

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**July 18, 2002**

**7:30 PM – MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – HANOVER, NH**

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 pm by the Chairman, Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice-Chairman; Peter Christie; William "Bill" Baschnagel; Judson "Jay" Pierson; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; and members of the public.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

Brian Walsh reordered the agenda to accommodate the majority of audience members who attended to discuss the Dresden/Hanover/Dartmouth Agreement.

**2. PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DRESDEN/HANOVER/DARTMOUTH AGREEMENT RELATIVE TO LOCATING HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL AND RICHMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Brian Walsh said the quality of education in Hanover and Norwich was something that was very dear to most of both towns' citizens. The existing facilities at the Hanover High School and Richmond Middle School were aging and had not seen any significant investment in at least 20 years. Temporary structures were being used, to expand the buildings, as needed. Mr. Walsh said at some level, both towns had been working on school site issues, for 10 years. There had been substantial public discussion, and a number of votes, both in Norwich and in Hanover, on a number of different alternatives presented. Mr. Walsh believed the Selectmen historically did not have a position in School Board matters; those decisions were left up to the School Board and voters.

Mr. Walsh spoke of conflicting voting results relative to selling the Lebanon Street land or not. One vote, in March, passed only by 13 votes (of 3,700) to empower the School Board to sell the land. Another set of votes resulted in strong expressions to keep at least one of the schools on Lebanon Street. Other votes indicated there was a high degree of interest and division in the community. Mr. Walsh said the fundamental issue raised in the Selectmen's race for Town Meeting 2002 was the schools' locations, even though Hanover Selectmen had nothing legally to do with that issue. Discussions of Hanover's 2002 proposed zoning changes were clearly very negative and aimed at Dartmouth College. Mr. Walsh believed some of that was derived by people's perception of Dartmouth's motivations relative to their offer to buy the Lebanon Street land.

Mr. Walsh said the Hanover Board of Selectmen discussed whether there was a constructive role they could play in the school site location issue. They concluded that it

was unsure whether there was a conductive role but it was worth a shot. Near the end of May, with the Selectmen's blessing, Mr. Walsh began talking with Dresden School Board members individually to share the Selectmen's thoughts. He found there to be sufficient interest to have a conversation with Dartmouth College at the presidential level. Over a six week period, from May through July 4, 2002, a working group made up of Margaret McNally, Chair of the Dresden School Board; Geoffrey Vitt, a long standing member of the Dresden School Board; Brian Walsh; Julia Griffin; and three people from Dartmouth College: Paul Olsen, Director of Real Estate, Kate Burke and Sheila Colbert met to seek an alternative they could put forward and all get behind. Mr. Walsh believed one of the frustrations they all shared was the amount of negativity and animosity that had grown up, between Hanover and Norwich, between Hanover and Dartmouth College, and amongst different groups of Hanover citizens pitted against one another.

The group sought to keep the High School on Lebanon Street, provide a substantial amount of money from sources other than general taxation and find some alternative the citizens of both Hanover and Norwich could get behind. Mr. Walsh explained the issue of keeping the High School on Lebanon Street was felt to be a very important quality to the Town of Hanover. On a personal level, he believed towns were very hard to find and easy to destroy. Hanover had been here for 200 to 300 years. It needed a heart that needed to be a civic structure, such as a community building or town building. Mr. Walsh said currently many people, including the Hanover Planning Board, Hanover Board of Selectmen and many voters felt the heart of Hanover was Hanover High School, Hanover Middle School, the soccer field and the football field. Mr. Walsh said the working group recognized the different State tax rates that would cause the cost of new construction to be very, very high for the people of Norwich. Relative to finding funding sources, the group realized this would be very important to finding a middle ground. They needed to get as close to the \$18.7 million Dartmouth put on the table for the Reservoir Road site versus the Lebanon Street Site.

Mr. Walsh believed they had such a solution. They looked around Hanover for assets they might put into the mix, partially so the Town would have a legitimate standing at the table with the School Board and College, and partially because they needed to put together a proposition that could be legitimately supported by the trustees of Dartmouth. The Town had two parcels of land of potential real value:

- 5.42 acres called "The Hole in the Doughnut" which included two playing fields on the Garipay Site on Reservoir Road. This land was deeded from Dartmouth to Hanover in return for the closing of Elm Street and transfer of land to the College to enable the Barry section of the Baker/Barry Library
- .25 acre on South Street currently used for parking but where Dartmouth has major plans for redevelopment relative to the HIC Buildings.

Essence of the "Non-Binding Expression of Our Mutual Intent"

1. Dartmouth would deed to Dresden 23 acres of land on Lyme Road, south of the Dartmouth Printing Company, adjacent to the Ray School and land owned by the Hanover Improvement Society.
2. Dresden would build a new Richmond Middle School and two playing fields associated with the Middle School on 12 acres of the 23 acres deeded from Dartmouth on Lyme Road. The two playing fields would be made available to the Hanover Parks & Recreation Department from 15 minutes after school dismissal to 15 minutes before school began. The remaining 11 acres, located in the back portion of the parcel, would be deeded to the Town of Hanover. The Town's expectation would be to work with the Hanover Improvement Society to build three additional playing fields on the property.
3. Dresden would also convey to the Town of Hanover the playing fields on Thompson Terrace. The Town would continue to work with Dresden to allow the high school athletic program, primarily the baseball program, to use the fields for games and practices.
4. Dresden would undertake a program to renovate, expand and improve Hanover High School at its existing site on Lebanon Street. If Dresden chose to move the High School from the Lebanon Street site and no longer utilize the site for school purposes, the entire 28-acre parcel and improvements would be made available to the Town of Hanover for purchase at a cost of \$1.00. Mr. Walsh said, for the record, Dresden stated their intent was to maintain the football and soccer fields downtown to provide open space.
5. Hanover would transfer 5.42 acres of playing fields on Reservoir Road to Dartmouth. Dartmouth would lease those fields back to the Town through July 1, 2009 at an annual lease of \$1.00 per year. Hanover would also transfer the .25-acre parcel on South Street to Dartmouth. The current parking spaces on this land used by the Howe Library would continue to be available to the Howe Library until the redevelopment occurred, at which time the Town would replace those spaces with on-street parking.
6. Hanover would agree to make available 10 acres of land, adjacent to the existing composting facility on the Gile Tract or some other location, for Dartmouth to use for construction staging and storage. This would free up a Rivercrest Lot, located on Route 10, north of CRREL, where the College currently conducted construction staging and storage. The Town would take the steps necessary with the State Department of Environmental Services relative to the old stump dump meeting DES approval. Zoning changes might also be necessary. Mr. Walsh explained this was not the same land proposed for Affordable Housing.

7. Thompson Lot parking would no longer be available for lease by the Town effective July 1, 2003.
8. Dartmouth would pay Dresden \$9.7 million, as a contribution, in five equal annual payments beginning when the Dresden Bond payment was due.
9. Hanover would pay Dresden \$2 million, toward the cost of renovating and expanding the High School, in 20 equal annual installments beginning no later than the date of the first debt service payment.
10. Hanover and Dresden also agreed to collaborate in finding options to provide space for after-school programs in the new Middle School with no financial responsibility for either Hanover or Dresden.
11. Dresden, Hanover and Dartmouth would work together to make this real. At Dresden's request, Dartmouth would keep its previous offer of \$18.7 million for the land swap on the table until October 31, 2003.
12. This proposal would remain in effect until October 31, 2003.

Mr. Walsh advised of the School Board's unanimous vote to pursue this agreement with the view that the Town's option to purchase the Lebanon Street land needed some work. He said there was considerable conversation on that issue. Norwich residents felt that should be reworked. Mr. Walsh pointed out Norwich was not represented in the working group, except for the two Dresden School Board members, who were both Norwich citizens and were in tune to Norwich concerns.

Mr. Walsh said assuming the Hanover Selectmen passed this agreement, the next major step for the Town would be to hold an emergency Town Meeting. This would occur in the first or second week of October 2002. The State of New Hampshire Superior Court would need to approve holding an emergency Town Meeting where appropriations were sought. The Town would file the necessary paperwork for that process the week of July 22, 2002. Mr. Walsh said there would be at least three issues on the table for that Town Meeting:

- empowering the Selectmen to take the steps relative to transferring land and or leasing land
- authorizing the \$100,000 per year payment for 20 years
- approving zoning changes relative to the College's staging area and identifying its location

#### Options/Alternatives

Mr. Walsh believed there to be none. He did not think the option of selling the Lebanon Street land to Dartmouth for \$18.7 million would pass all the necessary votes (by

Hanover Planning Board, Town Meeting and Dresden bond issue). He also did not believe the option to move the Middle School and improve the High School on its current site, without \$9.7 million from Dartmouth or \$2 million from the Town of Hanover, would pass a Norwich or Hanover vote either. Mr. Walsh argued other possibilities could take another two or three or five years of acrimonious debate to work out. That could tear apart the fabric of these communities, allow the present physical structures to deteriorate further and force another five or six classes to go through schools that should have been improved. Mr. Walsh believed that to be the real choice Hanover and Norwich voters faced in this issue. He stated his support for the proposed agreement and opened the floor to questions, discussion and/or observations.

Bob Norman of 24 School Street believed the plan had a lot going for it; it was wonderful work. He agreed the Gile Tract would be a good place for the construction staging and storage if it were buffered from the affordable housing project planned for the northeast portion of this area. Mr. Norman asked of an alternative listed in the agreement to rezone Dartmouth-owned land, on Route 120, adjacent to the water storage tank. Mr. Walsh explained part of the agreement was for the Town to provide Dartmouth a place for construction staging and storage. The only way Dartmouth could justify their \$9.7 million contribution was by freeing up the back area of Rivercrest. Mr. Walsh said the Town was not certain DES would approve the old dumpsite for Dartmouth's intended use. The Town would be meeting with DES the week of July 29, 2002. Mr. Walsh said it might turn out that a piece of the Gile Tract and/or Sand Hill and/or some other land would have to be used to free up the Rivercrest area. Mr. Norman questioned if screening would be provided at the Gile Tract or from Route 120. Mr. Walsh said the aim would be to make the storage area invisible from Route 120 or any other site. He reiterated that the Town had an obligation to figure out where to deliver on this part of the proposal. The thought was to begin with the Gile Tract and look at alternatives. Julia Griffin said NH DES was one of the less progressive agencies in terms of active reuse of landfills. There was a possibility DES would approve of some of Dartmouth's intended uses for this site, but not all. The Town would then have to find an alternative location that was really out of site.

Mr. Norman expressed concern for the bicycle route that ran along the .25 acre on South Street included in the proposal. Ms. Griffin said issues related to the bicycle path and loss of twelve parking spaces associated with that parcel would be dealt with when Dartmouth presents their plans for redevelopment of that area to the Town Boards in two or three years.

Maryann Rankin of 5 Thompson Terrace said she appreciated all of the effort, thought, consideration and planning that went into this proposal. It was a wonderful step forward. As a parent of two children who had graduated from the Hanover High School she would certainly like to see a renovation made. She believed the proposal seemed to address a lot of concerns and worries many Hanover citizens had. She questioned the purpose of Hanover's proposed \$2 million payment. Mr. Walsh said the \$2 million could not be tied to anything specifically; it was a part of the package. The Town would be getting a

number of things back from this agreement, not the least of which was assurance that there would be a civic use of the Lebanon Street site. The Town would also get eleven acres of land bordering Storrs Pond and land owned by the Hanover Improvement Society, and two playing fields on the Middle School site.

Ms. Rankin questioned the use of the Thompson Terrace playing fields. Mr. Walsh said this was talked about at length. He acknowledged the Town would need to be very sensitive to the neighborhood interest and limited parking Thompson Terrace offered relative to the extent that those fields would be used. A primary user might be Little League; it could also become a pocket park (a neighborhood destination park). Mr. Walsh said there were no expectations to allow high traffic adult soccer or softball games. Julia Griffin said the School Board had hoped to transfer high school baseball activities to Norwich playing fields. The Thompson Terrace fields would then accommodate girls' softball activities. The former girls' softball field could then be used for Little League or Babe Ruth activities. Mr. Walsh said it would be reasonable to expect the uses of the Thompson Terrace fields would be no more intense than they were currently; the Town would make an effort to make them less intense.

Rich Howarth of 2 Sausville Road wondered how this proposed agreement compared, in a cost sense, to an option to move both schools, with more money provided up front. Would this new arrangement shift construction costs over to Norwich or create a higher burden on Norwich and Hanover taxpayers than would an option to move both schools? He said the installment payments from Dartmouth and Hanover would allow the Dresden Board to borrow less money up front and use the installment payments to pay back principle and interest on part of the bond. Instead of decreasing the amount of a future bond, the School Board would effectively be able to finance about \$7 million in current bonded cost. Mr. Howarth said from a present value perspective, taking into account the time value of interest payments the installment contributions would make, in terms of the financing, the overall cost of the project would be less than \$11 million. Mr. Walsh advised Dartmouth's \$18.7 million offer was also payable over five years.

Mr. Howarth understood the proposal involved a Town vote to commit to paying \$100,000 per year out of the annual budget. He questioned how that was done legally and if a current commitment would bind future Town Meetings. Julia Griffin advised a note allowed the Town to bind the community for 20 years. By budgeting the expenditure from the Operating Budget, the Town could save on interest payments associated with a bond. Ms. Griffin said a 20-year commitment to a note required a two-thirds vote and would bind future Town Meetings to the approval of that funding.

Kari Asmus of 2 Sausville Road questioned if new traffic signals, construction costs associated with the playing fields or sidewalks were considered. Mr. Walsh said the working group did not get down to that fine level of detail. They did recognize that the eleven acres planned for construction of playing fields was complicated land, different from the Gile Tract land. Ms. Asmus asked how the public would be made more widely informed about the intricacies of this debate. She said since every dollar of Hanover's

contribution that went to Dresden would substitute a dollar Dresden would have to collect in taxes, and because Hanover paid sixty cents out of every dollar for their 60% of the student body, she thought Norwich was implying Hanover's contribution was even less than the proposed \$2 million or \$1.4 million at discounted cash flow basis at 4%. Mr. Walsh clarified the agreement called for the Town of Hanover to take on a note to transfer to \$100,000 per year, for 20 years, to Dresden. Ms. Asmus said some would argue Dartmouth's contribution of \$9.7 million would really be coming the Town of Hanover, as the Town was giving up these assets to encourage Dartmouth to make that offer. Julia Griffin said for every deal the Town proposed there would be numerous interpretations just from within the Town of Hanover's academic community as to how to assess the true financial impact of the deals. She was not sure a deal could be presented that would satisfy everyone with all the information they needed to make a decision. She said the Town agreed with the Dresden School Board to form a subcommittee to address some specific concerns regarding the Town's option to purchase the Lebanon Street land for \$1.00. Peter Christie reiterated that one of the objectives of this proposal was to give general tax relief and provide non-tax money to support the building of these schools. In a very basic way, the land that the Middle School would be built on, the \$2 million from the Town and the \$9.7 million from Dartmouth would all go to reduce what would have been a higher bond to support the new schools.

Sharon Nordgren 23 Rope Ferry Road thanked the Selectmen for their initiation and instigation of discussions with Dartmouth's President. She believed a lot of Hanover residents were very discouraged by the way things ended a few months ago. She also thanked them for bringing the public up to date with what was on the table, allowing them to provide input.

Brian Walsh introduced Margaret McNally, Chair of the Dresden Board who was available for questions or comments.

Jim Rubens of Etna questioned if the financial structuring of the proposal was geared toward creating the highest probability that the States of Vermont and New Hampshire would allow the full extent of State funding for the renovation and new building. Mr. Walsh said that was another level of calculus the working group did not reach but that the expectation was to work together on the regulations and State issues. Mr. Rubens encouraged the working group to reach a very strong consensus regarding the Town's option to purchase the Lebanon Street site. Mr. Walsh said one of the very strong goals the Town of Hanover sought in this agreement was to obtain assurance the 28 acres site on Lebanon Street would remain a heart for Hanover forever. In Mr. Walsh's view, if that was not part of the deal, the Town should not go forward. That does not mean there should not be some changes relative to dollars or voting.

Mr. Rubens argued that the Town's financial contribution would provide the Selectmen and people of Hanover an interest in the school buildings being procured as efficiently as possible. He encouraged the Selectmen to encourage the School Board to use a new process by which schools were procured in the State as described in a recent forum held

at Hanover High School. Mr. Rubens said the School Board could save \$200,000 or more by not paying for designs but instead utilizing a competitive design bid build approach where the School Board would choose from design teams who submitted competing plans by which the school's needs would be met. This would not only save money but would provide more creative ideas to select from. Mr. Walsh said the Selectmen felt their role in this matter was in school location and financing. They did not want to take on the responsibility of the Dresden School District. John Chamberlin of Hanover and Dresden School Board member said the design/build issue was considerably more complex than Mr. Rubens had stated. The School Board was in the process of purchasing a book on the topic.

Mr. Rubens questioned the Sargent Street land and whether that included another little parking lot in the area. Julia Griffin advised the other parking lot was included and stated Mr. Rubens and the Town would have to negotiate a new location.

Peter Christie pointed out another advantage to the proposal was that if adopted, it would settle the location question, thereby allowing all the other processes to focus on known locations. This would provide quite a bit of energy, time and real financial savings. Mr. Christie said the Selectmen had all talked to as many people as they could after the agreement was announced. He received nothing but positive responses until he spoke with colleagues on the Norwich Finance Committee who expressed concern and needed more information. Mr. Christie believed Hanover's community support for the proposed agreement was overwhelming. He encouraged the Town and Selectmen to stand up and keep this conversation at a high, positive ground.

**Bill Baschnagel MOVED that the Selectboard accept the proposed agreement. Jay Pierson SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.**

Brian Walsh acknowledged Margaret McNally and Geoffrey Vitt; Ken Greenbaum; Dartmouth College President, Jim Wright, the people in his office and the Dartmouth Trustees for their work on this proposal.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR FY 2002-03**

Brian Walsh opened the public hearing. The Selectmen then reviewed the proposed Rate and Fee Schedule for FY 2002-2003 mainly discussing those rates and fees that changed from the previous year.

Fire - Ambulance

Per Capita – Hanover	increases to	\$12.10
Per Capita – Lyme	increases to	\$12.10
Per Capita – Norwich	increases to	\$12.10



Katherine Connolly questioned the change in the policy of charging less for Hanover residents than for Lyme and Etna residents in its provision of services. Julia Griffin explained, up until last year, the Ambulance Fund was not able to assume the benefits costs, associated with allocating fire fighters' salaries, to the Ambulance Fund, because it was not in as healthy a condition as it was now. The General Fund was absorbing the benefits costs of 3/16<sup>th</sup> of total fire fighter's salaries to the Ambulance Fund. In the last 18 months, the Town was able to allocate the full benefits and salary costs associated with 3 fire fighters to that Fund. As such, we thought it was appropriate to raise the rate per capita to match what Norwich and Lyme were paying. The increase for Lyme and Norwich was simply a CPI increase. The Hanover rate was raised to match the Lyme and Norwich now that Hanover was no longer bearing the benefits costs for those 3 fire fighters.

Bill Baschnagel recalled budget discussions of the surplus and asked if it made sense to increase the rate, as that would further increase the surplus, or should the Town consider not assessing a CPI increase this year. Ms. Griffin said staff had looked at several options; there was a fair amount of work to do this coming fall on the Ambulance fund. She thought next year, the Town might be in a position to consider returning a portion of the fund balance to the three communities rather than continuing to grow the fund balance.

Betsy McClain, Director of Administrative Services said it would be risky to reduce the fund balance without seeing the impacts of recent changes in Medicaid reimbursement. These changes would now limit how much the Town could recover from a patient. If a patient were covered by Medicare, the Town would need to accept what Medicare would pay and back off on the balance owed. The cushion in the fund balance was important, as the mix of patients was the dynamic variable.

Treatment w/transport

Basic Life Support – Resident	increases to	\$275.00 (+\$8.25 per mile)
Basic Life Support – Non-Resident	increases to	\$325.00 (+\$8.25 per mile)
Advanced Life Support – 1 Resident	increases to	\$325.00 (+\$8.25 per mile)
Advanced Life Support – 1 Non-Resident	increases to	\$375.00 (+\$8.25 per mile)
Advanced Life Support – 2 Resident	increases to	\$475.00 (+\$8.25 per mile)
Advanced Life Support – 2 Non-Resident	increases to	\$525.00 (+\$8.25 per mile)

Hanover Fire Chief Roger Bradley introduced Hanover's newest Fire Captain, Mike Hinsley who would be responsibility for emergency medical services. Captain Hinsley spoke of Medicare rate and fee changes that went into effect April 1, 2002 to set national standards for ambulance billing. The proposed increases for the Town of Hanover would bring Hanover's rates up to Medicare's allowable rate. Captain Hinsley said the Town of Hanover was one of a very few towns that would see an increase from Medicare's changes.

Police – Animal Control

First Dog – Senior Citizen Owner                      decreases to    \$2.00

Julia Griffin advised this change resulted from a change in State statute.

Police - Parking

Boot Removal Fee    new fee proposed of \$50.00

Julia Griffin advised this was associated with the Town’s modified Parking Ordinance to allow the immobilization of vehicles.

Public Works

Project Inspection    new fee proposed of \$55.00

Julia Griffin said the Town conducted specialized inspections through the Public Works Department in providing more in depth plan review. For those projects that required more significant time from Town staff, the thought was to charge the developers for that cost of time allocated to their project. This would be a one-time fee per project.

Hanover Recreation Fee Structure

Instructional Programs: Revenue is allotted by 70%/30% up to a maximum of \$65.00 per hour after expenses

	Resident	Non-Resident
Instructional Athletic Programs:	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
Playground: (7 wks)	\$105.00	\$210.00
Playground ½ Day:	\$ 10.00	\$ 30.00
Mini-Camp:	\$ 10.00/day (\$50/wk)	\$ 20.00/day (\$100/wk)

Athletic Programs:

Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Basketball,		
Field Hockey, Volleyball, Track	\$30.00	\$40.00
Girls Lacrosse	\$40.00	\$50.00
Boys Lacrosse	\$50.00	\$60.00
Football	\$35.00	\$45.00

Ms. Griffin said the intention of these changes was to have these fees go into effect when the new Community Center opened. Fees collected for instructional programs would go directly to the instructor for reimbursement. Ms. Griffin said these fees had not been updated in a few years. Brian Walsh questioned why football was less expensive than lacrosse.

Sewer

Average Domestic Bill (275 gallons/day)	\$245.61	\$245.61
Unmetered (includes 25% surcharge)	\$307.01	\$307.01

Ms. Griffin explained the unmetered included the very few Etna residents who discharged to Hanover sewer but had their own wells and refused to have their wells metered.

Connection to Hanover sewer system	\$200.00 includes one inspection and recapture fee of \$285.00 per equivalent user
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**Bill Baschnagel MOVED to accept the proposed Rate and Fee Schedule. Katherine Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE.**

Brian Walsh closed the public hearing.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FOR SPECIFIED TOWN FEES**

Brian Walsh opened the public hearing.

Julia Griffin reminded the Selectmen of a Town Meeting vote in 2000 that enabled the Town to accept credit card payments. She believed many Hanover citizens were hoping the Town would ultimately accept payment of taxes by credit card. She said there were a few communities in New Hampshire that were accepting some payments by credit cards. She did not know of anyone that accepted tax payments by credit card. She advised Hanover's proposed pilot credit card program would not allow tax collection by credit card.

Katherine Connolly questioned the timeframe between issuing a receipt of credit card payment and the Town receiving the funds from a financial institution. Betsy McClain, Director of Administrative Services said the 2000 Town Meeting vote specifically stated the Town had to pass along the convenience, or processing fee, to the person making the transaction. Most financial institutions were precluded from their MasterCard or Visa agreements from allowing their customers to be charged a premium when using their credit cards. Ms. McClain was able to find only two outfits in the State that would structure a service agreement to allow the Town to charge those customers differently if the Town could provide an Ordinance mandating such a process. Those two outfits would be able to credit funding to the Town's account the following day. Brian Walsh asked to address why the Town was passing the fee on to the user. In theory, the credit

card gives the merchant certainty of being paid. It was not reasonable for the Town to pay a fee to someone lower on the food chain when in fact the Town has more security. There was no value in the service for the Town. Mr. Walsh said to put the 2.5% fee into perspective relative to property taxes; the Town collected all of the property taxes of which the General Fund was roughly 20%. If all property taxes were paid by credit card and the Town had to absorb the fees out of the General Fund, it would be approximately 10%. He noted that the Selectmen struggled every year to stay within 2.5%. By absorbing the credit card fees, five years of hard budgeting work would be given away to some credit card processor. Mr. Walsh said he was unwilling to contemplate that while he was on the Board. Ms. Griffin said as it was unknown what percentage of taxpayers would prefer to pay their taxes by credit card, the Town could not even begin to estimate what kinds of fees the process might require.

Julia Griffin advised that State Law was amended to allow communities to absorb the fee rather than pass it along to their customers. Hanover would have to amend their Town Meeting 2000 action to be able to do that. Ms. Griffin would rather the Town gain some experience before tackling that issue. Ms. McClain said larger communities with a large volume of small dollar transactions are able to save staff costs by accepting credit card payments. Ms. Griffin said there was a lot of interest around the State on the issue. She said she and Ms. McClain would present a credit card workshop for the NHMA in November discussing the pros and cons of credit card payments of all sizes.

Jim Rubens suggested when the Town moves in the direction of collecting the larger dollar items it should work to renegotiate the recapture fee or fee to the credit card company down toward 1%.

**Jay Pierson MOVED to accept the Ordinance for the credit card payment excluding the reference to taxes. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE ORDINANCE FOR THE CREDIT CARD PAYMENT EXCLUDING THE REFERENCE TO TAXES.**

**5. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO PARKING VALIDATION PROGRAM**

Bill Baschnagel advised of the existing Parking Validation Program that enabled merchants to purchase vouchers, from the Town, to give to their customers that would result in a credit at the Parking Facility. The Parking Transportation Board (PTB) discussed this at their last meeting. The point was raised that it is more difficult for some of the other, smaller merchants in town, who might like to utilize this type of program. There was interest on the part of the Chamber of Commerce to encourage more of the merchants to get together. A request was made to allow the merchants to buy a larger number of tickets, at a discounted price, as part of expanding this as a merchandizing mechanism.

Mr. Baschnagel noted that the current program offered 1,000 half hour vouchers (at face value \$ .50 per voucher) for \$500.00. The proposed modification would be to offer 1,000 half hour vouchers (at \$ .35 per voucher) for \$350.00. This would be an attempt to work with the merchants in town to exploit the use of the parking facility and the functionality of the program.

Brian Walsh questioned the utilization of the parking facility. Mr. Baschnagel said it was fairly stable; well used but was by no means full. Julia Griffin offered to have the Patrick O'Neill, Parking Supervisor provide up to date figures on utilization. Mr. Walsh expressed concern that it would be difficult to return the cost of the vouchers back to their original rate if the program became highly used.

**Bill Baschnagel MOVED to approve the proposed modification to parking validation program. Katherine Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO PARKING VALIDATION PROGRAM.**

**6. RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Mike Ryan, Director of Assessing explained the Advisory Board of Assessors met on June 18, 2002 and discussed two abatement applications received for the 2001 tax year. The Advisory Board recommended denying NH Electric Cooperative's application and approving a \$700,000 reduction in the assessment for Hypertherm, Inc.

Mr. Ryan explained NH Electric Cooperative failed to provide additional information requested of them by Mr. Ryan. The reduction for Hypertherm would result in a tax refund of roughly \$19, 110.00. Revised taxes paid by Hypertherm were \$174, 119. The Town received two appraisals of Hypertherm listing \$6.3 million and \$5 million. Mr. Ryan believed those to be on the conservative side. The information supplied was reasonable enough to conclude that the 2000 assessment was high. Jay Pierson added that there was substantial discussion on this particular application. A lot of thought went into the reduction.

Brian Walsh advised the Advisory Board of Assessors was made up of Jay Pierson, Paul Young, Xenia Heaton, and Richard Birnie.

**Jay Pierson MOVED to accept the Advisor Board of Assessors' recommendations. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORY RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 17, 2002**

**Katherine Connolly MOVED to approve the minutes of June 17, 2002 as amended. Jay Pierson SECONDED THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2002 AS AMENDED.**

**8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

NHMA Floor Policies

Ms. Griffin provided copies of recommendation from the NHMA's Legislative Policy Committees. NHMA's annual Legislative Policy Conference was scheduled for September 13, 2002. NHMA was asking that Hanover send one voting representative to the Conference to assist in their process of setting their legislative goals for the coming year. Ms. Griffin said she would ask the Selectmen to take a position on each of the policies, in early September, to empower the Hanover representative at the Legislative Policy Conference to vote on Hanover's behalf.

Adelphia

Ms. Griffin reported Betsy McClain, Chair of the Franchise Renegotiation Committee was working with that group to prepare for franchise renegotiation. The Committee would hold public hearings in August seeking public input. They would begin to meet with Adelphia in late October and present a proposal to the Selectmen in December.

Ms. Griffin advised the Franchise Renegotiation Committee members were Willy Black (CATV Board member), Doug Hackett, Corey Stevens, Betsy McClain, Michael Beihn (CATV Board member) and Brad Noblet from Dartmouth. Corey Stevens' involvement was relative to the Town's interest in high-speed data services as a component of cable services. Brian Walsh spoke of a flyer he received on high-speed data access from Adelphia after they announced and filed for bankruptcy. He responded to the flyer and was told by an Adelphia representative he could expect that service to be available by the end of July.

Dresden/Dartmouth/Hanover Agreement Timeline

Ms. Griffin said she would provide the Selectmen a Pre-Town Meeting timeline the Town would need to adhere to, assuming a Town Meeting would be held in mid-October. She said Jonathan Edwards and Nancy Collier, Chair of the Hanover Planning Board, were working on Planning Board scheduling relative to zoning amendment hearings needed in late August and early September. The Town would also be submitting a request to the New Hampshire Superior Court on July 28 or 29, 2002 authorizing Hanover to hold an emergency Town Meeting in October to appropriate funds at that meeting. A Court decision would not be made until late August. Moving forward from

there, the earliest the Town could hold a Town Meeting would be October 15, 2002. Ms. Griffin noted the Town Moderator would not be available until that time either. She concluded stating she would keep the Selectmen posted of the schedule as it evolved.

## **9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

### **Peter Christie**

Mr. Christie did not have anything to report.

### **Katherine Connolly**

Ms. Connolly reported of the upcoming Nihomatsu/Sister City visit. A group party was scheduled for Saturday July 27, 2002 at the Dartmouth Boathouse.

Ms. Connolly reported of two Planning Board meetings held to discuss the Master Plan and of a site plan review they conducted for revisions at the Chieftain Motel.

Ms. Connolly attended two Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Commission meetings. One was an annual meeting held at Saint Gaudens in Cornish; the other involved discussion of how Vermont and New Hampshire deal with historical resources.

Ms. Connolly advised of Michael Campbell's receipt of the Young Hardware Retailer of the Year Award. She believed he deserved a "Tip of the Hat". The revenue he generated out of a very small operation was considered to be remarkable. Ms. Connolly said that was a very nice tribute to an organization of a few retailers, still left in downtown Hanover, serving the population of Hanover. It was the sort of retailers the Selectmen would encourage to come back.

### **Bill Baschnagel**

Mr. Baschnagel said the Upper Valley TMA continued to plug along. They were making progress on park and ride negotiations. They had received some additional funding. A summer intern was helping with organization.

Mr. Baschnagel reported that the Conservation Commission were working with Hanover's Conservation Council to formalized a Balch Hill Management Plan. This would be a continuing process of maintenance of that area. They were also in the process of forming an Energy Subcommittee to focus largely on education. This group would also tie in to other Upper Valley energy committees.

Mr. Baschnagel reported that the Planning Board's agenda continued to be dominated by a series of discussions of the College's Dewey Field expansion project. He believed this was going to be an example where the planning process was working well. Comparing what was originally submitted to the Board versus what was evolving reflected a lot of

input and concerns from the neighbors, a more thorough review of needs, structures, layouts, etc.

Mr. Baschnagel reported that the PTB would be meeting with Bill Barr, Head of Dartmouth's Parking, and Shawn Donovan, a Construction Project Manager in Dartmouth's Facilities Planning Office, to begin discussing of options to meet the parking demand of the Thompson Lot.

### **Jay Pierson**

Mr. Pierson reported that the Recreation Board was in search of an additional member and asked the Selectmen to forward any suggestions to the Board.

Mr. Pierson reported that the Water Company had received the completed engineering study and were going to look into a pilot program relative a study of the water quality. Another pilot program would involve testing filtration systems that might work in response to the engineering study. The Municipalization was put on the back burner. They also reviewed financial statements and everything looked pretty good relative to the most recent rate increase.

### **Brian Walsh**

Mr. Walsh said he was sorry to have missed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Community/Senior Center.

Mr. Walsh said July 4, 2002 was great. He thanked Chris Vitale and the Rotary for their efforts.

Mr. Walsh said the Hanover Center Old-timers Fair was absolutely fabulous.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Jay Pierson MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:56 PM.**



**SUMMARY**

1. **Bill Baschnagel MOVED that the Selectboard accept the proposed agreement. Jay Pierson SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.**
2. **Bill Baschnagel MOVED to accept the proposed Rate and Fee Schedule. Katherine Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE.**
3. **Jay Pierson MOVED to accept the Ordinance for the credit card payment excluding the reference to taxes. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE ORDINANCE FOR THE CREDIT CARD PAYMENT EXCLUDING THE REFERENCE TO TAXES.**
4. **Bill Baschnagel MOVED to approve the proposed modification to parking validation program. Katherine Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO PARKING VALIDATION PROGRAM.**
5. **Jay Pierson MOVED to accept the Advisor Board of Assessors' recommendations. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORY RECOMMENDATIONS.**
6. **Katherine Connolly MOVED to approve the minutes of June 17, 2002 as amended. Jay Pierson SECONDED THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2002 AS AMENDED.**
7. **Jay Pierson MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED THE MOTION. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:56 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Christie, Secretary