spaces for Raven Bay Associates.

Ms. Griffin said that there were 5 spaces on the Currier lot that was owned by Dartmouth College, leased to Jim Rubens, and a portion was sub-leased to the Town. She said that the Sargent Place lot has 3 spaces at \$75/month. She said that there were spaces at Lebanon Street D. She said that there were 10 spaces on Hovey Lane at \$35/month. She said that they could use the Sargent Place, Lebanon Street D, and Hovey Lane spaces to meet the Zoning requirements if they eliminated the spaces on the south side of Lebanon Street.

Mr. Baschnagel asked what would happen if the Town told the businesses to find someone else to lease the spaces from. Ms. Connolly said that might result in the businesses shutting down. Mr. Baschnagel said that was not his intent. He asked if there were private spaces available for rent. Ms. Griffin said that she did not know whether private spaces were available. She said that she would not feel right turning on those businesses after they supported the decision to go forward with the parking garage. Mr. Baschnagel said that he was not recommending denying leases. Ms. Connolly said that those spaces would meet the need for available Zoning spaces. She said that they were not obligated to provide spaces physically close to the business. She said that they would be meeting their obligation.

Mr. Baschnagel said that he thought the Currier, Sargent Place, and Lebanon Street D spaces were sufficient. He said that he was not concerned about the Currier lot spaces disappearing because they could be off-set by turn-over of other rental spaces in the next year. He said that he was concerned about the Hovey Lane spaces. He said that he did not want to charge the businesses \$35/space when they charge \$75/space elsewhere. He said that he also wanted the businesses to use the downtown spaces.

Mr. Walsh asked the status of the spaces. Ms. Griffin said that the Selectmen voted to eliminate the 12 spaces on Crosby Street. She said that they voted to retain the 5 spaces on Lebanon Street by FO&M. She said that the spaces in front of the Catholic Church were under discussion tonight. She said that they voted to retain the 7 spaces on Hovey. She said that they voted to eliminate the 5 spaces on East South Street. She said that they voted to eliminate the 5 spaces on Allen Street Extension.

Ms. Black asked why the 14 spaces in front of the Catholic Church posed more of a problem for bicycles than the spaces in front of the high school. Mr. Pierson said that there were a couple corners by the Catholic Church that were not present at the high school. Ms. Black suggested eliminating just the spaces on the corners. Mr. Walsh said that the corners were a dangerous place for bicycle travel. He said that the parking spaces make it more dangerous. He suggested eliminating the spaces on the corners. Chief Giaccone said that was a reasonable solution. Mr. Pierson suggested eliminating another space or two by Sanborn Street.

Chief Giaccone asked if parking was enforced on Sunday morning. Sergeant O'Neill said that parking was allowed on Sunday. Mr. Baschnagel said that he was less concerned about people parking illegally in front of St. Denis' on Sundays than people parking illegally on Crosby Street.

Ms. Griffin said that the No Parking signs would be installed and the lines were scheduled to be painted this week.

Mr. Baschnagel inquired about the excess number of spaces. Ms. Griffin said that if they could maintain 10 spaces on Lebanon Street (by eliminating the four spaces on the corners), they would not have to use any of the spaces on Hovey Lane for zoning spaces. Mr. Walsh said that sounded good for now. He said that he wanted to review the situation again in 6-8 months. He said that there would not be much bicycle traffic until spring or early summer. He said that he wanted to review the situation after there was time to see how it was working.

Ms. Connolly expressed concern that the public that attended the last hearing was left with the impression that the discussion was closed. Mr. Baschnagel said that they were clear that the issue would be discussed again tonight. Ms. Griffin said that she would be attending the next Bike Path Committee meeting and she would update them.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to move the leased spaces they lost to the 5 spaces at the Currier lot, the 3 spaces on the Sargent Place lot, the 4 spaces on Lebanon Street D, and the 10 spaces on Lebanon Street South. Mr. Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED (Ms. Connolly) TO MOVE THE LEASED SPACES THEY LOST TO THE 5 SPACES AT THE CURRIER LOT, THE 3 SPACES ON THE SARGENT PLACE LOT, THE 4 SPACES ON LEBANON STREET D, AND THE 10 SPACES ON LEBANON STREET SOUTH.

Mr. Baschnagel said that the parking inventory needed to be updated. He said that it was out of date. He said that they needed to know where the leased off-site spaces were located and verify that the owners of the spaces were in agreement. He said that the only inventory they had was 5-6 years old.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ms. Griffin reported that the Town Christmas party was scheduled for Thursday, December 14th from noon to 2:00. She said that it was also the official send-off for Mike Gilbar.

Ms. Griffin reported that her budget meetings would begin on Wednesday. She said that she had reviewed the small budgets (Selectmen, Town Manager, Planning & Zoning, and Administrative Services). She said that Rita Donaldson has been retained from Municipal Resources Inc. to provide Finance Director services two days a week until a replacement for Mr. Gilbar was hired. Ms. Black asked about Mr. Gilbar's recommendation to add an Accountant position. Ms. Griffin said that she was waiting until a new Finance Director was hired so that she or he could decide what type of position would best suit her or his needs. She said that there were sufficient funds to fund a new position.

Ms. Griffin reported that the Municipal Health Trust provided a preliminary quote of not to exceed a 28.8% increase. She said that was not acceptable. Mr. Pierson said that increase was the same across the board. Ms. Griffin said that a 28.8% increase would eat up the entire 3%

budget increase without adding anything including cost of living increases. She said that they would have to look at alternatives. She said that the last time they were faced with that degree of increase, they put it out to bid and the prices went down. Mr. Walsh said that reworking the fine details could also bring the numbers down. Ms. Griffin said that they typically take another look at the insurance package and put it out to bid. Ms. Black said that she was not eager to put it out to bid. She said that changing providers every couple years was a hassle. Ms. Griffin said that they found in the past that when they put it out to bid, the Municipal Health Trust lowered their prices. Mr. Pierson asked if it was a 1-year contract. Ms. Griffin said that was correct.

Mr. Walsh said that he would like to have some substantive discussions about the big issues, such as insurance. He said that he would like to talk about those issues initially rather than at the end of the budget hearings. Ms. Griffin said that there were five working meetings tentatively scheduled plus budget adoption and a carry-over night. She said that they could make the meetings longer and reduce the number to four working meetings plus one budget hearing. Mr. Walsh said that the budget presentation night would be a good opportunity to start talking about the big issues.

5. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Ms. Black

Ms. Black reported that the Senior Advisory Committee met today. She asked whether the Selectmen were committed to moving forward on hiring an architect for a combined Community/Senior Center. Ms. Griffin reported that the Selectmen reviewed the draft RFQ and gave it the go-ahead. She said that she was making some final edits and then the RFQ would be published.

Ms. Connolly

Ms. Connolly reported that the Planning Board would be continuing their discussion of the Simpson Development subdivision tomorrow night.

Mr. Baschnagel

Mr. Baschnagel reported that last week the Planning Board discussed a request by Dartmouth College to open more of the site at Grasse Road this winter. He said that was approved.

Mr. Baschnagel reported that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Transportation Planning Group met. He said that they were looking at the Transportation Improvement Plan. He said that Hanover had no requests on file this year. He said that was an opportunity they were missing. He said that there were some red listed bridges on Ruddsboro Road that would be eligible.

Mr. Baschnagel reported that he met with the Dresden transportation group. He said that their focus was to get kids out of cars and into buses. He said that they had committed to working

with RSG to do survey work and focus group work. He said that they were trying to raise the consciousness within the administration. He said that the key was to provide attractive services.

Mr. Baschnagel reported that he met with Sergeant O'Neill and Mike Gilbar on the parking facility and parking fund. He said that the receipts were not as high as they would like. He said that fines and meter revenues, as well as rental revenues, were up. He said that Mr. Gilbar was forecasting a surplus at the end of the year. Ms. Griffin said that Mr. Gilbar was predicting a \$132,000 surplus. Mr. Walsh said that they should thank the business community for their work to promote the use of the facility. Mr. Baschnagel said that the business community had raised \$5,000 towards advertising as it related to parking.

Mr. Walsh

Mr. Walsh asked about CSAAC. Ms. Griffin reported that there was a representative from the New Futures project who was doing leadership training for alcohol abuse. She said that there would be a leadership breakfast in Hanover on March 21st and a retreat on May 9th and 10th. She said that 25-40 folks from the Upper Valley would be able to attend an intense 2-day workshop on teenage alcohol abuse.

Ms. Griffin reported that they had the first substance-free event at EBA's on Friday night. She said that the bill came to \$1,000 for pizza and drinks. She said that it was organized by Hanover High School students in conjunction with a representative or two from Dartmouth College. She said that this was one of the four events scheduled for this year. Mr. Walsh asked about the turnout. Ms. Griffin said that there were 250 students in attendance. Ms. Black asked about the funding of the events. Ms. Griffin said that the funding was coming from several sources. She said that they received a grant from the Upper Valley Community Foundation. She said that the Town and the School District were picking up the difference.

Ms. Black asked if high school students could attend the retreat. Ms. Griffin said that they could. Ms. Black said that it was important that the students be allowed to attend.

Mr. Walsh reported that the Howe Library was having an auction on December 15th.

Chief Giaccone reported that there was an interesting program at Hanover High School tomorrow night. He said that there would be a panel discussion and skits about setting limits on behavior

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 6, 2000 and November 20, 2000

The minutes of November 6, 2000 were approved as submitted. The minutes of November 20, 2000 were approved as amended.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Board.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pierson MADE THE MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

SUMMARY

1. Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to move the leased spaces they lost to the 5 spaces at the Currier lot, the 3 spaces on the Sargent Place lot, the 4 spaces on Lebanon Street D, and the 10 spaces on Lebanon Street South. Mr. Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED FOUR IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED (Ms. Connolly) TO MOVE THE LEASED SPACES THEY LOST TO THE 5 SPACES AT THE CURRIER LOT, THE 3 SPACES ON THE SARGENT PLACE LOT, THE 4 SPACES ON LEBANON STREET D, AND THE 10 SPACES ON LEBANON STREET SOUTH.

2. Mr. Pierson MADE THE MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Pierson, Secretary

These minutes were transcribed by Annie Hood.