

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**September 23, 2002**

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

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:32 pm by the Chairman, Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice-Chairman; William "Bill" Baschnagel; Peter Christie; Judson "Jay" Pierson; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; and members of the public.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**2. ANNUAL DISCUSSION WITH ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Brian Walsh explained the Selectmen were trying to meet with the various Town boards and commissions on an annual, or every two-years, basis to discuss where things were and how they could improve. He asked the members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) to introduce themselves. They were Bernie Waugh, George Spitzer, Ruth Lappin, Lee Baldwin, Joanna Jackson, Mike Hingston and Bill Little.

**ZBA Caseload**

Mr. Walsh asked to speak of the ZBA's caseload, which, according to figures submitted by the Planning & Zoning staff, had doubled over the last two years. The number of cases involving rehearings had increased by a factor of three. Mr. Walsh was concerned for what was built into the Town's regulations relative to what was expected of the ZBA members. Bernie Waugh, Chair of the ZBA, spoke of Zoning Administrator's efforts to decrease their caseload by submitting zoning amendments on Special Exceptions. Mr. Waugh explained some uses that required Special Exceptions had become common, no longer warranting the Special Exception review. Mr. Waugh believed the increase in rehearings was attributable to the fact that people were more litigious these days and a motion for rehearing was a necessary prerequisite to appeal. He shared his personal belief that a lot of the additional burden, from rehearings, came from a small number of people, who did not give their clients realistic advice about what to expect. George Spitzer was amazed at how much of the ZBA's "citizen" work required legal expertise. Lee Baldwin spoke of the number of cases in which an attorney represented the applicant. Those cases took longer to hear, read, and work through a decision. He believed the caseload figures presented would not reflect that.

Bill Baschnagel asked if increased attorney representation was a reflection of the more litigious society or a reflection that Hanover interpreted and enforced its Code fairly rigorously. Mr. Waugh said the ZBA's role, as set forth in statute, and taken very

seriously, was a quasi-judicial role. They had to apply the standards in the Ordinance and they did so strictly. He said there were people out there, trying their best to figure out ways to skirt the edges of what the Ordinance required. He said if there was a sense that the Ordinance was too strict, it should be loosened up. He asked if the Selectmen believed the ZBA's decisions were not reflective of the intent of the voters or the Ordinance. Mr. Baschnagel said he was not suggesting that the ZBA or Town staff was overly rigorous in its interpretations; he was just asking if Hanover's Code was written differently from what people expected elsewhere.

### **Town Applications to the ZBA**

Mr. Waugh asked to discuss the ZBA's role with respect to Town applications, the process of decision making on lawsuits involving the ZBA and the definite lack of support the ZBA felt from the Selectmen. Brian Walsh said the Town decided years ago to hold itself to the same standards it held the public to. He felt that people generally believed the ZBA was an independent body and legitimately, if the Town had a project, it should be passed in front of the same rules that the public had to pass in front of. This was also a very valuable tool for the Town, realizing what they put the public through with its regulations. Mr. Waugh spoke of the Town's Community/Senior Center project, noting the overwhelming public support, Town Meeting vote and Selectboard motion urging other Town boards to approve the project. He questioned if those boards could even decide the cases in a truly impartial way. He felt that the Selectboard's motion was inappropriate. Ruth Lappin agreed, the ZBA members could not be completely impartial, many of them probably voted in favor of the Community/Senior Center at Town Meeting. She suggested getting the ZBA involved, in future Town projects, in their early stages, in more of an advisory role, helping to interpret the Ordinance, as it applied to the project. Mr. Waugh said RSA 674:54, on governmental uses, put the issue before the local boards for advisory comments without making them binding on the governmental end.

Mr. Waugh suggested a Town Meeting vote was a separate test of whether something was in the public's interest and maybe it should overrule whether an application met the strict zoning requirements or not. Mr. Baschnagel disagreed. He liked the idea of the ZBA and Planning Board reviewing projects in the context of their very focused interests. He felt the boards brought a level of expertise and knowledge to the process at a point when sufficient information was on the table to make judgments. He was uncomfortable suggesting that the Town exercise their right *carte blanche* and move ahead. Katherine Connolly spoke of her attendance at the New Hampshire Municipal Association's Policy Conference, where one of the policies that went forward to the legislature was to make the municipal and governmental entities subject to the local land use laws. Mr. Waugh was not optimistic that policy would ever come to be law. Julia Griffin agreed, politically there was a lot of resistance to requiring the State, much less local municipalities, to hold themselves accountable.

Mr. Walsh agreed to discuss the next Town project with the boards in their early stages. Mr. Baschnagel asked of the ZBA's thoughts relative to Hanover's current school

situation and the possibility of moving the middle school. Mr. Waugh said he would support Ms. Lappin's comments, that their involvement either start out as advisory or, if after review of a full fledged application, the ZBA would be able to indicate places where the application did not meet the Ordinance, understanding that the applicant was free to go forward. Mr. Waugh asked that, in Town application cases, the Selectmen clarify that the ZBA's role is one of advisory. He affirmed that the ZBA would continue to give full consideration to Town projects but stressed that their comments would be advisory.

### **Decisions on Law Suits**

Mr. Walsh said the decision making process, for lawsuits involving the ZBA, was usually determined by the Town's counsel. In rare instances, typically involving whether to accept a compromise or not, the Selectmen would make the decision. He spoke of the Town's legal budget increase from \$40,000/year to \$110,000/year and the Selectmen's efforts to decrease those numbers. He said a suit against the town was a suit against all of its individual taxpayers. He said the local boards worked hard and made reasonable decisions. It did not feel good to see people second and third guessing that, especially when Hanover citizens had to pay taxes to defend the Town. He said the Selectmen published a list of those who brought suit against the Town and how much those suits cost. Mr. Walsh believed it was the Selectboard's place to talk to Hanover citizens about not suing the Town. Ms. Griffin said currently, the Town spent about \$70,000 to \$85,000 per year in legal fees. Of that, 95% stemmed from Planning & Zoning issues. The increase in the Town's legal budget stemmed from the fact that the Town was now doing far more up front consultation with the Town's attorney. Ms. Griffin said the biggest challenge was in communicating with ZBA members on deciding whether to appeal a decision or not. She welcomed any suggestions the ZBA members had, for providing the Town's attorney and herself the quick ability to confer with the right people, to make a decision within the appeal timeline.

Mr. Waugh felt that the ZBA was cognizant of legal fees. He believed that winning cases brought against the Town was a good way to dissuade others from taking legal action. That was why some ZBA members were disappointed that the Town chose not to go forward with the Fredyma case. He wondered if the Selectmen questioned the ZBA's judgments, making the Town go to Court over silly issues, such as whether someone could park their car in their driveway. Mr. Walsh said it was clear from the record that the ZBA's decisions were right on the law and were defensible. Jay Pierson felt the Selectmen should be supporting the ZBA through the litigation. Bill Baschnagel believed there was another element the Selectmen had to consider when deciding whether to go forward with a case or not, and that was money. He said sometimes you get to a point where you are throwing good money after bad and, in fact, are not going to achieve the goal that you intended. The Selectmen had to consider the additional expenditure for trying to achieve a righteous outcome, recognizing that there was low probability of recovering any of those funds and/or that that the outcome still might not go in the Town's favor for whatever reasons. Ms. Connolly said Selectmen did not believe the ZBA was out on a limb. She asked that the ZBA not conduct their business with the

notion that someone might begin litigation against them. That was a constant threat they could not give in to. Peter Christie said the Selectmen made the decision to back off from a lawsuit or see it through on a case-by-case basis, weighing in the pros and cons of moving forward or not. Their decision was not related to a false notion that the ZBA failed in some way.

Mr. Waugh felt the bottom line was that decisions of whether to appeal or not should involve communications with the board that would be affected the most. The Town had thirty days to determine what action to take. Selectman Walsh said being presented with an offer to settle and facing an appeal of the Court's decision were two different situations. He felt it would be very legitimate to have a joint meeting or at least consult with the ZBA before deciding whether to pursue an appeal. Ms. Griffin thought the Town needed to work out a mechanism where they could pull, at least a subset of the ZBA together with the Selectboard and Town attorney, for a conference call. Mr. Waugh agreed.

### **Recusals**

Bill Little spoke of the number of ZBA members that have to recuse themselves due to Dartmouth affiliation and the burden that placed on the remaining members to review all of Dartmouth's projects. Joanna Jackson asked if the Selectmen were actively looking for two other alternates to the ZBA. Ms. Griffin affirmed the vacant seats had been advertised. Mr. Waugh admitted the recusal process needed to be revised. He explained the current standard that allowed an audience member to determine whether a ZBA member should step down from hearing a case or not. State statute left that decision up to the individual board member. Ms. Connolly did not recalled that bylaw existed when she was a member of the ZBA. She added that the Planning Board Bylaws had no such obligation. Ms. Griffin said the current standard to determine conflict of interest was now being used as a tool to stymie projects. Mr. Walsh said the Selectmen's "To Do" list included a Town Ethics Policy that would deal directly with the conflict of interest issue. He said he would support the ZBA rethinking their situation relative to changing the bylaws. He suggested a direct personal interest in the outcome of a decision should suffice.

Ruth Lappin spoke of past procedures when cases went back and forth between the ZBA and Planning Board for reviews. She believed Dartmouth's Dewey Field case was being handled appropriately, in terms of how it was progressing through the Town boards. Ms. Griffin believed the changes to the Town's approval process were made in an effort to streamline the process. It also worked to reduce the ZBA's caseload, in terms of number of visits with a particular applicant. Ms. Lappin said it was appreciated.

Mr. Walsh thanked the ZBA members for their efforts saying, it was usually a thankless job, but the Selectmen and many citizens in Town appreciated it.

**3. PRE-TOWN MEETING PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES FOR A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 29, 2002**

Brian Walsh opened the public hearing. Julia Griffin said this constituted the required Pre-Town Meeting in the statutes.

Article One involved an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that was approved by the Planning Board in September. Article Two involved the appropriation of \$2 million, in the form of a note, payable to the Dresden School District, with an annual payment of \$100,000 for 20 years. Ms. Griffin said the wording of Article Two and the tri-party agreement was changed slightly from the last version presented to the Selectmen to address DRA (the State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration) concerns. DRA made it very clear that the payment from the Town to the School District for the purposes of school improvements was not an appropriate use of municipal funds. DRA said it would be up to Dresden to decide how to spend the \$2 million. Wording that directly linked the Town's payment to school improvements was changed and the Court was notified of the modifications.

The Court hearing on the appropriating article was scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2002 at 9:00 am in North Haverhill. Ms. Griffin said if the Court denied the request for an emergency appropriation, Article Two would have to be revised to become advisory only. Jay Pierson asked of the chances of a Court denial. Ms. Griffin felt fairly comfortable with the Town's petition. She explained that Dartmouth's actions, to set an October 2003 expiration for the offer, made it necessary for either the Town or the School District to receive approval for an emergency appropriation. If the Court denied the Town's current petition, the appropriation vote would be postponed to May 2003. Dresden would need to petition the Court for an emergency school meeting to appropriate funds before October of 2003.

Ms. Griffin said Article Three, with all of its subparts, did not constitute an appropriation. The Town had the ability to call a Special Town Meeting at any point, with proper notice, to deal with that article. She said DRA also asked that Article Three be one large article as opposed to having multiple articles on the issues noted in Article Three. She suggested presenting each piece of Article Three at the Special Town Meeting individually, even though they would be voted on as one article. She said changes were also made to the wording of Article Three, at DRA's request, relative to the discontinued portion of Sargent place and the details of the credit. Mr. Pierson asked if subpart (i) would include an example of how the fair market value would be used. Ms. Griffin the Pre-Town Meeting mailing would include the details of that formula as well as background information on Warrant Articles. Peter Christie said Penny Shire, of the Norwich Finance Committee, had informed him of the Committee's formal vote to approve subpart (i) as presented, assuming that a caveat detailing the formula would be capsulated into the final agreement. Ms. Griffin said it was now an attachment to the final agreement.

Brian Walsh opened the floor to public comment.

Bill Little, of Etna, questioned the language of Article Three and whether it presumed that the Dresden School District would have approved the agreement prior to the Special Town Meeting. Ms. Griffin said the Dresden Board had approved the agreement, but that the Dresden voters would not decide on the issue until March. Mr. Little asked if the Special Town Meeting vote would be Hanover voters' first time to vote on a plan to move the middle school out to Lyme Road and keep the high school in town. Ms. Griffin affirmed.

Mr. Little asked if the voting on Articles Two and Three would be done by Australian ballot. Ms. Griffin said both articles would be voted on during the business meeting portion of the Special Town Meeting; Article Two, the appropriating article, by paper ballot; Article Three by a voice and hand vote. Mr. Little asked of the Selectmen's sense on whether the articles would pass or be defeated. Mr. Walsh said any one of the articles could be defeated but that all three articles needed to pass or the entire tri-party deal would fall through and the school situation would be back at gridlock. There was no room for negotiation. Ms. Griffin said the burden would be on the Selectboard, at the Special Town Meeting, to clearly communicate to the voters that this was not a negotiated subject, the agreement had been reached and it was time to vote. She presumed some folks at the Special Town Meeting would want answers to what they perceived to be linked questions in terms of school costs. She explained those issues would not be up for discussion that night but that members of the Dresden Board would be available to handle those questions if posed. Peter Christie suggested distinguishing between the Town's obligations and the School Board's stating that Warrant Articles One, Two and Three were actions the Town had to take. Mr. Baschnagel suggested holding other informational meetings prior to the Special Town Meeting for the public's benefit. Ms. Griffin said discussions were already underway with the League of Women Voters to help with that respect.

Bill Little asked why the Selectmen would encourage Dresden School Board members to attend the Special Town Meeting to answer questions that were not up for discussion. Ms. Griffin believed it would be better to have someone there to provide short, concise answers than to have voters taking to the booths not fully understanding the process. Mr. Little expressed concern that the Dresden Board's answers would not be short and/or concise which might lead to confusing the voters on what the purpose of their actions for that night were. Mr. Walsh admitted the Selectmen had not talked through the process of informing the public and the dynamics of how they were going to present this at the Special Town Meeting.

Ruth Lappin asked when the Town's \$2 million payment would begin if approved. Mr. Griffin said the first payment would be due when Dresden's first bond payment was due.

Ms. Griffin said another piece was Norwich's position in all of this. She said Town officials were working hard through the Dresden Communications Committee to help Norwich understand Hanover's Special Town Meeting's role in the tri-party agreement.

**Katherine Connolly MOVED to close the public hearing and approve Article Three. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVE ARTICLE THREE.**

**4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE APPROPRIATION OF A \$2,000,000 NOTE, PAYABLE OVER 20 YEARS TO THE DRESDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT AS OUTLINED IN THE DRESDEN/HANOVER/ DARTMOUTH AGREEMENT**

Brian Walsh read the notice of public hearing and opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

**Jay Pierson MOVED to approve Article II and close the public hearing. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE ARTICLE II AND CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Peter Christie commented that the changes, driven by DRA, were positive changes.

**5. DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUEST TO MODIFY METHOD OF VOTING ON TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES**

Mr. Walsh advised this request came from a letter he received from Peggy Connolly, of 9 Willow Spring Lane in Hanover. He was asked by Alex Hanson, of the Valley News, if the Town was trying to change the voting rules for the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Walsh advised that was not the case. He read Ms. Connolly's letter:

*Dear Brian,*

*I spoke with Town Manager, Julia Griffin, about investigating a change in the Hanover community's way of voting only at town meetings on certain warrant articles. She advised me that the State Statute provides for a community to revise this procedure. She suggested that I should write to you about this matter.*

*Apparently, you, when requested by a citizen of Hanover (myself), may appoint a Charter Commission which may recommend, after due diligence, that the current method of voting on warrant articles be changed.*

*My hope would be that an Australian ballot would be encouraged. Certainly, a Town Meeting for information and discussion only might be a valuable thing. However, voting should be much more accessible to the general public by having paper ballot voting all day on monetary issues and other issues affecting our town's inhabitants. It appears that very small percentage of the voting population participate in Town Meeting. Perhaps, as you know, having to care fore children, see to homework, and even*

*to be working during town meeting hours, prevent s many people in our town from participating in the vote which clearly has a large impact on them.*

*Please speak with Julia Griffin about organizing such a "charter commission", since I understand the implementation of any change would take about one year.*

Mr. Walsh opened the floor for discussion. Jay Pierson believed this was a logical thing to do. The Selectmen continued to hear many people's concerns about not being available to vote on significant issues. Bill Baschnagel said he treasured the Town Meeting process. He was concerned with alternatives that were instituted in many other towns that resulted in the public voting on issues with less knowledge than the current case, having not discussed the issues or heard them argued. Having done a little reading on what the statutes allowed, Mr. Baschnagel would prefer to keep things the way they were but felt there was merit to studying the issue and looking for innovative solutions. Katherine Connolly thought it was worth exploring. She said, in speaking with Peggy Connolly on the subject, it was clear that the intent of the request was not to convert to the Senate Bill 2 system but to be able to vote, on such things as large monetary articles, the following day. Peter Christie said he would be in favor of a commission but cautioned the Selectmen to limit or direct the scope of what that committee would be asked to look at.

Bernie Waugh urged the Selectmen to follow the route of House Bill 141 if at all. There was a balance of interest, which should be discussed. Mr. Walsh felt it was important to have the people come together annually, making up a legislative body. He understood that some people could not get to Town Meeting to vote. He expressed concern for the process of selecting committee members and how they would obtain public input in a way that was balanced and thoughtful. He believed they were tinkering with the very core of representative government. Ms. Connolly suggested there were other ways to change the Charter without establishing a charter commission.

Bill Baschnagel wondered if it would be worthwhile for the Selectmen to become more educated on options and flexibility prior to taking formal action. Mr. Christie spoke in support of that. Ms. Griffin offered to provide the Selectmen with some background reading on the issue. Mr. Walsh asked to discuss this issue again, at a noticed public hearing scheduled, after the Special Town Meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, but before the Town's budget discussions in late January.

**6. RECOMMENDATION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF VEHICLE LEASE**

Betsy McClain, Director of Administrative Services, appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Works asking that the Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to execute a lease, on behalf of the Town, for three vehicles for the Water Company. Ms. McClain spoke of a management agreement between the two entities that made the Town responsible for the Water Company's fleet maintenance and operation. She said the Water Company had budgeted for the lease payments in the current fiscal year. The Town would be fully reimbursed for this service.



Katherine Connolly asked if the vehicles would be leased to purchase. Ms. McClain affirmed. Mr. Walsh asked for a Water Company Board of Trustees' vote to fund the leases throughout their entirety. Ms. McClain said it was standard practice to insert the evergreen clause into a lease agreement, indicating that the honoring of the lease was subject to an annual appropriation by the Town. Mr. Walsh said if the Town would not be obligated to fund the lease, beyond the portion of funds received from the Water Company, he would be satisfied.

Bill Baschnagel asked why the Town was doing this instead of the Water Company. Ms. McClain reiterated, it was part of the management agreement. Ms. Griffin added that the Town received a municipal rate for vehicles. Given the relationship between the Water Company and the Town, it made sense for the Town to do this on the Water Company's behalf. Mr. Baschnagel asked how many vehicles the Water Company had. Ms. McClain said this would replace all three existing vehicles. Mr. Baschnagel asked if the Water Company had considered creating a reserved fund to raise money for these purposes. Jay Pierson said, due to the rate setting process, such a fund could not be created.

**Jay Pierson MOVED that the Town takes on the lease. Katherine Connolly SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE TOWN TAKES ON THE LEASE.**

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 9, 2002**

**Katherine Connolly MOVED to approve the minutes of September 9, 2002. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2002.**

**8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Julia Griffin reported of her efforts to put together communications for the Hanover residents relative to the Special Town Meeting. She was also working on the traditional Town Report mailing that would be mailed after a Court decision was reached.

Ms. Griffin said she would be attending the annual International City Manager's Association Conference in Philadelphia at the end of the week. Most of the planned workshops had to do with terrorism.

**9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

**Peter Christie**

Mr. Christie reported of a Recycling Committee presentation, driven by a life cycle impact study done by the Tuck School, relative to the Coop's decision to move to plastic bags versus paper.

Mr. Christie reported of a Dartmouth College Real Estate Office presentation, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, where they began to describe their preliminary thinking for the area of the South Block and the Sargent Block.

**Katherine Connolly**

Ms. Connolly reported of the Planning Board's action to approve Dartmouth's Dewey Field and Cooling Tower projects. The Planning Board had also approved the zoning amendments tied to the tri-party agreement.

Ms. Connolly reported of the NHMA Policy Conference she attended. Mr. Walsh thanked her for representing the Town at the Conference.

Ms. Connolly reminded the Selectmen of the planned activities for Mr. Kamahashi's upcoming visit along with his students from Kashiwa Community College in Japan.

**William Baschnagel**

Mr. Baschnagel did not have anything to report.

**Judson Pierson**

Mr. Pierson reported of a golf tournament he participated in sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

He reported of a Recreation Board meeting held two weeks prior that was geared toward getting acquainted and getting the season under way.

The Water Company reviewed water levels relative to the drought, which indicated that the Town's reservoirs were currently more full than they were one year ago. Security measures were implemented at the reservoirs involving daily surveillance by both the Hanover Police Department and Water Company staff. Statistics of the pilot program looking at filtration systems was presented to the Water Company Board. A group would be looking into creating a public relations informational packet for the entire community on what the Water Company was all about, its history and the filtration system.

**Brian Walsh**

Mr. Walsh reported of a Howe Library Board of Trustees meeting on their capital campaign. He encouraged the Trustees to meet with the Selectmen to discuss their views. An important issue for the Howe Library was the land on Sargent Street involved with the tri-party agreement relative to the Library's parking spaces. Julia Griffin advised of a meeting scheduled for Friday, September 27, 2002 to address the issue.

A group of parents of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, concerned about the potential of drug and alcohol abuse, have recruited a group of Vermont students, who have struggled with alcohol and drugs, to speak on October 9<sup>th</sup> of their experiences. Dena Romero asked the Community Substance Abuse Advisory Counsel to sponsor the forum. Mr. Walsh recommended that the Town of Hanover also sponsor the event. The Selectmen agreed.

John Hochreiter submitted a letter expressing interest in joining the Advisory Board of Assessors through to Town Meeting 2003. **Brian Walsh MOVED to nominate John Hockreiter to fill Richard Birnie's position on the Advisory Board of Assessors. Jay Pierson SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT JOHN HOCHREITER TO FILL RICHARD BIRNIE'S POSITION ON THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS.** Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Hochreiter for volunteering.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Peter Christie MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Katherine Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:50 PM.**

**SUMMARY**

- 1. Katherine Connolly MOVED to close the public hearing and approve Article Three. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVE ARTICLE THREE.**
- 2. Jay Pierson MOVED to approve Article II and close the public hearing. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE ARTICLE II AND CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**
- 3. Jay Pierson MOVED that the Town takes on the lease. Katherine Connolly SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE TOWN TAKES ON THE LEASE.**
- 4. Katherine Connolly MOVED to approve the minutes of September 9, 2002. Bill Baschnagel SECONDED. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2002.**
- 5. Brian Walsh MOVED to nominate John Hockreiter to fill Richard Birnie's position on the Advisory Board of Assessors. Jay Pierson SECONDED. THE BOARD**

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT JOHN HOCHREITER TO FILL RICHARD BIRNIE'S POSITION ON THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS.**

6. **Peter Christie MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Katherine Connolly SECONDED. THE SELECTMEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:50 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Christie", written in a cursive style.

Peter Christie, Secretary

These minutes were transcribed by Beth Rivard.