

FINAL

SELECT BOARD MEETING

February 8, 2016

7:30 P.M. - MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - HANOVER, NH

The meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Peter Christie. Present were: Peter Christie, Chair; Athos Rassias, Vice Chair; Nancy Carter, Select Board Member; Bill Geraghty, Select Board Member; Joanna Whitcomb, Select Board Member; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Christie asked for Public Comment. There were no comments from the public.

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS REVISIONS TO ORDINANCE #6, PARKING ORDINANCE.

Lieutenant Patrick O'Neill of the Parking division was present to discuss changes to the parking ordinance. The revisions are summarized as follows: updates related to references to other ordinances; payment methods for parking fines; types of coin accepted at parking meters; direction vehicles must park in parallel spaces (which reflects State law); method of notice of winter towing; and reference to the rates and fees schedule.

Select Board Member Geraghty MOVED to Accept Revisions to Ordinance #6, Parking Ordinance. Select Board Member Vice Chair Athos SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT REVISIONS TO ORDINANCE #6, PARKING ORDINANCE.

3. SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY PRESENTATIONS: FY 2016-17 FUNDING REQUESTS.

Chair Christie stated that social service agency funding requests used to be reviewed as part of budget hearings. We now hear presentations from social service agencies before budget hearings to allow these agencies more time to present. He added that the agencies requesting funding provide services that the Town would otherwise need to provide. The agencies were selected in random order for presentations.

Women's Information Service (WISE)

Peggy O'Neil, Executive Director of Women's Information Service (WISE), and WISE Board members Brian Edwards and Pat Glowa introduced themselves to the Board. Ms. O'Neil began by thanking the Board for their continued support and stated that WISE is requesting continued level funding of \$6,200. WISE is the Upper Valley's provider of domestic and sexual

violence victim advocacy support services and has been around for forty-five years. WISE supported fifty-three Hanover residents last year through its crisis and advocacy program. The range of services provided include accompaniment at DHMC, at Lebanon Family Court, and at the Hanover Police Department for victims. Ms. O'Neil highlighted that WISE purchased a three-bedroom home to be used as a safe house in a confidential location in the Upper Valley. Since the purchase in March, they have provided shelter to twelve women and numerous children. WISE has also entered into a relationship with Dartmouth College to provide for an on-campus advocate.

Mr. Edwards also thanked the Board for its continued generosity. He added that WISE places an emphasis on prevention and education about domestic and sexual violence. WISE staff go to nearly all schools in the Upper Valley, including Hanover, to speak to students about these issues.

Ms. Glowa emphasized education and outreach efforts related to domestic and sexual violence and added that WISE offers extensive and comprehensive training for volunteer advocates. WISE operates on a very efficient utilization of limited resources, and every bit of community and financial assistance is treasured and put to very good use.

West Central Behavioral Health (WCBH)

Suellen Griffin, President and CEO, and Heidi Postupack, Director of Marketing and Development of West Central Behavioral Health (WCBH), introduced themselves to the Board. Ms. Griffin thanked the Board for its continued support and said that it is important to engage with our communities and make sure people are aware that monetary support is put to good use. WCBH is the local community mental health center that provides services to lower Grafton and Sullivan counties. Services are provided for all ages. WCBH served ninety-three Hanover/Etna residents last year and almost \$14,000 in uncompensated care. Overall, they provide about \$500,000 in uncompensated care annually, as services are provided to individuals regardless of their ability to pay. WCBH provides psychiatric care, family therapy, individual therapy, and support of employment. They also work continuously on their mental health first aid program, which they have taught to over 200 people in the general public. WCBH provides this program free of charge through donations made specifically for this program. The program helps people understand mental illness and how to deal with people that may be exhibiting signs of mental illness. WCBH also continues to work with students in the Lebanon and Hanover school districts.

Ms. Postupack stated that WCBH has recently launched "Common Ground," which is a software-based program to help clients prepare for meeting with their doctor. Clients meet with a peer-support person for a half hour to gather their thoughts, fill out a questionnaire, and come up with a report to present to their doctor. This allows for a client to get the best use of time with their doctor. This also helps doctors or practitioners gather consistent information from clients. This program is funded by the NH Charitable Foundation, Sullivan County Commissioners, the Lane and Elizabeth Dwinell Foundation, and the Hypertherm HOPE Foundation.

Ms. Suellen Griffin added that WCBH is also starting a program to improve access to care. Starting in March or April, this program will allow anyone seeking help to be seen within

twenty-four to forty-eight hours. This will allow people to get access to help much quicker than what can often be provided currently. Ms. Postupack stated that NH Charitable Foundation and the Cogswell Foundation are funding this program.

Select Board Member Geraghty asked Ms. Suellen Griffin and Ms. Postupack whether they expect to be affected by State funding. Ms. Griffin stated that the focus on the opioid epidemic could be helpful, as awareness of substance abuse and mental illness is generally helpful. The potential expansion of Medicaid may help financially, as they will likely be seeing fewer clients without insurance. They are also hoping to be receiving a capitated rate for clients served by the State, which will also be helpful. The capitated rate was an amount paid per client regardless of the number of services provided, but was recently eliminated for a per-service fee. WCBH is currently negotiating capitated rates with the State, which would be positive for WCBH.

Headrest

Suzanne Thissel introduced herself as the Executive Director of Headrest as of last November. She stated that Headrest started as a crisis hotline forty-four years ago, created by Dartmouth students. The hotline is available 24/7, and most incoming calls are related to substance abuse disorders and mental health crises. Currently, there are three departments at Headrest, including the crisis hotline, a low-intensity residential program, and an inpatient program. Funding is received only through sources such as the Town of Hanover and other donors and grants. There are five staff members for the crisis hotline, and it is nationally accredited. The residential treatment program is a ninety-day program, and participants are accepted regardless of ability to pay. The number of participants has increased and Headrest has increased beds from eight to ten. All participants are assigned a case manager upon entering the program that advocates for the patient, helps with resumes, jobs, housing, etc. Headrest also offers outpatient counseling in groups and individually, and many clients have both a mental health and substance abuse disorder. Headrest's hotline served fifty-seven Hanover residents last year and received over 8,000 calls total, mostly related to opioid problems.

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council

Roberta Berner introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council and thanked the Board for its support. They served over 100 Hanover residents last year, delivering meals to homes and at the Senior Center, providing transportation and outreach services. They also operate Service Link, which provides Medicare counseling as well as retirement counseling. The Council has new veteran service programs, including counseling, and provides assistance in helping veterans age in their own homes.

Tri-County Community Action

Lisa Hinckley of Tri-County Cap introduced herself to the Board. Tri-County Cap provides fuel assistance, electrical assistance, and weatherization programs and is asking for level assistance in the amount of \$760. Last year, they assisted thirty-nine individuals in seventeen households with fuel assistance, including eight households with elderly, five with handicapped, and four with children under six years old. They helped twenty-three households with electrical assistance, totaling over \$19,000. They have gone from four offices to one central in Grafton County due to restrictions on use of federal funds; however, they have added outreach sites. They have made changes to the intake process for fuel assistance this year, allowing for clients to mail, fax, or e-

mail their applications. They still have the option of coming in to talk to someone if they wish. They hope the increased options for submitting applications will continue to work out so they can continue with this option.

Vice Chair Rassias noted that there was a large difference in the amount of funding provided between Lebanon and Hanover and asked Ms. Hinckley if she felt Hanover clients are underserved. Ms. Hinckley does believe that is possible and that many people are probably unaware of the program.

American Red Cross

George Sykes introduced himself to the Board. He is the Regional Preparedness Manager for the American Red Cross. Fortunately, there were no disasters in Hanover last year, but the American Red Cross does work with Hanover officials on emergency preparedness. They trained forty-three Hanover residents in first-aid, CPR, AED training last year as well as 140 residents in aquatics. Though there were no disasters in Hanover last year, he has, in the past, responded to such disasters and provided Hanover residents with assistance. Generally, initial assistance provided ranges from \$400 to \$800 in the form of a cash card for people to get items needed immediately. They then work with families to obtain other needed services or assistance they may need. Last year, the American Red Cross helped thirty-nine individuals that were victims of fires.

Select Board Member Geraghty noted that the American Red Cross' calculation of amount requested per resident in Hanover included Dartmouth students. Mr. Sykes acknowledged this and used an example of a response to a fire at one of the dorms in which eighteen students were victims. The American Red Cross was able to help all of those students to get items such as clean socks, underwear, and toiletries.

Mr. Sykes thanked the Board for their time and services.

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH)

Danielle DeVost, Community Relations & Development Coordinator of VNH, introduced herself to the Board. VNH is a compassionate, non-profit health care organization and serves over 5,000 patients annually in over 140 towns in VT and NH. VNH made 2,637 home care visits to 137 Hanover residents last year. They also provided \$114,395 in unreimbursed or charity care to Hanover residents last year. VNH serves all ages and backgrounds regardless of ability to pay. They are asking for level funding from Hanover of \$25,930. Need for services in Hanover are increasing as the population ages. Ms. DeVost thanked the Board for its continued support.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire

Mary Camp introduced herself to the Board as a volunteer for CASA. CASA is a non-profit, volunteer organization. It is the only non-profit that trains and recruits advocates for children in the system that are victims of abuse or neglect by parents. The advocates from CASA work on behalf of the child and focus on the needs of that child. Studies have shown that children with CASAs fare better with themselves, in school, and with adjusting to life changes. They also stay in foster homes for shorter periods of time. Without CASAs, courts must pay a guardian ad litem at a rate of \$100 per hour to advocate for a child.

Chair Christie thanked all representatives from the various organizations for their presentations and for their services.

4. REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN APPLICATION FOR CAMPION ARENA EXPANSION FOR LEBANON ZBA CONSIDERATION.

Ms. Griffin distributed site maps of the Campion Arena area to the Board. One of the maps is of the site as it is today, and the other is of the conceptual design for the expansion.

Dan French, President of the Campion Sports & Recreation Project, introduced himself to the Board. The proposed expansion of Campion Arena will require two variances from the Lebanon Zoning Board of Adjustment. Expansion of the arena is also contingent upon transfer of property from the College to the Town, discussion of which is ongoing. The design of the expanded rink takes into consideration not adversely affecting field use, improved parking and pedestrian safety, and storm water/drainage needs for development.

Select Board Member Carter asked what two variances need to be provided by Lebanon. Mr. French stated that there are two zones currently bisecting the rink. The northern zone has a one percent lot coverage restriction, and the rink exceeds that. The southern zone would require a usage variance. Public recreational facilities are permitted, but private facilities are not. The Town qualifies as landowner, but the rink does not as it is private.

Ms. Griffin noted that there has been some confusion between all parties involved as to how the rink was originally approved based on the usage requirement. This issue is related to the current facility, not the proposed expansion. Ms. Griffin stated that her role in this project is to sign the application for the expansion, as the Town is the landowner.

Select Board Member Whitcomb recused herself from the discussion and voting as she works for Dartmouth College, which would be transferring property to the Town, and as a representative of the Hanover Improvement Society.

Ms. Griffin stated that there are further steps required in the expansion of the arena, but the first step is to obtain the variances. If they are not approved, the project cannot proceed.

Select Board Member Carter asked if the proposed expansion of Campion Arena is a result of higher demand for arena space than is currently available. Mr. French confirmed this.

Select Board Member Carter MOVED to Authorize Town Manager to Sign Application for Campion Arena Expansion for Lebanon ZBA Consideration. Select Board Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTAINED TO AUTHORIZE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN APPLICATION FOR CAMPION ARENA EXPANSION FOR LEBANON ZBA CONSIDERATION. (Select Board Member Whitcomb Recused Herself

from the Discussion and Voting as an Employee of Dartmouth College and as a Representative of the Hanover Improvement Society).

5. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ETHICS POLICY FOR TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND STAFF.

Ms. Griffin has made edits to the draft Ethics Policy based on discussion at the last Board meeting.

Select Board Member Whitcomb noted a use of the term “Selectmen” in the policy to be edited.

Select Board Member Whitcomb MOVED to Approve the Draft Ethics Policy with Revisions as Discussed. Select Board Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DRAFT ETHICS POLICY WITH REVISIONS AS DISCUSSED.

6. PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW SCHEDULE.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Budget Review Schedule is similar to last year’s, with Tuesday, March 1st placed on the schedule in case additional time is needed.

Select Board Member Carter noted that Social Services is listed within the schedule. Ms. Griffin stated that there will be no presentations during budget review but the Board will have the opportunity to discuss Social Services requests during that time.

The Board assigned members to moderate each of the departments/sections during budget review.

7. REVIEW OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUESTS.

Town staff have received tax abatement requests from Jing Gao at 10 Carriage Lane and Neely McNulty at 35 Rip Road. Both are for accrued interest for late payment of taxes. Town staff recommend the Board deny the requests.

Select Board Member Geraghty MOVED to Deny the Tax Abatement Requests. Select Board Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO DENY THE TAX ABATEMENT REQUESTS.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
a. January 25, 2016**

Selectman Carter noted that the VOTE Banner should be changed from SAU 70 to Town of Hanover.

Select Board Member Whitcomb MOVED to Approve the Minutes of January 25, 2016 with Revisions as Discussed. Select Board Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTAINED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2016 WITH REVISIONS AS DISCUSSED. (Vice Chair Rassias Abstained from the Vote.)

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Select Board Member Whitcomb asked Ms. Griffin to explain the requirement for presenting a voter ID in the elections. Ms. Griffin stated that individuals that do not have, or do not wish to present, a valid photo ID for voting, must fill out a challenged voter affidavit and have their picture taken at the polls. They must attach the photo to the affidavit and present to the ballot clerk to obtain a ballot. The Town will collect all affidavits to send to the Secretary of State's office. The Secretary of State's office will send a letter to the individual to request more information if needed. The requirement of presenting a valid photo ID is a State law.

Ms. Griffin reminded Board of assigned shifts for tomorrow's polls.

Absentee ballots will be processed tomorrow.

Polling hours are 7 AM to 7 PM. Individuals must be in the building by 7 PM to vote.

9. SELECT BOARD MEMBER REPORTS.

Select Board Member Joanna Whitcomb

Select Board Member Whitcomb reported that the Bike & Pedestrian Committee met last week. The meeting was led by Bill Young, and he outlined the priorities for safe bicycling routes between the Coop and DHMC. They also discussed the fence blocking the Dresden Road neighborhood from safe access to the Richmond School and making it more inviting.

Select Board Member Nancy Carter

Select Board Member Carter reported that the Planning Board is meeting February 16th. The Board has decided to create an outreach committee to create more information and education efforts for zoning amendments. The committee will be trying to go beyond efforts of previous

years to make information about amendments more readily available. The Howe Classic is on March 19th, with Sunday Family Golf on the 20th.

Select Board Member Bill Geraghty

Select Board Member Geraghty reported that the budget committee has been busy reviewing the school budget. They will be focusing on the Town budget next and will hopefully be joining the Board during budget review. They will be meeting with Betsy McClain and Ms. Griffin on February 23rd to review the binder and participate in budget discussions and make suggestions.

The Pond Party has been canceled due to lack of winter.

Vice Chair Athos Rassias

Vice Chair Rassias had nothing to report.

Chair Peter Christie

Select Board Chair Christie stated that the Conservation Commission meets tomorrow evening. The Trescott lands were opened to the public recently, thanks to the Conservation Commission, Hanover Conservancy, and Upper Valley Trails Alliance.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

Chair Christie MOVED to Follow the Request for a Non-Public Session to Discuss Items Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (e).

SELECT BOARD MEMBER GERAGHTY VOTED YES; SELECT BOARD VICE CHAIR RASSIAS VOTED YES; CHAIR CHRISTIE VOTED YES; SELECT BOARD MEMBER CARTER VOTED YES; SELECT BOARD MEMBER WHITCOMB VOTED YES. THE BOARD WENT INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 9:15 P.M.

Select Board Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session at 9:50 p.m. Select Board Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Select Board Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:50 p.m. Select Board Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Whitcomb, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Adriane Coutermarsh.

SUMMARY

1. **Select Board Member Geraghty MOVED to Accept Revisions to Ordinance #6, Parking Ordinance. Select Board Member Vice Chair Athos SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT REVISIONS TO ORDINANCE #6, PARKING ORDINANCE.

2. **Select Board Member Carter MOVED to Authorize Town Manager to Sign Application for Campion Arena Expansion for Lebanon ZBA Consideration. Select Board Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTAINED TO AUTHORIZE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN APPLICATION FOR CAMPION ARENA EXPANSION FOR LEBANON ZBA CONSIDERATION. (Select Board Member Whitcomb Recused Herself from the Discussion and Voting as an Employee of Dartmouth College and as a Representative of the Hanover Improvement Society).

3. **Select Board Member Whitcomb MOVED to Approve the Draft Ethics Policy with Revisions as Discussed. Select Board Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DRAFT ETHICS POLICY WITH REVISIONS AS DISCUSSED.

4. **Select Board Member Geraghty MOVED to Deny the Tax Abatement Requests. Select Board Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO DENY THE TAX ABATEMENT REQUESTS.

5. **Select Board Member Whitcomb MOVED to Approve the Minutes of January 25, 2016 with Revisions as Discussed. Select Board Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTAINED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2016 WITH REVISIONS AS DISCUSSED. (Vice Chair Rassias Abstained from the Vote.)

6. **Chair Christie MOVED to Follow the Request for a Non-Public Session to Discuss Items Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (e).**

SELECT BOARD MEMBER GERAGHTY VOTED YES; SELECT BOARD VICE CHAIR RASSIAS VOTED YES; CHAIR CHRISTIE VOTED YES; SELECT BOARD MEMBER CARTER VOTED YES; SELECT BOARD MEMBER WHITCOMB VOTED YES. THE BOARD WENT INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 9:15 P.M.

7. **Select Board Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to Exit the Non-Public Session at 9:50 p.m. Select Board Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION.

8. **Select Board Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:50 p.m. Select Board Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.