

FINAL

**HANOVER/NORWICH JOINT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2002
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 of the Hanover Selectman, Brian Walsh.

Present were: Hanover Selectmen: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine S. Connolly, Vice Chairman; Marilyn Black; William Baschnagel; Jay Pierson; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; Norwich Selectmen: Neil Fulton, Chairman; Alison May; Linda Cook; Douglas Hoffman; and members of the public.

Both Boards highlighted specific concerns they shared with respect to the Dresden building proposals currently under consideration.

NORWICH:

- Loss in a mix of income strata could occur if a significant tax rate impact forced some, particularly older residents, to leave Norwich.
- Significant tax rate increase could result in an inability to pursue other capital projects that are important to Norwich.

HANOVER:

1. Concern about driving a wedge between Hanover and Norwich over the differential tax rate impact.
2. Concern about losing a key part of Downtown if the High School and Middle School were both to leave the central core.
3. Concern about the tax rate impact combined with the uncertainty of school funding alternatives in New Hampshire.

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Would Hanover pay a “premium” to retain Hanover High School in Downtown (\$5-\$10 million).
- Need to prioritize capital improvements and costs, and to set a dollar limit on what would be a tolerable bond issue.

- Political/tax climate is very fluid right now, both in terms of Act 60 and Statewide Property Tax, as well as building aid, which further supports a “go slow, go in phases” approach.
- Both Boards need to convey a message to the Dresden Board because we all dip into the same tax base.

CONCERNS TO EXPRESS IN JOINT MEETING:

- Potential for division, Dresden very important and needs to be preserved.
- Plus \$40 million too large.
- The way schools are funded in both states is in flux.
- Middle school piece is more important to pursue at this point.

SET UP MEETING:

Neil Fulton and Brian Walsh agreed to set-up a meeting with Anne Segal, Chairman, Dresden School Board to convey the concerns discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Pierson, Secretary

These minutes were transcribed by Julia N. Griffin.