

FINAL

2005 TOWN MEETING TOWN OF HANOVER

Tuesday, May 10, 2005
Hanover High School Gymnasium

The annual Town Meeting of the Town of Hanover, New Hampshire convened on May 10, 2005 at 7:00 am by the Town Moderator, Marilyn “Willy” Black, at the Hanover High School Gymnasium. Moderator Black explained that the polls would be open from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm for the purpose of voting for candidates for Town Offices and for all other articles requiring vote by official ballot as set forth in Articles One through Ten of the Town Meeting Warrant.

ARTICLE ONE: To vote (by nonpartisan ballot) for the following Town Officers:

Two Selectmen, each to serve for a term of three (3) years;

Peter Christie 339 (elected)

Brian Walsh 352 (elected)

One Treasurer to serve for a term of one (1) year;

Michael J. Ahern 358 (elected)

One Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years;

Jean M. Keene 372 (elected)

One Trustee of Trust Funds to serve for a term of three (3) years.

Paul B. Gardent 354 (elected)

ARTICLE TWO: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 1:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 1 would amend Sections 204.6 and 204.7 to allow “Adaptive Re-use” in the SR-2 and RR zoning districts; amend Section 303 to allow more than one principal structure and dwelling unit on a lot when adaptive re-use is approved. It would also add a new Section 328 Adaptive Re-use of a Historic Barn or Other Agricultural Outbuildings which sets forth eligibility standards for these structures, uses in addition to permitted uses already allowed in the district, and criteria for the ZBA to evaluate adaptive re-use proposals. Finally, it would amend Section 902 by adding a definition for adaptive re-use.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 321 NO 69 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE THREE: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 2:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 2 would add a new Section 502.6 which offers a density bonus to encourage the private development of affordable housing to developers who include affordable units in their developments. New subsections would address the incentive density bonus, perpetual affordability, affordability determination and duration of the density bonus. It would also amend Section 902 Term Definitions to add definitions for “affordable”, “density bonus” and “median family income”.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 293 NO 100 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FOUR: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 3:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 3 would amend Section 902 Term Definition for “Downtown Commercial” so that the uses allowable in the Downtown may be more broadly interpreted than they have been in the past and than would be permissible for other zoning districts. It would amend the statement of objective and purpose of the Downtown zoning district in Table 204.2A by clarifying the nature of appropriate buildings and uses consistent with the Downtown Vision. Also, it would delete “Residential Institution” from the list of uses allowed by special exception in the “D-1” and “D-2” zoning districts.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 315 NO 78 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FIVE: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 4:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 4 would amend Section 902 by deleting the current definition of “open space” and adding a new definition that is descriptive of both the open space and its functions. It would also amend Sections 501.5, 502.5, 503.5 and 605.5 by adding a paragraph addressing protection of the open space in certain types of development.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 302 NO 91 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE SIX: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 5:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 5 would amend Section 702.3 Definition, Classification and Delineation of Wetlands by deleting the word “predominance” and replacing it with the word “prevalence” relative to vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, in order to conform to the new State definition of wetlands.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 354 NO 39 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE SEVEN: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 6:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 6 would amend Section 210.1 Accessory Uses by deleting existing subsections D and E and replacing them with new standards and criteria for home occupations which would be allowed as permitted accessory uses.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 314 NO 75 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE EIGHT: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 7:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 7 would amend Section 317.2 so that small identification signs, directional signs, and informational signs such as scoreboards associated with recreational uses would be allowed in the “F” Forestry and Recreation zoning district, and so that directional signs used in conjunction with recreational uses would also be allowed in the NP, RR, RO, SR, GR and I districts.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 327 NO 61 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE NINE: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 8:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 8 would amend Section 902 by deleting the current definition of “Student Residence” and by replacing it with two new definitions which are more concise and distinguish the type of student residence allowed to be located in the “I” Institution district from those allowed to be located in residential districts.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 350 NO 41 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE TEN: (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 9:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 9 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 9 would amend Section 1001.6 to enable a building permit to be issued during the 15-day posting period required relative to an issued zoning permit for any project, enabling work to proceed at the owner’s risk during this posting period.

At a Public Hearing held March 29, 2005, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 315 NO 77 ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator Marilyn "Willy" Black called to order the Business Session of the 2005 Town Meeting of the Town of Hanover, New Hampshire at 7:00 pm. Present were Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice-Chairman; William Baschnagel, Selectman; Peter Christie, Selectman; Allegra Lubrano, Selectman; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; and members of the Public. Community Access Television (Channel 8) broadcast the Town Meeting live and recorded it to rebroadcast.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To choose the following Town Officers to be elected by a majority vote:

One member of the Advisory Board of Assessors for a term of three (3) years;
Three Fence Viewers and one alternate, each for a term of one (1) year;
Two Surveyors of Wood and Timber, each for a term of one (1) year;
Such other officers as the Town may judge necessary for managing its affairs.

It was MOVED by Selectman Baschnagel to nominate the following persons for the following positions:

One member of the Advisory Board of Assessors for a term of three (3) years; Xenia Heaton; Three Fence Viewers and one alternate, each for a term of one (1) year; Edward Latham, William Garrity, Lucie Minsk as Fence Viewers and Robert Morris as an alternate Fence Viewer; Two Surveyors of Wood and Timber, each for a term of one (1) year; Willem Lange and John Richardson and such other officers as the Town may judge necessary for managing its affairs. Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion.

Moderator Black said as part of the procedure in past years the motions have been read three times. This year we are only going to read the motions once if that is agreeable with the house. Moderator Black asked everyone to raise their hands if they were agreeable that the motions be read only once. Everyone raised their hand that it is agreeable to them that the motions were read only once.

There was no discussion on Article Eleven.

There being no further nominations, a hand vote was taken on Selectman Baschnagel's motion. The motion PASSED unanimously and the nominees were ELECTED.

ARTICLE TWELVE: To receive reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers and to vote on any motion relating to these reports and to receive any special resolutions that may be appropriate and to vote thereon.

It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Connolly that the reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers as printed in the 2004 Town Report be accepted, as well as any Special Resolutions.

Aileen Chaltain, Chair of the Hanover Parks and Recreation Board, took the floor to present the Hanover Parks and Recreation Volunteer of the Year Award to Mary Danko.

“Good evening. I am Aileen Chaltain, Chair of the Hanover Parks & Recreation Board. I am here to present the 2005 Hanover Parks & Recreation Board's Volunteer of the Year Award but I do so with very mixed emotions because our recipient is leaving us..., for Philadelphia, no less!

Mary, I know your husband Jim has been named Dean of Villanova's Business School but can't you stay here and just have one of those commuter marriages we hear so much about? Seems to work for others... What do you say...? I'm sure Jim wouldn't mind.

Seriously, since moving to Hanover in 2000, Mary has become a vital part of our community serving as a Girl Scout leader, softball coach, Rec. Board member, and sometimes gently outspoken member of the Dresden fields committee. According to her husband Jim, who, could not be with us because he is at his first official Dean's Advisory dinner at Villanova, “Although Mary never publicly demonstrates it, she does share with me her occasional exasperation with certain town meeting attendees who seem to argue illogical, self-serving, or untrue convictions ad nauseam. Knowing Mary would never do it, I try to encourage her to stand up to these people and start screaming obscenities at them. I've always felt a public rant would make for amusing, cable-access television (an opportunity where we occasionally sneak peaks of Mary in action, while tormenting her about her public appearance).

Given that Jim is in Philly today he probably feels quite comfortable saying those things from afar and letting Mary take the heat for them... and mind you, this comes from a man who also said, “When we were first married it was like Don Rickles married to Snow White; now it is more like Don Rickles and Phyllis Diller (but much better looking!)” I'm not completely sure whom he is referring to there but at any rate, my guess is that dinnertime at the Danko household is not dull!!

Now, I don't want to suggest that Mary is a shrinking violet. She's a take-charge kind of person and fully invests herself in whatever she finds “on her plate.” As her comedian husband likes to say, it always seems Mary would be back home “in about an hour” but it usually ran much longer, as dad and the girls gained additional TV and computer time during her lengthy absence.”

It's been said that Mary "oozes" enthusiasm no matter what she is doing. In fact, Lucinda Walker, the librarian at the Norwich Public Library where Mary worked for a while, remarked,

"Mary is the kind of person who just emanates positive energy. She makes people feel comfortable and valued right at the get go. The library had never had a youth services assistant before and Mary just defined the position. Kids of all ages adore her, from the 3 years olds to the 13 year olds. Her story times were always entertaining and often she'd get even the shyest kid participating. Her craft ideas were fantastic and I was amazed at how much prep work Mary did at home -- everything from sculpting a sample gargoyle to making a bark fairy house. It was apparent that her connection with the kids was working when the library suddenly had an active Young Adult group who met regularly and looked forward to being with Mary. Suddenly the library was cool.

Mary is always up for a new experience, be it dressing up in a poodle skirt for story time to spinning a book truck down the street in the Norwich Old Home Parade. Her energy is boundless and her enthusiasm contagious! Kids still ask when Mary is coming back. She is generous with her time and spirit. NPL's loss was the Howe's gain and I know that whatever Mary does next, she'll do it with full attention. She's a peach!!

I'm so happy she's getting this award!

And Marlene McGonigle, the librarian at the Howe Library where Mary currently works says, "Her cheerful self has been a ray of sunshine at Howe, especially during this time of construction. We and all the parents and children who have come to look forward to her positive, happy approach will miss her greatly."

Not to miss a chance to do some verbal stand-up, husband Jim, the almost former Associate Dean of Dartmouth Tuck School, noted, "Mary's story-hour at the Hanover library, made her quite recognizable to a variety of Hanover residents, most of who were under four feet tall. At the last middle school concert I attended with Mary, a couple children were pleasantly surprised to see the story-hour lady amongst them. One 3-year old dragged her dad up to meet her. (By the way, most stepped over the Tuck Associate Dean, who had little recognition among the masses.)

Happily for girls in Hanover, Mary's enthusiasm and passion found her doing things she had never done before, from standing up in front of hundreds of people to voice her support for girls being actively engaged in athletic endeavors to coaching softball for a couple years, despite the fact she knew very little about the game. She felt it was an important activity for girls, so she did a lot of self-teaching by reading softball books. Of course, she took what many die-hard athletes would consider a rather "soft" approach, but I think it was the right approach for that age group, and it got them to enjoy the game. As a Mom whose daughter played for Mary, it was Mary's deep concern for each and every girl as well as how they developed as a player that landed her on the Rec. Board. As I told Hank Tenney, "This is the kind of person we want to help shape programs for the children in our community."

Hank agrees and notes himself, "With Mary Danko leaving the Upper Valley we lose more than just a resident. We lose a friend. One that has given so much to the Community and the citizens of Hanover. Mary will be missed, but by none more than the Parks and Recreation Department. Her efforts and enthusiasm will very difficult to replace. From the first day on the Board, she has brought an unselfish commitment. Never saying no, never not having time to commit and never too busy to jump into a project or program when the need arose.

The Parks and Recreation Department, Howe Library and many other organizations that she has contributed to will miss her. We wish her the best and envy the city in which her family will reside because we know that they will be blessed with such a caring person.

Mary, I hope you understand why we are not giving you up easily. Selfishly we want you to stay right here! We do understand however, what an exciting and terrific move this will be for your family and we will try to be graceful about it...

Therefore, with your daughters Melanie and Meredith at your side, it is my complete pleasure to present you with the 2005 Hanover Parks & Recreation Board's Volunteer of the Year Award. Come back soon and often to see us!

Vice Chairman Connolly presented a resolution commending Jesse D. Turner Jr.

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner, Jr. leaves a 28-year legacy as the founding President and Chief Executive Officer of West Central Behavioral Health Center; and

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner provided the vision for West Central Behavioral Health to evolve from a small, grant-funded human service agency into a regional, nonprofit, community mental health system; and

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner established West Central as a setting for training and research at Dartmouth Medical School, through one of the most successful public/academic liaisons in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner fostered an environment of learning from research data that led to service improvements which have been disseminated throughout the United States as best practices; and

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner has provided supportive leadership for many clinicians and administrators who later became state commissioners, hospital administrators, unit chiefs, renowned researchers and academic scholars; and

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner helped pioneer community-based services that are focused on consumer empowerment and recovery; and

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner encouraged development of innovative programs such as an independent consumer run drop-in center and the use of peer support specialists working alongside case managers; and

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner was a recognized leader in New Hampshire's early community mental health movement, which designed and delivered services to individuals with chronic and severe mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner has championed better access to care and inspired West Central Behavioral Health to develop a community outreach program with a range of prevention, education, intervention and treatment services; and.

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Turner provided the leadership essential for West Central Behavioral Health to contribute knowledge to the field and develop treatment protocols that have been accepted as model programs in New Hampshire;

NOW THEREFORE, the Hanover Board of Selectmen does officially salute Jesse D. Turner upon his retirement from West Central Behavioral Health and thanks him for the leadership, vision and commitment he has provided the Upper Valley for 28 years, thereby opening doors for thousands of people with mental illness to become independent, contribute to the community and discover personal balance and fulfillment.

Selectman Lubrano presented a resolution commending Lucien "John" Defoe for the service to the Town upon his retirement from the Hanover Water Works Company after 35 years.

Lucian "John" Defoe was hired as a Water System Worker by the Hanover Water Works Company on April 14, 1969. John began working during a simpler time. When John began his career people would leave their doors open so the crew could enter and read meters in the basement. If you wanted to pay a bill you could leave money on the kitchen table and John would pick it up and bring you the change. Of course, this era did not come without some risk...occasionally, John would arrive at a house to read the meter only to encounter a customer in a bathrobe. During such instances John's policy was to make a hasty retreat and return when the customer wasn't there.

John saw many changes in the world of water treatment during his 35-year career, from a simple treatment process with the addition of chlorine and fluoride to a complex disinfection process using chlorine dioxide and finally to the planning of the soon-to-be constructed Membrane Ultrafiltration Facility.

During much of his tenure John lived in the "Company House" adjacent to the lower reservoir on Grasse Road. John was responsible for chasing out fishermen, swimmers and the occasional bear. It was a quite isolated house on the edge of a pristine reservoir, quite an oasis less than a mile from Downtown Hanover.

For a brief time John was the crew leader, just after the construction of the current treatment process. John knew where every fitting, valve and service connection was and had a story to go with every repair or break.

John is an avid duck hunter. Up until his retirement, the fall flushing program had to be planned around John's fall hunting trip. Fortunately, he is a good shot otherwise the fall flushing might not have been done.

In 2000 the employees of the Hanover Water Works Company were incorporated into the Town's Public Works Department. Not long after, John began planning for his retirement. With changes in the State environmental laws requiring operators to perform more and more training and documentation. John longed for the good old days when the biggest problem he had to worry about was what was under that bathrobe...

We will miss you John and want to thank you for the many years of great service you have given to the citizens of Hanover.

Selectman Baschnagel presented a resolution commending Jeryl Frankenfield upon his retirement after 30 years with the Town of Hanover.

On September 2, 1974, Jeryl Frankenfield began his career with the Hanover Fire Department. Hailing from a large Mennonite family in Pennsylvania, Jerry came to the Department from Mary Hitchcock Hospital, where he spent two years fulfilling his Vietnam War military obligation working as an orderly. In the 70's the engineers and orderlies of Mary Hitchcock would staff the community ambulance by day, and Jerry took one of the state's first EMT courses in order to be better qualified to do just that. Once his military service was complete, Jerry was a natural for the Hanover Fire Department. Pennsylvania's loss was Hanover's gain.

In June 1979, Jerry was married to Pat Louzier. They lived in West Lebanon for a short time while their home on Greensboro Road was being constructed. In December 1979, they moved into their new Hanover home where they still live today.

Over the years, Jerry has acquired many nicknames, a few of which are: Mr. Frank Enfield, Jerble, Mennonite, Oatmeal, Frank and Yard Buster.

Jerry knows every road and highway in the Upper Valley and can tell you where hundreds of people live. He is an important Town historian and knows more things about more people than most of us ever hope to know. To this day we still go to Jerry for the history of a certain area, resident or issue. Jerry has been a member of the illustrious Hanover men's "Coffee Klatch Club" for years, and you are not invited to join unless you are "in the know". Between Jerry and his club colleagues, they truly know all there is to know about what is going on in Hanover....if not the Upper Valley.

Jerry served the Town well for 30 years, first as a Firefighter/EMT until 1996 and then as a Captain. After three decades of interrupted sleep, he finally retired from "shift work" on September 25, 2004. Jerry's retirement didn't last long, however. Having developed critical expertise in plan review and inspection for life safety and fire code compliance, on September 27, 2004, Jerry was hired back by the Fire Department to fill a part-time position as Fire Inspector. May he continue to serve in this valuable part-time position for many years to come.

Jerry, thank you for 30 years of dedicated service to the Town. Please enjoy your “retirement” and make time to follow NASCAR and restore lots of John Deere tractors.

Selectman Christie presented a resolution commending Jerry Macy upon his retirement after 25 years with the Town of Hanover.

Jerry Macy, a life-long resident of the Upper Valley, got his first taste of police work when he began working for the Hanover Police Department as a summer cadet at the ripe old age of 18 in 1977. He returned the following summer and did such an outstanding job as a summer cadet that he was hired as Hanover’s first Traffic Control Technician in September of 1978.

At the recommendation of then Chief Roland Lee, Jerry’s position was soon reclassified to a higher labor grade due to his “outstanding job on traffic control and enforcement of parking regulations” and in July of 1981, Jerry became a full-fledged Police Officer.

Jerry’s career was marked with a number of special assignments, one of which took him to the Detective Division and to a stint in the New Hampshire Drug Task Force in 1989. “Going undercover” was one of Jerry’s most enthusiastic endeavors, and with his earnestly acquired long hair and beard he traveled all over the State making drug buys in one of the riskiest assignments an officer can ever undertake.

As with any person who stays with the Hanover Police Department and makes it his or her career, special niches are carved out and eventually each individual takes on special duties that help to make the department run more efficiently. Jerry has a unique mechanical ability that the Department has drawn upon time and time again. He was the one who outfitted the cruisers with all of their lights, sirens, and radios. He was the graphic person who applied the decals that made the cars look sharp. He was and still is the one who takes care of the Town’s traffic lights. And with the advent of the computer age, Jerry naturally gravitated toward it. When it came to wiring, installing hubs, troubleshooting the hardware and eventually the software, he was a person that saved the town literally thousands of dollars by diagnosing problems in-house. Last but not least, Jerry was the only officer who could literally do both the job of a Police Officer and a Dispatcher.... no small feat considering how technologically complicated the job of dispatching has become.

In fact, Jerry became so effective and essential in his “other” IT and communications roles that when it came time for his retirement in 2004, the Town recognized an asset that needed to be preserved. After “retiring” from the Police Department as a Police Officer, Jerry rejoined the Town on a part-time basis to help take care of all the technology he had helped to nurture during his Police Department career.

Jerry, congratulations on making the Hanover Police Department and the Town of Hanover your one and only career, at least so far, since you are still only at the ripe old age of 46.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To receive an update on the work of the Town Meeting Taskforce.

Moderator Black said Chairman Walsh is going to update us on the Town Meeting Task Force.

Chairman Walsh said he doesn't believe that he needs to move to have this accepted, but he will make an update rather than a motion and entertain questions if there are any.

The Town Meeting Task Force was established by the Selectmen in the fall of 2003. Its members included Chairman Walsh and Moderator Black as Co-Chairs as well as Kari Asmus, John Chamberlain, Cary Clark, Ann Downey, Margaret Fanning, Julia Griffin, Tom Hall, Sallie McAndrew, Sharon Nordgren and Bernie Waugh. Immediately, the Task Force recognized that they were caught between two goals. One goal was to maximize participation. The other goal was to have the citizens of the Town be able to discuss, debate, and modify motions. Their work was guided by trying to find the best option between those two goals. They made many changes, which were embodied in last year's Town Meeting and this year's Town Meeting. Some of the changes made to meet those goals included the colored pages to try to make the Warrant and Town Report easier to follow; babysitting, dessert and coffee were offered; voting cards were distributed in the event of a controversial issue; there were multiple microphones for questions; there were multiple cameras for CATV. One goal that the Task Force may have failed in was to shorten resolutions and awards, but when someone has worked for the Town for thirty years, it is important to recognize them. Another piece that was important was a questionnaire distributed to the citizens of Hanover. Bob Sokol presented the results of that. The results of the questionnaire and the report of the Town Meeting Task Force are available on the Town website.

Chairman Walsh said the work of the Task Force after last year's Town Meeting was to try to figure out what the alternatives were that the Selectmen and ultimately Town Meeting should consider. They came up with four alternatives.

Alternative One was to continue Town Meeting as it is now with the improvements that have been embodied in last year's Town Meeting.

Alternative Two was to amend the Town's Charter so that bond issues can be voted on by paper ballot.

Alternative Three was to design a new format for Town Meeting where there would be voting during the day on those issues that would be mandated by the State. There would then be discussion during the evening where motions could be changed or modified. It would then be possible to vote these final motions that evening or again the following day.

The Forth Alternative is Senate Bill 2, which is a Town Meeting to set the Warrant and then roughly 30 days later there would be voting on it.

The Task Force felt that the changes that have been made already were improvements. Roughly half of the Task Force favored alternative two, which would modify the Town Charter. The other half that didn't favor that felt it didn't go far enough and were

somewhat concerned that if that passed there wouldn't be the energy necessary to go forward. The Third Alternative, which would essentially be a Town Meeting to meld paper ballot voting so people could vote during the day, during the evening, or again the second day on issues by paper ballot and wouldn't have to be at the Town Meeting, but would still maintain the vibrancy of the Town Meeting and the ability to debate, amend, and discuss articles. Roughly half of the Task Force favored that if it could be pulled off. Relative to SB2, there were two people who felt that if the other improvements weren't possible, then perhaps we ought to consider it, but it wasn't recommended.

Where the Selectmen stand right now, with regards to Alternative Three, is that in its current form, it is not allowable under NH State law, as best we can tell. The Selectmen have been looking to put together a meeting between Bernie Waugh and Cary Clark, both of whom are attorneys, along with Julia Griffin, two attorneys from the NH Municipal Association, and our Town Counsel, to see what is the most that can be accomplished under current state law. The other issue is whether other towns within the State of NH are interested in this proposed two-day kind of Town Meeting.

Where the Town Meeting Task Force is right now is that there are some options on the table but there is nothing for this Town Meeting to act upon and none of those options would be brought before any Town Meeting such as next year's without substantial public debate.

The Task Force has done a good job of putting some options on the table and it is the Selectmen's job to figure out where to go from here.

Kim Perez asked if the Town Meeting Task Force looked at Representative Town Meeting. The City of Burlington has a similar type of meeting where there are representatives from several districts.

Chairman Walsh said the Task Force considered both a Representative Town Meeting and a Town Council. They didn't recommend that the Selectmen look at either of those.

Bob Norman said of the options described, he thinks that option three is so much more objective than all of the others. He wonders if those who held particular preferences could be told what they can do to give more detail on why they like the option that they like. He asked Chairman Walsh what role citizens like him could play in this.

Chairman Walsh replied that he thinks right now it is a legal legislative issue in terms of what's allowable under state law. New Hampshire is not a home rule state so we have to operate under what the legislature has granted. There is not as much flexibility as would be necessary in option three. We are trying to find out what is allowed and if that is attractive, it may be recommended. Another alternative is that counsel could find out if there are a number of towns that might be interested in going forward with creating a new possibility.

Bob Norman said that at the present time, the citizens have the right to continue a vote the next day by another vote of the citizens present at Town Meeting. Mr. Norman thinks that might be an easier thing to do and would still be within state law.

Chairman Walsh said the Task Force debated that back and forth as to whether to try to implement option three on a good-faith basis. It is possible; the danger is that Town Meetings can be hijacked by small number of people late at night. It is those issues which are contentious where that is dangerous. The Task Force decided that it is more valuable to explore what state law allows.

Moderator Black said one thing decided last year was the Articles of Consent. These are Articles Fourteen through Twenty which can be found on pages 1-11 though 1-13 of the Town Report. Chairman Walsh is going to present them. Anybody who has any questions on any of these articles should feel free to ask the question or give their opinion. We will vote on them as a group unless there is a request for a separate vote on any of the articles.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,150 for deposit into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2003-2004. Funding deposited into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund derives from 50% of the land use change tax proceeds, paid by property owners when they take land out of current use.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,150 for deposit into the Conservation Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total amount collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2003-2004. Funding deposited into the Conservation Fund derives from 50% of the land use change tax proceeds, paid by property owners when they take land out of current use.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$35,460 for deposit into the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Transportation Improvement Fee Reserve, with no funds being raised by taxation. This amount is equivalent to the total Transportation Fee surcharge for each motor vehicle registered in the Town of Hanover (\$5.00 per vehicle) during fiscal year 2003-2004.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$853,968 and authorize payment into existing capital reserve funds in the following amounts for the purposes for which such funds were established:

Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 39,500
Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center	
Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 10,000

Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$100,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$145,000
Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 2,660
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 69,667
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$115,190
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$361,951
Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 10,000

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$693,523 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:

Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund: <i>Replacement of Fire Department car</i>	\$ 26,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund: <i>Mowers, backhoe loader, two plow trucks, one trailer, one compactor, one trailer</i>	\$246,780
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund: <i>Replacement of four police cruisers with computers, communications software for data transfer between cruisers and Dispatch Center</i>	\$158,553
Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund: <i>Lyme Road improvements, Ruddsboro Road retaining wall</i>	\$194,190
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund: <i>Replacement of backhoe</i>	\$ 68,000

This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these specified purchases are complete or June 30, 2011, whichever is sooner.

ARTICLE NINETEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for the construction of certain roadway improvements along Lyme Road, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA

32:7, VI and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2011, whichever is sooner.

ARTICLE TWENTY: To see if the Town, having a Master Plan adopted by the Planning Board on July 29, 2003, will vote to authorize the Planning Board to prepare and amend a recommended program of municipal capital improvement projects projected over a period of at least 6 years for the purpose of preparing the annual budget, pursuant to RSA 674:5.

Chairman Walsh MOVED Articles Fourteen through Twenty jointly, as written. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

Chairman Walsh said he will briefly go over each article and if someone has a question or would like to vote separately, please indicate so.

Articles Fourteen and Fifteen are articles that happen every year. We take the money that comes from land going out of current use and divide it, with half going into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund and half going into the Conservation Fund. The amount this year to each fund is \$13,150.

Article Sixteen deals with money that is in the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. The Town Meeting voted a five-dollar surcharge on every automobile that's registered in Town. That money goes into the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund for making municipal transportation improvements. This article moves the money collected last year into the fund. The amount is \$35,460.

Martha Solow asked if there have been any expenditures from the fund.

Ms. Griffin said we have spent twice from this fund in previous years. One expenditure was to purchase some bicycle friendly storm drain grates for a number of our storm drains. We appropriated about the same amount last year to be used toward the Lyme Road improvements as part of the comprehensive reconstruction of Lyme Road in conjunction with the Middle School construction.

Chairman Walsh said Article Seventeen is the article in which we put money in the Capital Reserve savings account. We have schedules of equipment that the Town expects the need to replace over the next five to fifteen years. We reserve for these so purchases don't become big blips in the tax rate. The amounts are in the Article and the total amount is \$853,968.

Margaret Fanning asked if the funds for sewer equipment come out of general funds or just from people who can contribute to the sewer.

Chairman Walsh replied that we have a sewer district, which includes all those people who are connected to the sewer. They pay fees, both a connection fee and a meter fee. These funds come from those people who use the sewer, not from general funds.

Robert Chambers asked how Hanover stands in comparison to other communities as a proportion of our overall budget going into capital expenditures.

Chairman Walsh said he thinks Hanover probably does better than almost any other community relative to looking forward to our capital needs or conversely looking at how our equipment is depreciating and saving for it in advance as opposed to having a crisis.

Ms. Griffin said the expenditure for capital reserve is about 8% of our total budget and that is not unusual. We are however somewhat unusual in being a Town. We behave more like a city in the way that we budget for capital reserve savings accounts, both appropriating money into those reserves for future purposes and appropriating money out of those reserves for actual purchases. You see larger communities in the State doing that more aggressively; it is less common for Towns. Hanover, in many ways, in terms of the size of our budget and the range of our services, behaves more like a city in terms of its scope.

Chairman Walsh said Article Eighteen is where we take that money that we have saved over the years and purchase replacement equipment. The items speak for themselves. The total amount is \$693,523.

Chairman Walsh said the next article is Article Nineteen, where we spend some of that money in the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. This article seeks to take \$50,000 from out of the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund and devote it to construction of improvements on Lyme Road.

Kari Asmus asked if someone could describe what exactly the project is going to look like. She doesn't know right now if there will be a sidewalk on the west side of Lyme Road and she assumes there will be one on the east side. Ms. Asmus would also like to know if a person wanted to help in the design of this, how they would give input.

Chairman Walsh said on sections 26 and 27 of the Town Report, there are some details of it. Chairman Walsh asked Peter Kulbacki, Director of Public Works to talk about the lights, the timing, and the design process.

Mr. Kulbacki said this is going to take a number of years to complete. The first thing we will have to do are two roundabouts. One will be at Reservoir Road and one we are still trying to pin down where it will be. Right now there is a cross-section showing on page 27, which is the yellow section. This gives you a schematic of what different sections will look like. The way the funding is set up, we are going to be doing this in different phases. We haven't finalized this. This is a first concept. We are trying to provide pedestrian and bike paths on both sides of the road, as well as street lighting in some areas and some parking. There are a lot of options still out there on the table and we haven't finalized any of that. Our first focus will be in front of the Middle School and then we will go south. When Rivercrest comes forward we will work with them to try to incorporate the whole thing. There will be more discussion with the Dresden Village Group.

Bob Norman would like to know if there will be both bicycle and pedestrian paths on both sides of the road.

Mr. Kulbacki said yes, that's the plan and they will go from roundabout to roundabout.

Mr. Norman said he hopes they won't be jointly bicycle and pedestrian; they don't mix well.

Mr. Kulbacki said they don't mix well in a narrow space. In the design we will have to work through that. We are trying to look at how we are going to do it. We haven't finalized anything yet.

Kim Perez said school is opening in September and it sounds like the plans aren't finalized yet. She is wondering what the timeline is on the improvements. Is there something that can be done in the meantime for these kids.

Mr. Kulbacki said there will be things done before school opens in this fall. What we are looking to get done this summer are the two roundabouts. We will be forcing cars that come out of the Middle School to go north and they probably don't want to go all the way to Lyme. We are also going to deal with the intersection of Reservoir Road. Right now there is an officer there in the morning and the afternoon. There needs to be either a traffic light or a roundabout there. Our plans are to get both of those done by September before school opens. Over the next few months we will actually talk to people about what the rest of the streetscape should look like. The first focus is to make sure traffic works safely and to slow it down.

Hilary Pridgen of Etna asked how citizens might provide input or follow the process.

Chairman Walsh said there is an active meeting with the Dresden Village Group, which is under the sponsorship of the Planning Board. They are a broader group than just the streetscape improvements. The group meets weekly on Thursday nights.

Ellis Rollette said his recollection was that the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund was established to primarily fund alternate forms of transportation such as bicycles, walking, or mass transit. He would like to know how it is that this \$50,000 is being allocated for general road improvement and where the rest of the money for the road improvements is coming from.

Ms. Griffin said if folks will remember, the total cost of the project is somewhere in the \$350,000 to \$375,000 range. The school district committed about \$75,000. The Town will be coming up with the remainder. We split the appropriation over 2 years to soften the blow on the General Fund. We put approximately half of this in the budget we are now living with and we are asking that the Town budget the second half through tonight's actions. The combination of those two pots of money, including two years of appropriations from the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund plus the school district's money will fund the whole project.

Rich Howarth said he would like to second what Bob Norman said; bikes and pedestrians don't work well on one surface. Ironically the safest place for bikes to be is often in the main roadway. He is hoping that the committee that is looking into this will seek input from those who ride bikes as their normal way of getting around Town.

Chairman Walsh said the last item on the Consent Calendar is Article Twenty. This is a new one to the Town. State Law allows the Planning Board to create a capital improvements program based on the Master Plan. The Master Plan was adopted in 2003. The Selectboard and the Town staff will have a lot of input into the plan, but the Planning Board would be the one who adopts it, assuming the Town Meeting empowers the Planning Board to create such a capital improvements program. This is enabling legislation, if the Town passes it. If the Planning Board does create a capital improvements program, it is then possible to deal with questions of capital improvements and how that cost might be apportioned to specific developments.

There being no further discussion on Articles Fourteen through Twenty, a hand vote was taken on Chairman Walsh's motion. The motion PASSED unanimously and Articles Fourteen through Twenty were ADOPTED jointly as written.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To see if the Town will accept the transfer from the Dresden School District of the title to a strip of land about 180 feet long and 18 feet wide (at its widest point) along Hovey Lane at the west end of the high school soccer field (map 34, lot 68) for right-of-way purposes and thereby allow the District to use the strip of land for parking without violating the prohibition in Section 210.1.B.(2) of the Zoning Ordinance against parking in the front yard setback.

Selectman Lubrano MOVED that the Town withdraw Article Twenty-One from the Warrant because the Dresden School District has now developed an alternative parking plan, which no longer necessitates construction parking along the location identified above. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED Selectman Lubrano's motion.

There being no further discussion a voice vote was taken on Selectman Lubrano's motion. The motion PASSED unanimously and Article Twenty-One was WITHDRAWN from the Warrant.

ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept from the Trustees of Dartmouth College a portion of property, known as Lot 10 on Assessors Map 4, on the easterly side of Grasse Road in Hanover, according to such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate and reasonable; said portion of this property to consist of approximately 3.2 acres, to be used for recreation, as specified in condition #2 of the approval, dated September 15, 1981, by the Hanover Planning Board, of the subdivision identified as "Grasse Road-Phase A".

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept from the Trustees of Dartmouth College a portion of property, known as lot 10 on Assessors map 4, on the easterly side of Grasse Road in Hanover, according to such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate and

reasonable; said portion of this property to consist of approximately 3.2 acres, to be used for recreation, as specified in condition #2 of the approval, dated September 15, 1981, by the Hanover Planning Board, of the subdivision identified as “Grasse Road-Phase A”. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED Vice Chairman Connolly’s motion.

Vice Chairman Connolly said the most complete explanation is in the Town Report. This comes from the approval of the Hanover Planning Board in 1981, which seemed to come with the gift of prophecy because we are acquiring seeded land for playing fields. On page 29 of the Town Report there is a map of the area which is being considered specifically. The land proposed to be donated is opposite the Hanover Water Works Company on Grasse Road. This site is flat and dry enough to lend itself to a recreation field and is adjacent to the baseball field recently constructed by the Town on the Water Works’ property. This article would enable the Board of Selectmen to accept the donation of this land under the terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen would deem appropriate and reasonable. Vice Chairman Connolly said she would like to thank the Planning Board of 25 years ago for providing for playing fields at this hour.

Hilary Pridgen said she is wondering if it is possible to receive land that has already been turned into a playing field.

Moderator Black said the way she understands this is when the first Grasse Road subdivision came up, the College was required to donate land for playing fields. This was part of the site plan review.

Kim Perez asked if this replaces the planned park in the middle of that development. Moderator Black said no, it does not.

There being no further discussion a voice vote was taken on Vice Chairman Connolly’s motion. The motion PASSED unanimously and Article Twenty-Two was APPROVED.

ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept from D. E. Farr Enterprises, Inc. a portion of property located on the southerly side of Greensboro Road in Hanover (map 1, lot 15) according to such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate and reasonable; said portion of this property to consist of no more than 26 acres, to be used for recreation and conservation purposes, as specified in condition #1 of the approval, dated December 21, 2004, by the Hanover Planning Board, of the subdivision identified as “D. E. Farr Enterprises, Inc.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept from D. E. Farr Enterprises, Inc. a portion of property located on the southerly side of Greensboro Road in Hanover (map 1, lot 15) according to such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate and reasonable; said portion of this property to consist of no more than 26 acres, to be used for recreation and conservation purposes, as specified in condition #1 of the approval, dated December 21, 2004, by the Hanover Planning Board, of the subdivision identified as “D. E.

Farr Enterprises, Inc.”. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED Vice Chairman Connolly’s motion.

In December of 2004, the Planning Board approved a subdivision plan proposed by David Farr for 28 acres of land on the south side of Greensboro Road, land formerly owned by Barbara Renz and before that by Putnam Blodgett. The subdivision plan shows three building lots comprising about 2 acres in aggregate, one lot onto which the existing barn has been moved and is to be renovated into four dwelling units, and two lots on each of which a new single-family house is to be constructed. The remainder of the property, comprising approximately 26 acres on both sides of Mink Brook, is stipulated by the Planning Board’s approval to be used for recreation and conservation purposes. This is a wonderful opportunity to generate yet another playing field. This property is adjacent to the Town-owned Shed 2 so there will be no access problem. It also is a wonderful opportunity to protect more of the Mink Brook watershed. This would acquire approximately 26 acres for the Town for conservations purposes.

Margaret Bragg asked why this article is separate from the subsequent article.

Ms. Griffin said they need to be two separate warrant articles legally. One is the warrant article that authorized the Board of Selectmen to accept the property and then we need a separate appropriating article that asks that we take money from the Land and Capital Improvement Fund, so that we can retain a landscape architect to help us determine just whether or not we can get a playing field or perhaps two on the portion of property north of Mink Brook.

Moderator Black said Mr. Farr is a very honorable citizen in donating this land at no cost to the Town. Twenty-six acres in this Town would be a considerable cost.

Robin Carpenter said the Conservation Commission supports this action.

There being no further discussion a voice vote was taken on Vice Chairman Connolly’s motion. The motion PASSED unanimously and Article Twenty-Three was APPROVED.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for a site feasibility study for possible construction of one or more recreational fields on a portion of the D. E. Farr Enterprises, Inc. property north of Mink Brook along Greensboro Road (map 1, lot 15), and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these specified purchases are complete or June 30, 2011, whichever is sooner.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED the Town raise and appropriate \$15,000 for a site feasibility study for possible construction of one or more recreational fields on a portion of the D. E. Farr Enterprises, Inc. property north of Mink Brook along Greensboro Road (map 1, lot 15), and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Land and Capital Improvements Fund. This will

be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these specified purchases are complete or June 30, 2011, whichever is sooner. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED Vice Chairman Connolly's motion.

Vice Chairman Connolly said this article allows us to do a feasibility study to responsibly dispose of this property. It is going to be very challenging because some of it is very ecologically fragile and we have a lot of elements to deal with. This fund is the perfect fund to do this with.

Vice Chairman Connolly said she knows that David Farr isn't present, but she thinks it would be nice if we gave him a round of applause for donating the land and developing his property so responsibly.

Margaret Bragg said she does appreciate that Mr. Farr is donating land to the Town, but she is not appreciative that we are going to turn around and put playing fields on there and thus increase the traffic on Greensboro Road. There seems to be one development after another coming up out there. They all generate more traffic. Ms. Bragg is highly in favor of conservation land and that the land is accessible to all the citizens of the Town. She would not like to see it made just into playing fields.

Lynn Miller said her question is about the playing field proposed in both locations. We seem to have come to the conclusion that we can build playing fields wherever we can find them and spread our children out even farther and use more cars to drive our children to all these different places. As a parent of children who are not even in school yet, she is concerned where they will be. She really doesn't want to drive them hither and yon.

Ms. Griffin said if you look at where we are likely to see future residential growth in Hanover, certainly Grasse Road Phase III is one very viable location for future residential growth. Greensboro Road would be another. When you look at the Simpson Development that's under construction and the second phase that's been approved and the potential for development of the Leavitt land; we think it's important that we get land in both those locations where we are likely to have Hanover residential units. We would need to accommodate children who would likely live in those units. We are not necessarily envisioning these becoming the region's one and only playing fields, but in fact neighborhood playing fields to which we can assign some of our younger child recreation teams, so folks don't have to drive all the way to Sachem. We are hoping not to increase traffic on Greensboro Rd., but are instead, trying to create neighborhood playing fields that we will maintain in addition to the key centerpiece in Town, which is Sachem Field.

Hilary Pridgen said she wonders if this article should include the Hanover Shed 2 property which is adjacent, so the two parcels might be looked at together for the more efficient use as a bigger piece of property.

Ms. Griffin said we thought the money might be used to primarily evaluate the wetlands challenges, but one possible option the Town has is to locate parking for this field on the Shed 2 property. There is also the possibility of putting one additional playing field

there. We want the landscape architect to advise us as to what works. We would also want to interact with the neighbors to see how they feel about the presence of one versus two fields. The real question is how much of this land is usable for playing fields.

Hilary Pridgen asked if the article precludes us from looking at the Town owned property which is adjacent.

Ms. Griffin said this doesn't preclude the Town from spending the money to look at the Town parcel as well. We just need specific permission to spend it with regard to David Farr's property given the previous warrant article.

There being no further discussion a hand vote was taken on Vice Chairman Connolly's motion. The motion PASSED, with three voters in opposition. Article Twenty-Four was APPROVED.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to sell 229 acres, tax map 7, lots 2, 3 and 7, on Goss Road and the east side of Moose Mountain for \$105,000; and to authorize that the proceeds from the sale be returned to the Conservation Fund, the Fund used to purchase the land. The property will be conveyed with a conservation easement allowing public access to the lands but reserving to the owner the right to construct a seasonal camp on tax map 7, lot 3.

Selectman Lubrano MOVED the Town sell 229 acres, tax map 7, lots 2, 3 and 7, on Goss Road and the east side of Moose Mountain for \$105,000; and to authorize that the proceeds from the sale be returned to the Conservation Fund, the Fund used to purchase the land. The property will be conveyed with a conservation easement allowing public access to the lands but reserving to the owner the right to construct a seasonal camp on tax map 7, lot 3. Chairman Walsh SECONDED Selectman Lubrano's motion.

Ms. Griffin said this is a wonderful opportunity. The Conservation Commission and the Selectboard would love to be able to replicate this model. We have an individual who desires to become a conservation land owner and by doing so, abide by the same principals that we would abide by as the current owner of this land and in doing so, replenish the Conservation Fund with monies so we can in fact go out and preserve more land. It's a wonderful partnership and it allows us to use our money and in the same time conserves this land.

Judith Reeve Davidson, a member of the Conservation Commission said the Conservation Commission is so thrilled with this opportunity. This article demonstrates a win-win situation. It fulfills their goals. Several years ago the Conservation Commission did a town-wide study and created the Open Spaces Priorities Plan, part of which helps us deal with conservation. Mechanisms will be used to conserve land and in this case replenish the Conservation Fund, so it is a great example of what we were hoping would happen.

Bob Keene asked if he is correct in believing that the Town bought this for \$120,000 several years ago.

Ms. Griffin said her recollection is that the Town bought it for \$145,000 and we are selling it for the amount in the warrant so we are not making the full amount of our original acquisition back, but we are making a significant amount of money on the conservation easement.

Ed Chamberlain, a member of the Conservation Commission, said the difference is really that the Town is maintaining a conservation easement on the property. Also it should be noted that the buyer of this property would give this land back to the Town when he dies, so this is really a win-win situation.

Judith Reeve-Davidson said in order to propose this; we did have to have the property reappraised. If it were available for development it would sell for \$155,000, but once you take away the development rights it brings the price down to \$105,000.

Margaret Fanning said she doesn't understand, other than the buyer saying they will give the land back to the Town when he dies, what the difference is between this deal and putting the land on the market with a conservation easement on it.

Vicki Smith said the difference is that the Town is retaining rights for access across the property. If we were going to just sell it, we would be selling it for \$105,000, because that the appraised value with the easement. We could be offering it to anybody for \$105,000; that would be a fair appraised value. She said we have a conservation buyer at hand and we would like to consummate the deal and have that money available for further projects. If the Town Meeting were to direct the Conservation Commission to do that, they would go that way and put it on the market for more.

Ms. Reeve-Davidson said one thing that is unique about this buyer is that the public will still have access to this land. There are many conservation easements that control personal property and no one could ever go on the land. We are protecting it so the Town can still have use. It's really an unusual situation. If we had conservation buyers out there, we would be doing this all the time.

There being no further discussion a hand vote was taken on Lubrano's motion. The motion PASSED unanimously and Twenty-Five was APPROVED.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX: To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 1, 2005, between the Town of Hanover and AFSCME, Local 1348, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits for its members:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2005-2006	2% \$28,881
2006-2007	2% \$25,556
2007-2008	3% \$13,033 (low) to \$39,100 (high)

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,881 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriations at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 1, 2005, between the Town of Hanover and AFSCME, Local 1348, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits for its members: fiscal year 2005-2006, estimate increase 2% for a total of \$28,881; fiscal year 2006-2007, estimated increase 2% for at total of \$25,556; fiscal year 2007-2008 a variable amount of 1% to 3% for a low \$13,033 to \$39,100 on the high end, and further appropriate the sum of \$28,881 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year the sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits over those at the over the appropriations at current staffing levels paid by our previous agreement. Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion.

Selectman Baschnagel said AFSCME is the union that represents our Public Works Department employees. Our three-year contract is up this year and this represents the negotiations that have been agreed upon by both sides.

Kari Asmus asked if someone could talk a little about what the step system looks like for our Public Works employees.

Ms. Griffin said our employees have a merit system of pay that involves a series of 22 steps throughout the career of an employee, with a 2% increase between each step. Each year, if an employee has had satisfactory performance, they receive a step increase. In addition, each year the employees receive a cost of living adjustment. This proposal is for 2% effective for the fiscal year beginning in July 1, 2005. The CPI increases for the fiscal years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 are subject to appropriation by Town Meeting as those fiscal years as part of the budget. The only appropriation that is up before Town Meeting is for the increase effective July 1, 2005. In addition the employees receive a benefits package that includes health insurance. This year we were fortunate; we were projected to receive a 7.9% health insurance premium increase. The Local Government Center just set the final rates for July 1 last week; the Town of Hanover's increase is only 4.1%, which is extraordinary given that the rate of medical inflation is 12.5% to 13% for communities of Hanover's size.

There being no further discussion, a hand vote was taken on Baschnagel's motion. The motion PASSED unanimously and Twenty-Six was APPROVED.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,598,426 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, for the purposes set forth in the Town budget. This sum does not include the funds voted in any of the preceding or succeeding articles.

Selectman Christie MOVED the Town raise and appropriate \$14,598,426 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, for the purposes set forth in the Town budget. This sum does not include the funds voted in any of the preceding or succeeding articles. Selectman Baschangel SECONDED Selectman Christie's motion.

Selectman Christie said you might think that each budget has its own unique challenges and this year was no exception. Unfunded State mandates; the newly expanded Howe Library; funding a wildly successful community center; new standards required for our Fire Department are all part of this year's challenges. While each year is unique there is important continuity of process from one year to the next that is perhaps more important. Each year Ms. Griffin approaches the Selectboard for the budget guidelines. Each year she is asked to try to hold the impact on the tax rate to the change in the Consumer Price Index. That single decision is perhaps the most important decision in the whole process. The setting of the decision on tax rate increase guidelines puts the decision on priorities as there are always more things we would like to do, should do, and need to do than can be funded.

Let's look a little bit behind this guideline. A guideline of 3% does not imply that the increases in budget expenses are limited to 3%. The guideline addresses the increase in the tax rate, not the increase in total spending. Taxes collected on any growth in the grand list will provide extra revenue dollars to support additional spending without any impact on the tax rate. When Dartmouth is building new residential facilities or Hypertherm is adding a new wing, these all add to the value of the grand list that in turn adds to more revenue being collected. The growth in the grand list has varied from \$18,000,000 to \$25,000,000 over the past five years. It is forecasted to be \$18,000,000 in this year's budget. That forecasted increase supports additional spending of about \$65,000 with no impact on the tax rate. An increase in the grand list as a result of growth is very different than an increase in the grand list as a result of a reassessment, like the one we had two years ago or will have again in 2007. The assessment only impacts the percentage relationship between who pays, not how much is raised in total.

There are some other tricks we have used to make the tax rate increase more stable from year to year. The biggest one of all is the heavy use of reserve funds to replace capital equipment. Each year the budget fund reserves for things like police cruisers, fire equipment, maintenance trucks, dispatching equipment, and significant road and bridge improvements. This year we have budgeted to replace police cruisers, but the impact on the tax rate is no more than it was on last year's tax rate when the reserve was funded in anticipation of future spending. The heavy use of reserve funds works well as it prevents big jumps in the tax rate in years when there are large capital expenditures.

Another trick we have used to stabilize the tax rate is the use of the undesignated fund balance. Undesignated fund balances are the cumulative surpluses over many years as the result of making more in taxes than we spent. It is a rainy day fund. It covers shortfalls, unexpected expenses, or shortfalls in revenues. In last year's budgeting process we recognized that the Town has overused undesignated funds to help smooth the tax rate and instead should put our focus on helping to pay for expenses that are

nonrecurring. As we put this new policy into practice, we found that breaking old habits is not easy and identifying expenses that are nonrecurring is not that straightforward.

Approximately 40% of our total Town expenses are funded from user fees and not general and fire district taxes. These include wastewater fees, motor vehicle registration fees, building permit fees, amongst others. This budget sees an increase in fee revenue of 8%, due to new programs and higher volume.

The one tax rate in this budget that cannot be held at 3% is the Fire Fund. Due to the requirements of the Insurance Services Office that budget saw an increase of \$144,000 and the tax rate increase is just over 7%.

The Selectboard is proud of this budget. The Town staff was able to overcome this year's challenges and still meet the guidelines; but there is no free lunch. Several important projects were not funded that you should be aware of. These include under-funding of a long-term paving plan by 20% or \$50,000 in both of the last two years. There is no funding for sidewalk reserve for existing and anticipated sidewalk needs. We are under funding our planned building maintenance and no progress toward building a reserve. There will be no funding for seed money for affordable housing projects. There will be no funding for new cemetery development or land acquisition. These were the tradeoffs that had to be made.

Selectman Christie said as he thinks about the process and the vigor that goes into each new budget; he is struck by the importance of trust in the system. The Selectboard trusts that when Ms. Griffin brings in the budget, it is based on thoughtful iteration with department heads. We trust that long and short-term needs have been balanced. Selectman Christie said he hopes that the Town staff trusts that when the Selectboard makes changes, that they are well considered. Selectman Christie believes that the taxpayers trust that the process is open and thorough. Without this trust the process could quickly break down. The Selectboard wants to thank everyone who was involved in this process for his or her part in maintaining this trust, as it has to be earned every year.

Kim Perez said she would like to know why the total amount on page 14, which is the grand total of all funds, is off by \$2,000 from the grand total of all funds on page 20. Ms. Griffin said it is because of the next warrant article, which will be voted on separately, which is the \$2,000 funding request from Bonnie CLAC.

Ella Erway said she notices there has been a considerable reduction of 28%, in the amount given to Advance Transit. Ms. Erway said this is an issue that elderly citizens are particularly concerned about and she would like to know why that was reduced.

Ms. Griffin said this is actually not a reduction. What was previously done was that the Town would receive monies from Dartmouth College and DHMC for Advance Transit and then we would turn around and pass that money along to Advance Transit. Now the College and DHMC give the money directly to Advance Transit and the Town is no longer the conduit.

Ellis Rollette said he would like to focus on some of the large numbers that have changed with regard to revenue and expenditures, referring to the details on page 22, in the white section. As far as the revenue is concerned, Mr. Rollette is wondering about the large percentages in the Police, Public Works Department, and Parks and Recreation. Mr. Rollette is wondering if we have set a higher target for traffic tickets. On the expenditures side, Mr. Rollette is wondering about the large increase in Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Griffin said the increase in the Police Budget is due to the appropriation from the reserve funds for the purchase of police cruisers. Every three years you will see a large blip on the revenue side because we have to appropriate the cruiser money as revenue coming in from a reserve for the purchase of the cruisers. In addition you may also see an anticipation that we may be providing dispatch services to Enfield and Canaan. This is not certain yet. On the Parks and Recreation side you will see an increase in revenue. That is some grant funds we have received to run an after-school program that would be run out of the Recreation Department. The Selectmen's stipulation is that we start that program through grant money and then we look to fund the program through user fees paid by the parents of children who use the program.

John Chamberlain said he is curious and a little troubled by the decreases in funding for road improvements and building improvements. He would like to know how we make that up.

Ms. Griffin said with respects to road improvements; the Town is paying for more than the lion's share of the Lyme Road improvements. The down side to this is that we had to under-fund our ongoing road maintenance program to the tune of about 20%. When we get out of the cycle of funding routine paving maintenance for more than a two-year timeframe, we can't forget next year when we are doing our budget that we need to replenish that account, otherwise we are getting behind in our regular paving program. One of the things that is so wonderful in Ms. Griffin's opinion is that we do a wonderful job staying on top of our paving so we don't end up losing roads that then have to be reclaimed. In order to keep the tax rate increase to match the CPI, and knowing that we are biting off a lot in the next two fiscal years; we had to under-fund the regular Town-wide paving program. Building maintenance is one of those things that we have had on our list of priorities for the last eighteen months or so and to begin to build the last set of reserve accounts. As you look at the Town, we have been very aggressive over the years in reserving for replacement of our equipment and bridges, but we haven't yet developed a true building reserve. In the future the Town Meeting will be asked to set up a set of building reserve accounts so that we can also adequately save for the long-term building maintenance requirements for some of our buildings, particularly the older ones like Town Hall.

There being no further discussion, a hand vote was taken on Christie's motion. The motion PASSED unanimously and Twenty-Seven was APPROVED.

ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to support the services provided to the residents of Hanover by Bonnie CLAC. This is the first year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Selectman Lubrano MOVED the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to support the services provided to the residents of Hanover by Bonnie CLAC. Selectman Christie SECONDED Selectman Lubrano's motion.

Robert Chambers, President of Bonnie CLAC said the organization was formed four years ago; at the time it was called Fannie CLAC. Fannie Mae, about seven or eight years ago formed a non-profit organization to help individuals buy houses. Bonnie CLAC was formed to help people with the technical assistance to help select and purchase a vehicles.

Bonnie CLAC help people like Jackie, who is a single mother working three jobs at \$8 an hour, without any benefits to try to support her three children. She was walking to work everyday. The children's father is in jail. She went through a financial literacy course through Bonnie CLAC and is now driving a brand new Honda Civic that she can afford. Within four months of her getting her new car, she got a job that pays \$12 an hour and pays medical benefits for her and her children. This is the type of story that happens over and over again. Bonnie CLAC is the only organization within the United States that is providing transportation service to low income individuals to buy new cars.

Bonnie CLAC has helped 3,251 individuals within the State of Vermont and New Hampshire in consultation. Mr. Chambers would like to thank the residents of Hanover; 59 of whom have donated vehicles. These vehicles are used in Bonnie CLAC's bridge program. What happens is that Bonnie CLAC sees people with low income, and have very bad credit. It is very difficult when you are making \$8 an hour not to have bad credit because everybody has some emergency that happens in life and if you have no reserves to pay that emergency, then something slips and the credits falls with that. Bonnie CLAC teaches a five-week Financial Literacy course. This is a rigorous course. Bonnie CLAC requires people to keep up with every penny they spend over the course of an entire month. They help people to set goals in their lives and to prepare their budgets and make life decisions that help them to regain entering into the American mainstream. Bonnie CLAC sees people weekly that are paying 25% interest or more to buy cars. When Bonnie CLAC guarantees a loan, they are helping people to gain access to loans at 4.9%. This is the same interest rate that the wealthiest individuals would pay to buy a car.

Mr. Chambers said he is proud to say that the loan failure rate among their clients is below commercial averages. There are 418 people driving cars that are guaranteed by Bonnie CLAC right now. Seventy-three percent of Bonnie CLAC's clients are women.

Mr. Chambers said Bonnie CLAC has recently done a calculation and focused on a number of very low depreciation vehicles that get very good gas mileage. The base model Honda Civic, with roll-up windows and no air conditioning is one of the vehicles they focus people on. They have done an analysis with their clients and have come to the

conclusion that they are taking the oldest and most polluting vehicles off the road. Bonnie CLAC's clients are saving 12,000 gallons of gasoline every month.

There are 20 individuals that list Hanover as their residence who have received counseling service through Bonnie CLAC. There are 77 individuals who list Hanover companies as their employers, who have received counseling services through Bonnie CLAC. The lack of low-income housing is pushing people out of this community. Every week they are driving in from Bradford, St. Johnsbury, and 50 miles each way.

Fifty-nine Hanover residents have donated vehicles that serve in the Bridge Program. The clients that have the absolute worst credit use these donated vehicles. Bonnie CLAC provided the maintenance on these cars and the cars are rented from Bonnie CLAC so they can get back and forth to work and live their lives while they are going through the credit building process. If they pay Bonnie CLAC on time for six months, then Bonnie CLAC will guarantee the loan for a new car. The new car is providing a new lease on life for people who would have never dreamed of owning a new car.

Bonnie CLAC has received funding from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and will be opening offices in Portsmouth and Manchester New Hampshire. They now have 12 full-time employees in two offices and they do pay health benefits. They are working toward self-sustainability. Each of the clients pays Bonnie CLAC an \$800 fee that covers the counseling. Ultimately when they get into a certain level of business, they will become self-sustaining but they are not at this time and would appreciate Hanover's support.

A resident said she is totally embarrassed that she did not donate her mini-van that was eight years old. She thought she could sell it for a few thousand dollars and she waited about nine months. On the spur of the moment she went to Manchester and traded it in to buy her daughter a car. She really thinks she would have been better off donating it and buying a less expensive car for her daughter. Anyone who has a car to get rid of, this is a great way to do it.

Bernie Benn said this program is quite extraordinary and is the kind of thing that the citizens of Hanover like to support. He doesn't know how the \$2,000 figure was reached, but he is wondering whether or not we can amend the article to increase the amount to \$5,000.

Kari Asmus said she would like to thank Bonnie CLAC and Mr. Chambers for the work that they do and explaining the program and giving us an opportunity to contribute. She would like to encourage not only Bonnie CLAC but also all the non-profits to go that route in Hanover, because there are people for whom their property taxes are a burden. By donating to these, we are inadvertently putting a burden on people who can't afford it. If individuals were encouraged to contribute by writing a check or donating a car, they would probably end up contributing more than \$2,000.

Bernie Benn MOVED to AMEND the motion and raise the amount in this article from \$2,000 to \$5,000 dollars.

Tim Pillsbury said typically when residents vote for these types of things is that it is voted for three years and then it goes on forever. Since the goal of Bonnie CLAC is to become self-sufficient, perhaps we can craft this amendment so the amount would decrease as Bonnie CLAC becomes more self-sufficient. He asked if there is a legal way to do that.

Moderator Black said what would happen is the article will get to appear on the warrant for three years in a row before it becomes automatic.

Mr. Pillsbury said once it has been on the warrant it will go on forever.

Moderator Black said those companies who don't desire to be compensated will let us know they don't want it anymore. It's not for eternity.

Augusta Prince asked if Bonnie CLAC feels a need for more money.

Mr. Chambers said they could use the money right now. He is projecting Bonnie CLAC will be in a self-sustaining mode within three years. Approximately 29% of their revenues in their first year were self-generated.

Chairman Walsh said he thinks about the \$1,000 and \$500 decisions that were made to try to hold the tax rate on the one hand. Town Meeting will have whatever will it has on this subject. The other thing he thinks about is the State of New Hampshire unfunding many things and pushing them down through the counties. Our county budget just went up 7.5% this year because the State of New Hampshire Legislature chooses not to fund things. There are many good things going on and Chairman Walsh would rather see the Town go with \$2,000 rather than \$5,000 for this. That is not because this isn't a good program.

A resident said she very much agrees with what Bonnie CLAC is doing. She knows someone who just got a car and how important it was to her. She also knows that what we are talking about is tax deductible if individuals give Bonnie CLAC money. She would rather give Bonnie CLAC directly than have it taken from the budget of our Town when we work so hard to get taxes and she thinks of all those expenses that Chairman Walsh just said are not being funded because we are trying to be careful with our budget. We all like to feel good about giving money to good organizations, but let's do it privately and not use our hard-earned tax money.

Hilary Pridgen said she appreciates what Chairman Walsh said and she would support the \$2,000, but she wouldn't support \$5,000 because she knows how much trouble the Town goes to keep a line on their increases. It's so easy to say you want to do something, but then you lose sight of the months and months of preparation and holding the line on all sorts of other things. There are many other things we would really like to put \$3,000 more into. Mr. Pridgen asked if this is voted down at \$5,000 could it be revoted on at \$2,000.

Moderator Black said if the amendment fails, then we go to the original motion

Selectman Christie said he would caution that there is a careful balance worked about between this and other non-profits in this budget. It is a character balance that we try to retain.

Scot Drysdale said if we accept the amendment and then the people vote against the article, because we accepted the amendment, then we could bring it back up.

Moderator Black said the first thing we will do is vote on the amendment, which is for \$5,000. If it passes it's done. If it fails we then go back to the original amendment.

Mr. Drysdale asked if the amendment passes and we are now considering \$5,000 and that is then voted down, can we then go back and give \$2,000.

Ms. Griffin said the motion was to amend the amount to \$5,000. So the first action of Town Meeting will be a vote on that amendment. If the amendment passes then we would need to vote on the amended motion. If the amended motion for \$5,000 fails, then anybody can ask for reconsideration to restore it to \$2,000.

Bernie Benn said given the discussion and the hard work that went into the budget, he would like to MOVE to WITHDRAW his motion to amend the motion and raise the amount in this article from \$2,000 to \$5,000 dollars. Mr. Benn's motion to withdraw his amendment was SECONDED.

There being no further discussion, a hand vote was taken on Selectman Lubrano's original motion. The motion PASSED with four voters in opposition. Article Twenty-Seven was APPROVED.

ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE:

Carol Weingeist MOVED to see if the Town would support the following statement: "in May, 2003 the Town of Hanover went on record opposing preemptive war. The Town of Hanover now opposes the continued U.S military presence in Iraq and requests that all New Hampshire National Guard Troops be brought home and that no more be deployed" A resident SECONDED the motion.

Ms. Weingeist said the war in Iraq has been incompetently pursued. It has had a huge impact on Iraq and the United States. There have been over 1,600 US deaths and thousands more injured and maimed. Tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed; their families and their infrastructure destroyed. The cost to the New Hampshire taxpayers is over \$388,000,000. There has been a devastating impact on the lives of New Hampshire National Guards men and women as well as their families and communities. The Guards participation in Iraq undermines their effectiveness at home. Furthermore the amount of money going to the Iraq war is strapping other programs. This affects the safety and well being of New Hampshire citizens.

Bob Strauss asked if this motion were to pass, to whom would we convey this information.

Ms. Weingeist said she feels it is important to convey it to our Representatives in Congress as well as our State Representatives and the Governor of New Hampshire.

Robin Carpenter stepped forward to offer an amendment to this motion.

Robin Carpenter MOVED Article Twenty-Nine be amended to include the following text “ the meeting further directs the Hanover Selectboard to appoint a Hanover Foreign Policy Commission to consult and advise the Town’s Boards and agencies in foreign affairs, to prepare policy positions for Town Meeting consideration, and offer foreign policy guidance to the U.S. Department of State. Mr. Carpenter’s motion was SECONDED.

Robin Carpenter said there are far more problems in the world than represented in Article Twenty-Nine. What about North Korea? How should we be dealing with Iran, Venezuela, or Russia?

Under the current system we rely on petitions to initiate these as our goals. The President, the White House, and the Secretary of State have no guidance from Hanover on any of these issues. They are flying blind up to 12 months at a time. Isn’t our duty to aid our leaders on behalf of our silent neighbors? The fact is that most Hanover residents have never raised their voices for a more righteous foreign policy envisioned in this article. They have pens and they have paper, but they haven’t written their Congressman. Many of our residents have computers and email and they haven’t written their senator. There are call-in radio shows and most citizens have never called in. Well, if our neighbors won’t raise their own objections, we can and must raise our voices for them. We can even use their absence to imply endorsement for the Hanover Foreign Policy Commission and its continuous year-round wisdom. So, if you favor Article Twenty-Nine, please favor this amendment for the Hanover Foreign Policy Commission but, if this is an amendment that you feel you could not support; if you don’t want a commission sending policy back to Washington, then Mr. Carpenter submits that you cannot, in good conscience, support Article Twenty-Nine.

Hilda Sokol said the former speaker before us has assumed that we have not written our letters and sent emails to our representatives and to President Bush directly. Ms. Sokol does not support this amendment because the petition does indicate a conviction that the Town should go on record saying something definite. She hopes Mr. Carpenter didn’t mean what he said.

A resident said it seems to her that the Moderator might rule the amendment as not germane because it talks to developing a commission rather than expressing the sentiment of Town Meeting. She would urge that if that doesn’t happen that the amendment be defeated and the original motion be supported.

Moderator Black said she is going to rule that the amendment is allowable.

A resident said he would like to add his support for defeat of the amendment. He thinks it's frivolous and insulting. A large number of people in this room that he knows have spent a great deal of time writing letters and sending letters to petition everyone they can. The original motion is simply to make ourselves heard.

David Montgomery said whether or not we write to anyone expressing our views is irrelevant. In actual fact Town Meeting is a form of government to express our views. Proposing a commission is actually contrary to the spirit to what we are supposed to be doing. He urges voting against the amendment.

A resident said we can't vote for that amendment because it was sarcastic. It just doesn't make good sense.

Moderator Black read the amendment again so everyone could hear it.

There being no further discussion, a hand vote was taken on Mr. Carpenter's motion to amend Article Twenty-Nine to include the following text: "the meeting further directs the Hanover Selectboard to appoint a Hanover Foreign Policy Commission to consult and advise the Towns Boards and agencies in foreign affairs, to prepare policy positions for Town Meeting consideration, and offer foreign policy guidance to the U.S. Department of State. The Amendment FAILED with one vote in favor.

Moderator Black said we will go back to discussion on the original motion.

Dennis Goodman said earlier in the evening there was mention that Town Meeting could be hijacked by a small group of people. This is the kind of resolution that fits that description. He is very troubled by the presence and wording of this article. As few as 25 registered Hanover voters can put the entire Hanover community on record with something like this. It seems unfair and wrong. This is not the way for Hanover residents to make their views known on such a topic. A petition that was signed by a large number of people in Hanover, he could certainly accept. This small group only represents a small percentage of the whole Hanover community. To put the whole community on record on an issue as important as this strikes him as wrong. Why only this? Why not a resolution on other hot issues of the day such as Social Security or immigration. It seems to Mr. Goodman that this makes Hanover the possible object of mockery. This is the kind of thing that will get laughed at by many. Calling specifically for the New Hampshire National Guard to be brought home strikes him as wrong and it obligates others to shoulder New Hampshire's obligations.

Mr. Goodman thinks the supporters of Article Twenty-Nine have the obligation to tell us what they think the end result would be if the US military presence in Iraq were to end now. What would be the effect on 25 million people? What would be the effect on US positioning in the Middle East and the rest of the world? That being said, Mr. Goodman would like to propose an amendment to the original motion for Article Twenty-Nine.

Dennis Goodman MOVED that Article Twenty-Nine be amended to as follows: “In May 2003, the Town of Hanover went on record opposing preemptive war. The Town of Hanover now opposes the continued presence in Iraq *any longer than desired by the elected Government of Iraq*, and requests that all New Hampshire National Guard troops be brought home as soon as requested by the Government of Iraq.” Mr. Goodman’s motion was SECONDED.

A resident said she was very adamantly opposed to the war in Iraq and she was one of the people who demonstrated on the Green. She did what she could to keep it from happening. She thinks a lot about those 25,000,000 people in Iraq and the horrible life we have given them by the preemptive war. She doesn’t think the simplistic answer is to bring everybody home today. It’s kind of a feel good thing to say and don’t we wish that we had won the election. She doesn’t know the answer, but she doesn’t feel capable of saying let’s just bring them home. She really likes this amendment and she totally supports it. When the Iraqi people have a government that is sufficient that they ask us to leave, let’s leave. That amendment she can definitely support.

David Montgomery said the disasters that would result from a sudden pull-out are arguments that he responded to for a number of years during the Vietnam era. Over and over again we heard that we can’t leave now, that we have to stay and finish what we started. When we did actually leave Vietnam the healing was rather quick. Vietnam is now, relatively speaking, an ally in South East Asia. There are situations that we get ourselves into, for which we simply don’t have the solution. The sooner we admit that, the better we are and the more quickly the healing process will take place. He opposes this amendment.

A resident said she would like to continue what Mr. Goodman is talking about. There have been other times in history where there was terrible pain as the result of war. The countries healed themselves, like our country did with the Civil War. It was a terrible time and the devastation seemed endless. However, after the war, and after the killing; peace gets made. We are in the situation where the cost of this war takes away from Medicaid and the hospitals. What if, after the terrible 9/11 disaster, those 3,500 people had lived. Our hospitals don’t have the facilities to deal with that. Our homeland security is supposed to protect us. If we take away our National Guard, we leave our citizens unprotected. We as a Town should stand opposed to the continuation of this war because we as a Town address the Medicaid and housing needs. Hanover is an affluent Town, but throughout the State, communities don’t have the money to take care of these things, because the State doesn’t have the money. It would make her proud as a citizen of this Town to say enough; bring our men home!

Kim Perez CALLED the question.

A hand vote was taken on Ms. Perez’s motion to call the question. The motion to call the discussion was CARRIED.

Moderator Black re-read the proposed amendment.

There being no further discussion, a hand vote was taken on Mr. Goodman's motion to amend Article Twenty-Nine. The amendment was CARRIED with 49 voting in favor of the amendment and 48 opposed to the amendment.

Moderator Black said there has been a request by five Hanover residents for a paper ballot on this article.

There being no further discussion, a paper was taken on Article-Twenty, as amended. The Article was ADOPTED with 69 votes in favor and 49 votes in opposition.

ARTICLE THIRTY: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting.

A resident said she would like to express her concern about the fact that the Town will not longer be fund half of it's responsibility for the Community Counselor, which is the position being vacated by Dena Romero. She had a personal experience in which one of her children was assaulted by another student at the High School. In another case her child was accused of a crime that he did not commit. Dean Romero helped her with both these situations. She would like to find what is going to replace this service as well as the welfare assistance.

Ms. Griffin said what we did with Dena's decision to retire was to shuffle who will do some of the things that Dena has done, in order to provide an additional staff person for the Community Center. Dena's responsibilities have been divvied up between three different departments along with the Grafton County Senior Citizen's Council. Dena handles our welfare cases, which will now be done by Barry Cox, who is our Human Resources Director. Barry has a background in Drug and Alcohol counseling. This is a small number of cases. The Juvenile Diversion Program will be shifted to the Hanover Police Department. Senior Citizens who have problems or needs will be referred to the Grafton Senior Citizen's Council. We have increased our funding to them by \$5,000, so that we may retain more hours of social service. The Town and the School District are continuing to talk about the school and family services interaction. Whether we are successful will depend upon how well we do keeping those lines of communication open.

A resident said she hopes there will be an advocate that will be apart from the school and the Police. She can't tell you how frightened her child was to be told that he was guilty of something that he wasn't. It was a very scary thing.

Robert Chambers said he would like to make a motion that the Town considers amending the library hours. He often works late.

Marlene McGonigle said this is a matter of finances. She does have some good news. It isn't that the library will be open longer during the week; 8:00 pm is about maximum. We are adding 12,000 square feet to 18,000 square feet and we are staffing it with about the same number of staff so we will be stretched very thin. We are hoping, with this

year's budget, to be open on Friday mornings. We currently open at noon, but when the new library opens, we will be open Friday mornings.

A resident said she thinks that Dena Romero is an unsung hero in the Town and she would like to offer a resolution for all her good work for the Town.

Robert Chambers said he is taking a group of kids over to our sister city in Joigny, France in July and there will be a group kids coming over from France.

Moderator Black said anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the exchange program or be a host family should contact the Board because they would be glad for some help.

Moderator Black thanked everyone.

Moderator Black officially ADJOURNED the Town Meeting at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Griffin, Town Clerk

These minutes were transcribed by Susan Love