

FINAL

**2006 TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF HANOVER
Tuesday, May 9, 2006
Richmond Middle School Gymnasium**

The annual Town Meeting of the Town of Hanover, New Hampshire convened on May 9, 2006 at 7 a.m. by the Town Moderator, Marilyn “Willy” Black, at the Richmond Middle School Gymnasium. Moderator Black explained that the polls would be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. 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 Twenty 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;

William Baschnagel 1,348 (elected)

Katherine Connolly 1,311 (elected)

One Moderator to serve for a term of two (2) years;

Marilyn “Willy” Black 1,567 (elected)

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

Charlie Garipay 1,537 (elected)

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

Michael Ahern 1,504 (elected)

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

Elizabeth (Beth) Vesley-Gross 1,494 (elected)

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

Jay Pierson 1,529 (elected)

One Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of six (6) years.

Arlene Mahler 1,492 (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 require that, in cases for which subdivision or site plan approval by the Planning Board is required, no application for a Wetlands/Water Body Special Exception may be accepted until preliminary site plan or subdivision design review for that project has been completed, and that the application for such Special Exception would reflect the Planning Board’s recommendations.

At a Public Hearing held January 24, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,658 NO 130 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 modify Section 702 with respect to protection of intermittent streams, defining sub-areas within the existing wetlands/water body buffer, and broadening the extent of applicability of Administrative Permits in connection with wetlands, water bodies, and intermittent streams.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,546 NO 229 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 701 so as to prohibit most new development within a 100-year floodplain.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,599 NO 183 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 add a Section 703 to prohibit most development on steep slopes, and to require Special Exceptions for certain activities proposed, on steep slopes.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted 5:2 to recommend that Town Meeting NOT approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 734 NO 1,023 ARTICLE DEFEATED

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 the objectives statement and allowed uses in the “BM” Service Business and Limited Manufacturing zoning district and would rezone certain lands south of Mink Brook from BM to “F” Forestry.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,528 NO 241 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 remove the last sentence of Section 1004.2 which has stipulated a zoning violation notice period different from that provided for in State Law.

At a Public Hearing held January 24, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,612 NO 127 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 add a new Section 301, which would prohibit aircraft take-offs and landings, except in emergency situations.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,326 NO 442 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 alter Paragraph 502.4 B so that only land on which Planned Residential Developments are allowed can contribute to the basis for the computation of densities for such developments.

At a Public Hearing held January 24, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment

RESULTS: YES 1,533 NO 205 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 make a number of related changes to the text of the Zoning Ordinance and to the Zoning Map to accommodate the development of a village center by adding new zoning districts, including a new General Residence “GR-4” zoning district; altering the geographical extent of existing zoning districts, including extending the “F” Forestry and Recreation, “NP” Nature Preserve, “SR” Single Residence, and “RO” Residence and Office zoning districts, altering the extent of the “OL” Office and Laboratory zoning district, and reducing the extent of the “RR” Rural Residence zoning district, and replacing most of the General Residence GR-1 zoning district in the area with GR-2; thereby increasing and decreasing allowable development densities in different portions of the village center area; and thus also changing allowable land uses in various parts of the area along Lyme Road (Route 10), roughly bounded by Kendal, Storrs Pond, Oak Hill, Garipay Fields, Hanover Country Club, and the Connecticut River.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,199 NO 570 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE ELEVEN (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. 10:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 10 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 10 would amend Section 210 so that additional driveways would be allowed on lots in Planned Residential Developments, which lots each have more than one dwelling unit.

At a Public Hearing held March 7, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,380 NO 397 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE TWELVE (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. 11:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 11 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 11 would amend Section 210 to allow that accessory parking spaces on lots in the D and I Districts may be made available for occupants of and visitors to other properties in these districts.

At a Public Hearing held March 7, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,531 NO 239 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE THIRTEEN (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. 12:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 12 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 12 would add a Section 310.2 which would eliminate the need for a separate Zoning Permit application and approval process with respect to temporary construction activities approved by the Planning Board as part of the Site Plan Review.

At a Public Hearing held March 7, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,545 NO 216 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FOURTEEN (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. 13:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 13 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 13 would modify the definition of Accessory Building or Use in Section 902 to include not only those which are “subordinate and customarily” incidental, but also those which are “subordinate and reasonably” incidental to the principal building or use, and it provides a standard for determining what is “reasonable”.

At a Public Hearing held March 7, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,588 NO 162 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FIFTEEN (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. 14:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 14 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 14 would modify Section 1003 to delete the word “literally” from the description of the manner in which the Zoning Ordinance is to be administered.

At a Public Hearing held March 7, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted 6:1 to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,526 NO 208 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE SIXTEEN (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by petition in Amendment No. 15:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 15 as proposed by petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 15 would amend Table 204.7 to remove Continuing Care Retirement Community from the list of permitted uses in the “RR” Rural Residence zoning district.

At a Public Hearing held January 24, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted 6:1 to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,418 NO 391 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by petition in Amendment No. 16:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 16 as proposed by petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 16 would amend Table 204.7 to remove Planned Residential Development from the list of permitted uses in the “RR” Rural Residence zoning district.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted 4:3 to recommend that Town Meeting NOT approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,418 NO 391 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by petition in Amendment No. 17:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 17 as proposed by petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 17 would add a new Section 207.3 which would not permit the counting of the areas of water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, and steep slopes toward the calculation of lot area or size or of density for major subdivisions in the “RR” Rural Residence zoning district.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted 4:3 to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,386 NO 429 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE NINETEEN (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by petition in Amendment No. 18:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 18 as proposed by petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 18 would modify Table 204.7 so that lots in major subdivisions in the “RR” Rural Residence zoning district would need to have a minimum lot size of ten acres and a minimum frontage of 400 feet.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted 6:1 to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,322 NO 493 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE TWENTY (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by petition in Amendment No. 19:

The following is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 19 as proposed by petition for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 19 would amend Section 702 by defining intermittent and ephemeral streams and setbacks there from; regulating intermittent streams and their setbacks as wetlands and water bodies and their setbacks are currently regulated; stipulating limitations of, and Special Exceptions relative to, activities that may take place within the intermittent stream or its setback; and defining the applicability of Administrative Permits to such intermittent streams and related setbacks.

At a Public Hearing held March 28, 2006, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting NOT approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 675 NO 1,102 ARTICLE DEFEATED

BUSINESS MEETING

Moderator Black announced the Ray School signing group and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Moderator Black introduced the Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and Town staff.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To choose the following Town Officers to be elected by a majority vote:

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to nominate the following persons for the following offices:

One member of the Advisory Board of Assessors for a term of three (3) years; Richard Birnie; Three Fence Viewers and one alternate, each for a term of one (1) year; Edward Latham, William Garrity, Lucie Minsk, and Robert Morris

(alternate); Two Surveyors of Wood and Timber, each for a term of one (1) year; Willem Lange and John Richardson; One Pine Park Commissioner for a term of three (3) years; Richard Nordgren and such other officers as the Town may judge necessary for managing its affairs. SECONDED by Selectman Lubrano.

There was no discussion on Article twenty-one. **The motion PASSED unanimously and the nominees were ELECTED.**

ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO: 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.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers as printed in the 2005 Town Report be accepted, as well as any Special Resolutions. The motion was SECONDED.

Aileen Chaltain, Chair of the Hanover Parks & Recreation Board presented the Hanover Parks and Recreation Volunteer of the Year Award to the Hanover Lions Club.

“On behalf of the Hanover Parks & Recreation Department and the Recreation Board, I am pleased and very proud to present the Volunteer of the Year award to the Hanover Lions Club. Cam Rankin, is with us to accept the award for the Lions Club.

Founded in 1917, the Lions Club mantra is "we serve," simply that, ‘we serve’ and boy do they ever!

The LIONS, whose name stands for Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety is made up entirely of volunteers, men and women from all walks of life. The very diverse membership has a single focus – to provide community services and capital projects benefiting the entire Upper Valley including support for:

Arthritis Camp
Assistance for the Needy
Audiology Fund
Audrey Prouty Bike/Walk-A-Thon
Boy/Cub/Girl Scouts
Camp Allen
Camp Mayhew
Christmas for the Needy
COVER
Dartmouth Relays
Eyeglasses and Hearing Aid Assistance for the Needy
The Family Place
Good Beginnings

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council
Hanover After School Program
Hanover Community Center
Hanover Conservation Council
Hanover High School Scholarships
Hanover High School Senior Class Party
Hannah House
Hanover Recreation Winter Pond Party
Hanover Senior Citizens Barbeque
Headrest
Howe Library
Jr/Sr Babe Ruth Baseball
Junior Solar Sprint
Kids & Cops Project
Lions International Sight First
Red Cross Blood Drive
Reservoir Road Ball field
Therapeutic Riding Program
Twin State Soccer
Upper Valley Haven
Upper Valley Hostel
Visiting Nurse Association—Hospice
West Central—Paddle Boats
Youth-in-Action

For many, many years, the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department, its programs, and the children and community members who participate in them, have been the beneficiary of Lions Club’s volunteer support. Their dedication and commitment to this community is everywhere you look. They helped build the baseball fields at Sachem and Grasse Rd. They have quietly donated funds to install a sound system at the new RW Black Center. They are always just a phone call away for Hank when we need help with special events such as Women in Sports Day, our Tsunami Relief effort, the Hurricane Katrina Relief effort, and the Alstead NH “Help a Neighbor” flood relief project.

The Lions Club’s on-going support of the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department allows us to offer quality programs for our community. And not only do they contribute directly towards the support of our programs, several Lions Club members have also served on the Rec. Board over the years.

This is not a group looking for praise or attention. That’s not who they are or how they operate. It is simply a group of fellow citizens who look to serve others in the best way they can. The Hanover Lions Club and its members contribute so much to our community.

So, THANK YOU, Hanover Lions Club for all you do for the Hanover Recreation Department and for entire community. We are lucky to be living in a community with such caring individuals.

The Hanover Parks and Recreation Board's annual volunteer service award is presented to an individual or group who contributes their time, above and beyond ordinary service, for the citizens of Hanover. The men and women of the Hanover Lions Club who have been serving the Hanover community since 1937 are the 2006 recipients."

Cam Rankin, accepted the award on behalf of the Hanover Lions Club. "Thank you very much. I just wanted to outline a few other things that you didn't cover as far as who we are. First of all, I want to acknowledge a few of the folks in the audience. I see Gary and Carlotta Nevers, Joan Weider, Marty Corcoran and Bill Crooker over here. Bill, would you stand up please? Bill has been a Lion for over 50 years. It's really a privilege on behalf of the Lions to be standing up here. For people like Bill and the rest of us, there are roughly 50 members in our club, we meet the first and third Thursdays at the Hanover Inn roughly around 6:15 for camaraderie, dinner and education. It's a lot of fun. We have people from the various organizations that we support, come talk about what they're up to, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief. We have celebrities from CATV come. This last go round we had celebrity movie star Julia Griffin. I don't know if you know her.

So that's part 1. Part 2 is raising money, as you can see we raise a lot of money. We do that through the Auto, Boat and RV Show and we do parking for the football games and the Shriner's game. On the 24th of June we're going to be doing a hidden garden tour which takes place in different towns throughout the Upper Valley. This coming year on June 24th it will be in Woodstock, last year it was Thetford, the year before it was in Hartland and next year it will be in Hanover. The money goes to all of these organizations as well as Lebanon College. We're doing a joint venture with Lebanon College for scholarships. And, we also get out and do barbecues for the Seniors, we do all the barbecue for the Audrey Prouty bicycle ride fundraiser. We also serve dinners at the Community Center and Hank, I'd like to ask if you could change the menu, I think people are getting bored with the spaghetti and red sauce there. Finally, I just want to make a little pitch for anybody that's got a few hours to give towards the community and having fun with our neighbors, look at coming to one of those meetings on the first and third Thursday, we'd love to have a few new folks, every year we're going to lose a few to attrition, as any organization would. I've been with them for over 15 years and have had a lot of fun with it so I'd like to invite you to come. If anybody has a project, whether it be a small project or a large project that they want financial assistance, put it down on paper and put it in the mail and send it to P.O. Box 807, Hanover, and we'd love to look at it because we are always entertaining new ideas and we do have funds for something significant that will go towards possibly some kind of community building or a trail system or whatever. So give us some ideas so we can come up with a real winner for the Town of Hanover. I'm going to leave and hand out some brochures about the garden tour, if you can come, take one, if not pass it on to the next person. Thank you very much."

Moderator Black announced Ruth Ann Groh who will present a Resolution for Alice Jackson on behalf of the League of Women Voters.

Ruth Ann Groh gave the following presentation:

“I’m speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters here to introduce a Resolution honoring Alice Jackson who lived from 1918 until 2006.

Alice Jackson, a community leader in the fields of public health, care of the environment and the education of children died at the age of 87 on April 15, 2006. She and her husband, the late Dr. Raymond S. Jackson, had lived in Hanover since 1966. During her lifetime, because of her volunteer efforts and leadership, Alice was honored by seven different organizations from 1987 – 2005.

Her efforts to promote environmental awareness in Hanover and the Upper Valley are almost legendary. She helped to organize our “Green-Up” Day and our town and school Recycling Committees – and remained active with both until the end of her life – not just as a leader, but also as a hands-on volunteer on collection days. On a regional basis she helped to organize the Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

The Bernice A. Ray School’s children and staff have been fortunate to have Alice Jackson as a volunteer since 1970, the year the school was built. Her volunteer work in our school began with her involvement in developing the Nature Trail behind the school. She quickly moved into working with a second and third grade co-operative teaching class. She was instrumental in designing and developing unique and clever methods of teaching children in the areas of reading, spelling, math and science. Alice used hands-on activities in all areas of the curriculum and was especially talented in helping children with skills that they found difficult. She designed and produced flash cards, board games, crossword puzzles and wrote skits to help the children understand and master these skills. All the children were eager to be with Mrs. Jackson.

Alice helped with the second and third grade garden project and even weeded and gathered the vegetables throughout the summer. She would freeze the vegetables so that she could use them in the fall when she would make, with the children, her very famous soup recipe that she created called “Dolch Word Vegetable Soup”. This became a popular treat each fall for all the second and third grade students and teachers.

Another aspect of Alice’s work at the Ray school was her involvement with the third grade Japanese Festival. It was one of her joys!! She taught the Tea Ceremony to every third grade student for years. When the children from past years bumped into Alice, they always mentioned remembering the Tea Ceremony.

She had just finished working with this year’s third grade class in preparation for the Japanese Festival when she was hospitalized. Alice’s dedication to the children of the Bernice A. Ray School was endless. She was a mentor, an educational partner and a very special friend. We will miss her.

Alice personified the idea that good things come in small packages. Her widespread influence and effect on people came about through her gentle persuasiveness and unassuming manner. She was one of the most self-effacing persons we knew. She always gave credit to her committee, to others and shied away from any aggrandizement.

In the League of Women Voters, too, she was known for her soups. As chair of our Natural Resources Committee, she provided her committee members with lunch, and looked after each and every person. Along with this nurturing manner went an openness to criticism and a rigorous intellect. Alice had the ability to lead by example, to let everyone have a chance to share their thoughts and skillfully bring the committee to a conclusion that all agreed with.

How did she find the time and energy to do all that she did? I think this will remain a mystery. Alice was a genuine team player, willing, in her quiet, cheerful and intelligent way, to take on whatever menial chores needed to be done. While she was living, many of us only saw one facet of Alice's good works and did not realize the extent of her involvement in other activities. Thank you." *Lee Udy, Elaine Hawthorne, Suzanna Liepmann, Kim Perez, and Charlotte Faulkner contributed to this tribute which was edited by Ruth Ann Groh.*

Moderator Black pointed out that Alice never had a driver's license and she walked to the Ray School from Hemlock Road for 36 years. Hanover is going to miss her dearly.

Moderator Black announced the Consent Agenda, Articles Twenty Three through Twenty eight.

Chairman Walsh MOVED Articles Twenty-Three through Article Twenty-Eight as written in the Town Warrant. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED the motion. Chairman Walsh summarized the Articles for the benefit of the audience. He also announced that if anyone wanted to vote on an article separately, he requests that they raise their hands.

ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,177.50 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 2004-2005. 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 TWENTY-FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,177.50 for deposit into the Conservation Fund created as authorized by RSA 36-

A:5.1, 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 2004-2005. 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 TWENTY-FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,880 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 2004-2005.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$589,510 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	\$ 44,000
Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements and Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 10,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$101,400
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$195,000
Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 2,660
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 50,000
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$186,450

Lewis Saper asked how the money for this article would be raised. Chairman Walsh advised that it would be raised by parking taxes. Elsa Garmerier asked how the numbers came about and why they are what they are. Chairman Walsh advised that for all of the equipment in town, there is a schedule as to how long it is expected the vehicles will last. In the case of police vehicles it's 4 years, some equipment goes out as far as 30 years, there are estimates as to how much the Town will make by selling these items in a secondary market. This year the Selectmen are looking to fund 75% of what is on that schedule. This year because of the storm damage it was decided that they would fund $\frac{3}{4}$ of it to bring the tax rate down a little bit.

Anne Crowe asked if it would be reasonable to take this item and consider it at budget. Chairman Walsh advised that this was considered as they built the budget and it can be

taken out but it is smaller than it would have been. This can be taken out of the Consent Agenda to take this out and vote on it separately.

David Cioffi would like to AMEND the motion. Chairman Walsh advised that Article 26 would be taken out of the consent calendar to be discussed and voted on separately.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$567,083 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:

Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Rescue vehicle #151 and hydraulic extrication equipment</i>	\$215,026
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Sidewalk tractors 01 and 02; vacuum and manhole cleaner and sweeper</i>	\$278,912
Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Parking Operations vehicle</i>	\$ 15,845
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Utility Pick-up; Truck #16222</i>	\$ 57,300

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, 2012, whichever is sooner.

Chairman Walsh noted that this article is where the money is taken out for purchases. He went on to detail the above listed items.

Tim Pillsbury asked about the vacuum manhole cleaner and sweeper. Is this a second one or is it a replacement? Chairman Walsh advised that it is a replacement for the one that the Town currently has that is 10 years old.

ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$51,513 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, 2012, whichever is sooner.

Chairman Walsh summarized Article Twenty-Eight and asked for further discussion. Stan Colla, Rip Road, advised that he would have an easier time voting for this article or removing it from the consent calendar if the Select Board could give some kind of idea as to what the plan is for Reservoir Road.

Chairman Walsh advised that the \$51,513 is for work that essentially was committed when the decision to build the school was made and the work was going to be stretched over 3 years. When dealing with the budget itself, the hardest job the Selectmen had this year was to figure out how to budget the issues in to include the June 10th storm. Relative to Reservoir Road, there has not been a decision made whether to improve it or whether not improve it. The decision that was made was to budget this year and next year sufficient funds to pay for the totality of the improvements from that storm. There will be a set of public hearings in the near future. Ms. Griffin advised that the meeting with regard to Reservoir Road is scheduled for May 15th. Chairman Walsh advised that financially, it is going to be provided for but the decision as whether to do it or not has not yet been determined.

A resident asked why there was a decision to put another roundabout on Reservoir Road instead of a stop light or a police officer. Chairman Walsh advised that this allows traffic to move more freely and cost less money. There tends to be less queuing with a roundabout so from that perspective it was the Town's perspective and the Planning Board's concurrence that a roundabout was the best option. This also gives a way for people to change direction when leaving the school. Chairman Walsh also advised that the roundabout at Reservoir Rd will be twice the diameter of the roundabout north of the school.

Another resident wanted to confirm that this will not affect the tax rate. Chairman Walsh confirmed that it will not because this was raised by an additional \$5.00 fee on motor vehicle registrations so it will not come out of property taxes.

Moderator Black advised that there is an amendment to remove Article 26 from the Consent Agenda and to make it a separate vote. SECONDED by David Bradley. Moderator Black asked for a vote as to whether Article 26 should be taken out of the consent agenda. The majority of the vote was against removing Article 26 from the Consent Agenda.

A resident made a point of order, stated that the idea was that the Article could be voted on separately and the majority wanted to leave it in. Moderator Black asked for a vote on the Consent Agenda for all articles EXCEPT Article 26. **Articles Twenty-three through Twenty-eight PASSED with the exception of Article Twenty-six which will be discussed and voted on separately and were ADOPTED jointly as written.**

Chairman Walsh announced Article 26 and advised that this is where the Town takes money from property taxes to be put into the Capital Reserve Fund. The amounts listed in the Article are three-fourths of the amount that the Board normally would have recommended based on the long schedule of town vehicle replacement. It was the Board of Selectmen's judgment to go with three-fourths funding since zero funding is not a reasonable option.

Hilary Pridgen asked if Article 27 would also have been at three-fourths for funding this year. Chairman Walsh advised that it would be close to three-fourths.

Tim Pillsbury asked if it would make sense to vote on Article 26 after hearing the rest of the budget. Chairman Walsh felt that this would make sense.

David Cioffi asked if the budget is voted down, would that mean the money that was appropriated in the Article would be voted down? Chairman Walsh advised that the vote is done separately but he feels that if they voted for Article 26 and then the budget was voted down, it would need to be voted down after that.

Bob Norman, felt that the Board did well to keep it under the amount requested from last year and he felt that some of the figures are under three-fourths funded.

Gordon McCooch, Lyme Road, wanted to know if Article 26 is not voted in approval, is there enough money to pay for the items in Article 27. Chairman Walsh advised that the money would be there to pay for those items.

David Bradley referred to page 57, there is \$2.7 million in the reserve so it's not like we're going to run out of money if it's not put in the reserve. Chairman Walsh noted that when towns do not reserve, it ends up raising taxes in the future. David Bradley does not agree with this, what we have done for decades now is put in about what we take out leaving in about \$2.7 million which he does not feel is fiscally responsible. Chairman Walsh wanted to point out things like a fire truck ladder which costs roughly \$750,000 which has been saved for, for a number of years. There is a sewage treatment plant that was funded largely by federal funds but it is going to be the Town's burden. He feels that it serves us well to keep in line with this process. Ms. Griffin also pointed out which is not in the Town Report, the equipment replacement schedule for the Town, each of the funds has the equipment replacement plan for every piece of rolling stock, the amount that we contribute each year and the amount that we expend each year are significant. In particular if you look at page 57, the most significant expense by far is the sewer equipment facility improvement fund. The town is looking at over \$11 million in improvements for water reclamation. The goal is to set aside the same amount each year so that there isn't an intermittent shock to the tax rate.

David Bradley advised that he can accept the philosophy for something harsh that is done over time but in fact that is not what we've done over time with most of these funds. Every year we put half a million, \$800,000, whatever it is in and then we spend it on the same amount. For all of these years you've been sitting on the taxpayers money more than necessary, that's my view.

Christian Passow noted that the amount to be put into the Capital Reserve Fund represents three quarters of what it would normally be, do the taxpayers have the option of adding the last quarter? Chairman Walsh does not recommend putting in the last quarter. Ms. Griffin pointed out that it could be amended to add the other quarter. Mr. Passow referred to page II-19, one component of the budget increase is to reinstate

reduced level of transfers to capital reserve funds and he wondered what it was being reduced from and what it's reinstating.

Ms. Griffin advised that her job as the manager is to meet the tax rate budget. This year the Board gave a 4% tax rate increase budget, so she had to cut \$255,000 worth of capital reserve. The Board decided that they needed to stay with their capital reserve policy and decided to reinstate three-fourths of what they would have liked to set aside in the capital reserve. What you see on page II-19 is an explanation of a piece of the component of the 15% tax rate increase and of that 4.62% is related to try to restore as much of the capital reserve in addition to everything else they are trying to do with the budget. Mr. Passow noted that the \$255,000 brings the reserve up to three-fourths.

Kari Asmus asked if the Article were to be approved that it would be part of the 15% tax rate. Chairman Walsh advised that this is correct.

Chairman Walsh asked to defer voting on this Article until after reviewing the budget presentation but before voting on the budget itself. It was the wish of the majority of the audience to move forward.

Moderator Black advised that Article 26 would be set aside for now and moved on to Article 29.

ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700,000 to purchase a replacement Aerial Tower for the Fire Department and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the issuance of not more than \$350,000 of bonds, notes or to enter into a capital lease with no escape clause in said amount in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes or capital lease and to determine the rate of interest thereon; payable over a term of Ten Years; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$350,000 from the Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (The anticipated cost of the first year's lease payment is included in Article 32). A two-thirds vote is required on this article.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700,000 to purchase a replacement Aerial Tower for the Fire Department and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the issuance of not more than \$350,000 of bonds, notes or to enter into a capital lease with no escape clause in said amount in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes or capital lease and to determine the rate of interest therein; payable over a term of Ten Years; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$350,000 from the Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (The anticipated cost of the first year's lease payment is included in Article 32). A two-thirds vote is required on this article. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED the motion.

Selectman Baschnagel summarized Article Twenty-nine for the audience. We need a new aerial ladder truck. The current truck was purchased back in 1978, it was

refurbished in the early 90's, we've had problems with it recently both in terms of equipment failure on the truck, putting it out of order and excessive costs in repairs, 30 years is enough, we need a new one but the challenge is that it is very expensive. In the course of putting the budget together, we worried about this large piece of equipment and felt that it needed to be treated differently than the average bucket truck, or dump truck or new police cruiser, things like that. The proposal is to split the cost into two components. \$350,000 (half the cost) to be pulled from the existing Fire Department equipment reserve, and the expectation is that the balance will be covered in a multi-year, 10 year lease to be \$44,000/yr so half will be taken out of reserve funds, half over a lease payment which will run over a period of 10 years. Ms. Griffin stated that \$44,000/year for 10 years is the lease amount. The fact that we are proposing to enter into a multi-year lease, which means we are committing the Town and not just this Town Meeting, but the Town Meetings for the next 10 years for the \$44,000/year is what requires that it be treated as if it were a mini bond vote. So basically, we're talking about purchasing a new fire aerial truck for \$700,000, \$350,000 from capital reserve, \$350,000 to be paid under a lease.

Elsa Garmire noted that it appears that there's only \$200,000 in the capital equipment fund for the Fire Department for the equipment and if we voted on this, it would be adding more but it still wouldn't get to \$350,000. Ms. Griffin advised that if you look at that line item, we deposited \$98,500 in this past budget year, we will then be spending \$340,000 and there is interest that accrues in this account. Ms. Garmire felt that as of May of 2005 there is \$200,000 in it. Betsy McClain, Town Finance Director, advised that it doesn't show the action from last year which is the difference.

Bob Peet of Etna asked about the \$44,000 over 10 years which is \$440,000 and the difference is costing the Town about \$100,000. Selectman Baschnagel advised that the alternative is to defer and to continue to approve funds on an annual basis. Mr. Peet feels that maybe the Town should borrow from themselves and pay themselves. He also feels this is not a good idea and who gets the extra \$100,000. Selectman Baschnagel advised that it goes to the company that the lease is being acquired from.

Ms. Griffin advised that normally they could borrow the difference from the undesignated fund balance but \$210,000 was taken to fix the roads from the storm damage and the thought was to borrow it over 10 years, instead of 20-30 years to spare the Fire District tax rate from going up.

Jim Rubens asked where the \$44,000 figure came from. Betsy McClain advised that the \$44,000 came from a proposed lease that isn't budgeted into yet. If Town Meeting approves this warrant article the Town could negotiate the lease and she does not have the lease agreement with her so she can not report on the interest rate.

Judy Reeve asked how many years beyond the 10 year lease this new vehicle will last. Chief Bradley advised that typically a piece of fire apparatus, depending on it's location and how much use it gets, dictates it's life. In Hanover, a piece of fire apparatus will last at least 20 and 25 years, unlike New York City where it may last 10. The 30 year life has

not been without expense, repair, etc. He would expect this new piece of apparatus to last 20 – 25 years.

Stan Colla, asked whether at the end of the 10 year period do we own the whole truck of half a truck. Selectman Baschnagel advised that the Town would own the whole truck. Ann Morris, advised that she's assuming that this is a ladder truck and is the new truck AFSCME rate as high as the present truck and will it to provide service for buildings that are higher than we currently have.

Chief Roger Bradley advised that the current ladder truck is 85 ft. We anticipate purchasing a truck with a minimum of 95 feet high. Depending on what they end up with and the amount of money, they could end up with a ladder at 105 feet. Ms. Morris asked if it would allow higher buildings. Selectman Baschnagel pointed out that it would not necessarily allow higher buildings because the zoning board controls that and not the fire department.

Elizabeth Crory asked a question as to the wording of the Article and based upon those words, do you as the Town have the option as to how this is going to be funded, whether it is by note, capital lease or bond and are we authorizing you now to make the best financial decision? Selectman Baschnagel confirmed that this is correct, it is allowing the Town to get the best financing possible.

Jim Rubens, to what extent is this piece of equipment and others like it, with regard to sharing with other municipalities. Ms. Griffin advised that in a previous budget discussion with regard to ISO ratings. There was extra money spent to come into compliance with ISO requirements for firefighting capability. The Town also applied for a declining grant to add 4 full time firefighters. For every single call received, the ladder truck should be rolled with 2 engines. Chief Bradley advised that 80% of alarms are false alarms. Ms. Griffin advised that ISO is there to protect property which provides a rating to the insurance companies, they want the maximum manning for every single call so the maximum is one ladder and two engines for every call which means that they can not share the ladder with Lebanon and Hartford. Lebanon has a ladder and Hartford has a "quint" and in fact they often respond when we have multiple alarm calls in Hanover.

Jim Rubens asked about other equipment that might not be ISO related. Chairman Walsh advised that ISO is a non-governmental agency that is put together by the insurance companies. The Selectman looked at this very carefully to reduce the costs of individual homeowners and commercial property owners.

Bob Russell, had two questions on this topic. First, are these malicious false alarms and second, are there penalties for false alarms and what does Dartmouth contribute toward this cost. Ms. Griffin noted that there are fees associated with false alarms. Secondly, as a reminder, in NH, private colleges pay property taxes on dormitories and dining halls in excess of \$150,000 of their value. One could argue that they are paying a significant property tax which would cover this cost.

Chief Roger Bradley clarified the difference between false alarms and malicious false alarms. In a year there are typically 8 or 9 malicious alarms, the rest of the alarms are responses where there is no actual fire but due to construction, a smoke detector gets activated. Back in time, years ago, they used to respond to more “working fires” where a fire has gone beyond the working stages but in recent times, over the last 15 years or so with the upgrades in smoke detection technology, and the requirements of smoke detectors systems installed in new construction, there is an earlier jump on potential problems. Also for further clarification, please consider the fact that the ladder truck is for more than reaching the ISO requirement. First, the safety of the firefighters and operating at fires in elevation. Something as innocuous as a chimney fire, they are much safer and it will help with rescues from tall buildings or short buildings.

Bob Strauss, technically if you are going to buy on time or your going to bond, couldn't the Town throw the money into the State pool and get the best rate. Does this qualify? Betsy McClain advised that this is an option that the Town would look in to.

Moderator Black asked for a vote. They asked for the audience members to write in either yes or no on the issue of whether to purchase a ladder truck. It requires a 2/3 vote to pass.

RESULTS: YES 236 NO 11 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE THIRTY: 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 March 20, 2006, between the Town of Hanover and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO), Local 561, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits for its members:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2005-2006	\$3,026
2006-2007	\$45,519
2007-2008	\$28,611 (low) to \$50,819 (high)

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,519 for the 2006-2007 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 Lubrano MOVED that the Town vote to approve the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 20, 2006, between the Town of Hanover and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO), Local 561, and to raise the appropriate funds for additional increases in salaries and benefits for its members. Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion.

Selectman Lubrano advised that the Town and the IBPO spent a lot of time working on this article. She gave an overview of the information provided. She feels that this is a fair agreement. There was no further discussion.

The motion PASSED unanimously and Article 30 was ADOPTED as written.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2005-2006	\$3,026
2006-2007	\$45,519
2007-2008	\$28,611 (low) to \$50,819 (high)

ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE: 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 March 20, 2006, between the Town of Hanover and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local 3288, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits for its members:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2005-2006	\$ 2,135
2006-2007	\$14,157
2007-2008	\$7,364 (low) to \$22,093 (high)

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,157 for the 2006-2007 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 Lubrano MOVED that the Town vote to approve the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 20, 2006, between the Town of Hanover and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local 3288, and to raise and appropriate funds for additional increases in salaries and benefits for its members. Selectman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2005-2006	\$ 2,135
2006-2007	\$14,157
2007-2008	\$7,364 (low) to \$22,093 (high)

Selectman Lubrano gave an overview of the agreement and there was no further discussion. Moderator Black noted that the police and firemen would receive a 2% increase.

The motion PASSED unanimously and Article 31 was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE THIRTY-TWO: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,454,185 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2006-2007 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 presented the rest of the budget to the Town with the following introduction: For the last several years, I have had the privilege of presenting the town budget at Town Meeting. I have done so with confidence and perhaps even a touch of smugness, since who could object to yet another budget increasing only by the CPI? What a difference a year makes. I remain confident that the right decisions have been made, but whatever smugness might have existed is long gone as this year's recommended budget represents a 15% increase in the General Fund tax rate and an average increase of almost 7% in the Fire Fund tax rate.

In last year's presentation, I noted that recent budgets had been balanced on the backs of our paving fund and by drawing down on undesignated reserves. How ironic that just one month later Murphy would jump up to inflict a one hundred year storm that would wipe out several roads and would require us to further tap into our already diminished reserves. Why, oh why, did I tempt Murphy?

Without going into all the detail that is available to you in the Town Report, let's briefly discuss the key drivers of this years budget, remembering that \$55,000 of budget expense represents 1% on the tax rate.

By far the largest impact is from the June storm. After trying to tap several Federal and State emergency management funds, it is now clear that we are most likely on our own to pay for the repairs.

The Select Board decided to bite the bullet over two years figuring that to do so in one year would just be too much, and worrying that by year three, those of us over 60 would have forgotten what this was all about.

We are also sensitive to the step increase in the School Tax Rate that we will experience when Dartmouth's school grant runs its course, and wanted to get the road repairs behind us before then.

Last summer, \$210,000 was spent from the Town's undesignated fund balance in order to perform interim repairs to get the damaged roadways back in service. Those reserves now need to be replenished. In addition, completing the repairs will cost \$170,000 for outside materials and services plus \$200,000 in staff time in this year's budget, with about the same amount needed next year as well.

The Select Board will treat these storm related expenses as a one time need, and has committed to NOT building these expenses in our on-going budget.

The Finance Committee has agreed to make sure we keep our promise.

In addition to storm damage repair, the Select Board reinstated the full long-term paving budget plus \$100,000 of catch up from prior year cuts. These cuts turned out to be neither advisable nor sustainable.

Another major driver to this budget is the funding of a new ladder truck – one half of which will be paid for from capital reserves and one half from lease financing. Repair costs, reliability, and functionality argued to move on this major acquisition now at a cost of approximately \$700,000.

Other drivers include:

- \$200,000 annualized increase for the costs of water by the Fire Fund once the new water treatment facility is brought on-line next January.
- An expected increase of \$175,000 for staff health insurance to reflect the anticipated 13% increase in premiums.
- A \$71,000 increase in the cost of electricity as a result of losing the “transition rate” previously required of National Grid by the PUC, and
- \$51,000 as the third and last installment to complete the Lyme Road improvements for the Middle School.

Stepping back a little, I think that it is important to reflect on how our standard of living has grown in recent years. We are enjoying a wonderful new community center, a renovated and expanded town library, improved roads for our next village center along Route 10, and later this summer an expanded response team for each fire call. Soon we will have cleaner water delivered to our homes and we already have cleaner water returning to the Connecticut River via our treatment plant.

These improvements have all come with a cost and have increased our on-going municipal budget. The Select Board is sensitive to their cumulative impact. We know that even 7% increases to the tax rate are not sustainable, not to mention 15%. We will be looking carefully, with the help of staff and the Finance Committee, at five year projections to make sure that we work our way back to sustainable increases.

We have also recently received the first draft of a Capital Improvement Plan that will help us look over several decades and help us debate and manage the impact of growth on Town infrastructure such as wastewater treatment, roads, parking and other key aspects of our quality of life.

As we look down the road, I also have a concern that measuring our “budget goodness” by the CPI as we have done for some time now is not the right yardstick. While the CPI

is most meaningful to the taxpayer, the CPI's bucket of goods is not representative of the makeup of town expenses. I hope that we will address this issue in the coming year.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that while next year's budget will also be impacted by the storm damage, we are committed to getting back to more sustainable increases as quickly as possible.

No presentation of the budget would be complete without recognizing the effort put in by Julia and Betsy, and this year particularly by the department heads. The department heads went well beyond the call by identifying painful cuts in their original budget requests to offset this year's special needs. So a well-deserved special thanks and round of applause please for our department heads, and to all those who helped them pull this budget together. Please stand up.

Selectman Christie opened the floor for questions.

Moderator Black brought the discussion back to Article 26. **Chairman Walsh advised that Article 26 had already been MOVED and SECONDED.** Moderator Black asked for a vote. **The motion PASSED unanimously and Article 26 was ADOPTED as written.**

Selectman Christie MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$16,454,185 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2006-2007 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 LUBRANO seconded the motion.

Athos Rassias, Chair of the Hanover Finance Committee, wanted to present their report. The Finance Committee is comprised of members of the community appointed by the Town Moderator and their task is to monitor, review and participate in the budget process of the Town. Mr. Rassias reported that he has been on the Committee for 8 years and in meeting with the Select Board and Town administrators, it has been obvious that the citizens have benefited greatly from the steady handed approach and as the budget changes to levels close to CPI and minimizing the impact to the taxpayers has been a great priority of the town leaders. This past year there were events that were unforeseeable and there were some painful decisions. The Finance Committee unanimously supports the Select Board's decisions to fund the bulk of the expenses over a 2 year period and at the same time preserve the town services. This decision is appropriate and demonstrates continued responsible management as seen over the years. Fortunately, one would hope that many of the issues that are pressuring us to make these decisions are time limited and is reasonable to expect that there will be a decrease in the tax rate in future years.

Dave Vincelette, wanted to comment with regard to the discussions about the quality of water. He owns property in Hanover and bought the land in 1984 and has always thought that the Town was a decent town. A few weeks before the floods last year he had

concerns about used asphalt gravel being dumped on his property. You can't dump this stuff on private property. The town, for the last 8 years, has been taking the wasted asphalt all the way up Moose Mountain and two weeks later, it was a big problem. The town put a \$30,000 lien on my property.

Moderator Black requested that he speak to the budget.

Mr. Vincelette noted that the Town claimed to save \$40,000 by dumping the used asphalt gravel. Maybe the Town shouldn't be filled with asphalt waste and the State said they're supposed to stop, it's not supposed to be anywhere that it could go into the water. From my perspective, this is foolish money being spent.

Jim Rubens from Etna, would like to raise the connection in this budget and the increase in taxes of 15% and global warming. He noted the water disaster in Keene and he feels that there is a connection in this budget and global warming. This might not go away after 2 because it is likely that we will see more of this kind of climatic variability and that it may therefore require the town to beef up the engineering of their roads and the budget impacts might not go away. He has nothing but praise for the local officials but for those in Washington, when candidates are wondering what is on our minds, they should know that the climate changes do effect the budget, they need to deal with carbon pollution, and we should ask our state legislators to deal with greenhouse gases and to remove the \$1/4 trillion in annual subsidies at the federal level for fossil fuels.

Robert Chambers, asked how much the tax rate increase would be for a \$400,000 home in Hanover in comparison to last year. Ms. Griffin advised it would be \$224. She is looking at about a \$400 increase on her own property on Carriage Lane and reminded residents to keep in mind that when you get your tax bill, you don't look at the Municipal portion, you look at bottom line, your tax rate will go up about 7%. The Municipal portion of the tax rate is fairly small.

Elizabeth Crory had the same question as Mr. Chambers. She had called the Town and asked about the 15% increase and how that fits in with the total tax increase because it was shocking at first glance but she pointed out that the total increase to the tax would be around 7%.

Moderator Black advised that the Town budget is less than 22% of the total tax bill and the rest is the county and schools.

Another resident wanted to have Ms. Griffin highlight what items were cut from the budget. Ms. Griffin advised that there was \$224,000 cut. There were a lot of travel and training items, expenditures for "nice" but not essential equipment. The budget that you are looking at right now has already reflects \$1/4 million dollars that we all agree that we can live without. When the original budget was submitted to the Board, she did so without any money in Capital Reserve but the Select Board wanted to fund a portion of this.

Moderator Black called for a vote. **The motion PASSED and Article 32 was ADOPTED as written.** The budget passes.

ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE: To see if the Town will ratify the action taken at the May 8, 2001 Town Meeting to allow the Town, in accordance with RSA 80:52-c, to authorize the acceptance of payment by credit cards to allow the Town to absorb the credit card processing fees for certain payments; however, this ratification will not apply to the payment of taxes or utility services.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED that the Town ratify the action taken at the May 8, 2001 Town Meeting to allow the Town, in accordance with RSA 80:52-c, to authorize the acceptance of payment by credit cards to allow the Town to absorb the credit card processing fees for certain payments; however, this ratification will not apply to the payment of taxes or utility services. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED the motion.

Selectman Baschnagel advised that there have been consistent requests to allow for payments to be made by credit card.

Bob Russell asked how much is the loss to the town. Selectman Baschnagel advised that it is about 3-5% and that the fees could be adjusted. The fees that could be charged are parking fees and recreation fees.

Moderator Black asked for a vote. The verbal vote was unclear. A manual count was required to determine the result of the vote.

RESULTS: YES 130 NO 55 Article Thirty-Three PASSES and was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Planning Board to require preliminary review of subdivisions as stipulated in State Law RSA 674:35 and preliminary review of site plans as stipulated in State Law RSA 674:43.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town vote to authorize the Planning Board to require preliminary review of subdivisions as stipulated in State Law RSA 674:35 and preliminary review of site plans as stipulated in State Law RSA 674:43. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED.

Vice Chairman Connolly advised that in considering development on land with environmental constraints, specifically wetlands and flood plains, developments need to be reviewed by both the Planning Board for subdivision and site planning and by the Zoning Board of Adjustment to reflect special exceptions. Because special exceptions are a necessary component to establish the legal validity of a subdivision per site plan application, special exception review needs to be undertaken first. It has become increasingly apparent in reviewing special exception proposals, the Zoning Board must

act without knowing whether the proposal is acceptable to the Planning Board regarding use, density, site design, circulation, off-site impacts and related issues. At times the Zoning Board has found itself thrust beyond strict jurisdictional limits. Likewise, the Planning Board and subsequent subdivision site plan review has found itself bound by the special exceptions granted by the Zoning Board. Meanwhile the Planning Board feels that a different site plan may be more appropriate. Without changes to the Planning Board procedural authorization, and Zoning Ordinance which is Article 2 voted on earlier today, there is no legally valid way to the Planning Board's requirement, even a preliminary one to develop a proposal before the Zoning Board. The end result of this is that if we require a preliminary site plan or subdivision review before any applicant goes to the Zoning Board, you have all the information in tact and it's good for the applicant because the applicant gets to do it once. The Planning Board has the full range of information that it needs and the Planning Board review has begun. We need your authorization to enable the Planning Board to require this preliminary review.

Robert Norman asked the question as to what happens if Article 2 doesn't pass. Vice Chairman Connolly advised that if Article 2 doesn't pass, then the Zoning Board would have to hear the application first. Article 2 authorizes the Zoning Board to wait for the Planning Board which is a change from current practice. Vice Chairman Connolly advised that this is probably going to be easier on the applicant.

Judy Reeve, Conservation Commission, advised that they are not a board that can make these decisions, but they see site plans and they are trying to make recommendations to the Boards and from her point of view, this would really simplify matters for the developers of land as well as the Boards.

Moderator Black asked for a vote.

The motion PASSED unanimously and Article 34 was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by Bonnie CLAC. This is the second year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by Bonnie CLAC. This is the second year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Robert Chambers, President of Bonnie CLAC, advised that the system of selling cars in the United States has impacted people with low income. Most of them make a higher monthly payments on older used cars with high mileage than they would with a new car with a low interest rate. The high monthly cost of used cars includes high fuel cost. Bonnie Clac's clients have reduced the demand of gas by 12,000 gallons of gas a month and the average car that we're helping to replace with a new car is 13 years old. This is pre-pollution control and many of these cars are really in bad shape. The second component of the high costs of used cars is on the sale of the car. The average gross

profit is about \$3,300 per vehicle. The gross margin that a base model vehicle produces is about \$1,100 and the imposition of the very high interest rates play a very strong component in that. We see people that are paying 25% interest for car loans and then unexpected repair bills that the 13 year old car creates and the social costs of not being able to show up for work, and this is one of Bonnie Clac's clients in Hanover and now she is saving to buy a home. The services that we provide, we teach people to understand how to budget and we won't guarantee a loan for somebody if they can't afford the payment, we have a temporary transportation program that people could take a donated vehicle. People have donated vehicles and they are greatly appreciated and are sorely needed. We guarantee the loans and of the 720 loans, the average interest rate is 5.85% which is better than most people pay on their own loans. We help negotiate with credit unions and banks and help with the insurance and we would appreciate your support. Mr. Chambers advised that they have assisted 135 people in the Town of Hanover.

Kari Asmus is full of admiration for the program but her concern again this year is that this organization is trying to get money from the tax rate when there are people who can not afford an increase in their taxes. She suggests that organizations approach individuals and would ask that the Town not contribute through their taxes. She will vote no.

Moderator Black advised that it has been the policy of the Town to support non-profits through taxes and if it's approved for 3 years in a row, it goes into the budget. As shown in the Town Report, certain non-profits have become part of the budget. This is Bonnie Clac's second year asking for money from the Town.

Moderator Black asked for a vote.

There was a split vote with the majority in favor. Article 35 PASSED.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SIX: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by the Upper Valley Humane Society. This is the first year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by the Upper Valley Humane Society. This is the first year this article has appeared on the warrant. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED.

Bob Field, Board Member of UVHS, is happy to be a part of the UVHS. The humane society provides a critical service and not just to Hanover but throughout the Upper Valley and although they don't get any grants they do receive financial support from contributions and they do have an extensive community appeal for annual funds to support their operating budget but they also feel that they should get the support from the various communities that they serve. They respond to calls, as you may have read about the 19 animals rescued in Wilder. They are looking for more sustained contributions for the various communities they serve and are asking for \$2,500 and are extending this request to the other communities that they serve in addition to Hanover.

Bill Paull from Etna noted that they are already paying a fee from the police department's budget for losses and he wondered what they are paying the Humane Society for. Moderator Black noted that this is for animals that are taken to the Humane Society. Ms. Griffin stated that there is \$500 budgeted for the expense but the fee is passed on to the entity that releases the animal. Mr. Paull asked if there was a fee charged to the owner. Ms. Griffin advised that there was a fee charged to the owner.

Moderator Black asked for a vote.

The motion PASSED unanimously and Article Thirty-Six was ADOPTED as written.

RESULTS: YES 127 NO 51 ARTICLE PASSED.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN: (Article by Petition) To see if the Town will vote to support the impeachment of President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney due to their arbitrary exercise of executive power by instituting a system of warrant-less wiretapping of American citizens in defiance of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Chairman Walsh MOVED Article 37 to see if the Town will vote to support the impeachment of President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney due to their arbitrary exercise of executive power by instituting a system of warrant-less wiretapping of American citizens in defiance of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED.

My name is Jerry King, I live at 80 Lyme Road and I'm new to the Town. Since I am the proximate author of Article 37 I hope you will think it appropriate to allow me a few moments to explain my thoughts. I recognize that these moments are a privilege offered only by a New England Town Meeting and I am appreciative of them. If I abuse this privilege through enthusiasm for my cause, I am sure the Moderator will bring me to heel.

The first thing I'd like to emphasize is that our debate about Article 37 tonight is NOT a partisan matter. To the issue at hand it makes no difference whether you are Republican, Democrat, Independent, Libertarian, or don't identify yourself with any political party at all. The issue at hand is the separation of powers as framed by the Constitution and the violation of that separation by the current Administration. Public officials take an oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution." I think duty and interest bind every one of us implicitly by the same oath. Though we cannot do what Congress is authorized to do, if we remain silent in the face of willful violation of the law, we fail both the Constitution and ourselves.

The "high crime" considered here was committed when the White House decided secretly to act against the terms of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA). By

its own admission, the Administration ordered the National Security Administration to flout this law, thereby allowing electronic eavesdropping without judicial supervision of any kind, against the express will and act of Congress. And this crime continues to be committed even now every hour of every day. If you think that's an exaggeration I'll refer you to an article in the Wall Street Journal of April 27th.

Perhaps some of you feel that although the Administration has been caught in contempt of a particular law, the number and gravity of problems facing the country overwhelm in importance what may seem an arcane matter of the balance of power between legislature and executive. Would it not be better if Congress focused on these other matters, rather than tying itself up for months in quasi-judicial hearings? Memories of the disgraceful impeachment of Clinton may also give pause. And finally, some of you may think that violation of FISA, which was until last November totally hidden from public view, hardly compares in importance to the other criminal acts of this Administration, such as the war of aggression against Iraq, endorsing torture, holding international treaties in contempt, and so on....

But suppose violation of FISA is passively accepted by Congress. On the Constitutional level, it would mean that Congress has been brought to accept Presidential undermining of its power to make law, and thus of its very reason for being. For us citizens, it means a slippery slope indeed: arbitrary and secret search, arbitrary and secret arrest, arbitrary and secret detention, arbitrary and secret trial, secret torture, "extraordinary rendition", "disappearance". They are all part of the same frame of reference – a view of national security exercised by an Administration which believes in its divine right to stick its searches, its police and its army wherever it pleases, without regard to any Constitutional restraints.

Unless we intend to leave our future to out-of-control power mongers like George Bush and Dick Cheney, it is up to us as citizens of every stripe and political conviction to think about and debate what kind of nation we are, and what we mean to become, by our words and actions today and every day. We urgently need to push – maybe even to shock (if not awe?) - Congress out of its current paralysis. Impeachment will oblige our representatives as a collective body to consider how to preserve their constitutionally granted power to legislate. The effort should help them recognize their common interest as law makers, and even, for a moment, surmount partisan deadlock. Even more importantly, it will remind future presidents of their Constitutional duty to "faithfully execute the laws," protecting us all against the arbitrary exercise of governmental power. Hanover's vote to support Article 37 will at one and the same time be a conservative act – looking to conserve the separation of powers which is one of our Constitution's vital features – and an expression of the "eternal vigilance" we know to be the keeper of our rights as citizens and human beings.

Moderator Black asked for any discussion on this Article.

Dennis Goodman, would prefer to keep the discussion on the question of procedure. He understands Mr. King's passion and that's quite legitimate. He has his own political

passions but he hasn't chosen to get them on the warrant of this meeting. We have in Hanover, 7,593 voters on the register and based on the votes counted tonight, we have fewer than 200 people in the audience and let's say every one of them vote in favor of Article 37 or 38. If everyone were to vote in favor of this petitioned article, you would have 2.6% of the public voting in favor and that means that 97% are not expressing themselves on this issue but to vote in favor is to put the Town of Hanover on record in favor of impeaching the President. It seems to me that one of the things that characterizes Hanover and we all think of ourselves as committed to fairness and while what the petitioners have done is quite legal, I don't think they are fairly on the ballot. This is not the way to go about putting Hanover on the record, I don't think this issue or anything like it belongs on the Warrant. None of this has been discussed previously as the other Articles were and now they are asking for a vote. I don't think that's fair and I think fairness is what this is all about and so I really ask that the sponsors, having made their point and having some publicity in the paper, having gone on record, now withdraw their article in the interest of fairness and if they wanted to be fair, what they should do is go door to door and get a majority of the voters of this Town to sign their petition, then they could state that the Town of Hanover favors impeachment. In no way to they speak for the other 97% and therefore the fair thing and the only thing they should do is withdraw. If they choose not to, I would like the opportunity to suggest an amendment.

Dick Braughmann, Etna, wanted the opportunity to vote to this issue. If we can't practice democracy here at home, how can we sell it abroad. I vote strongly in favor of this.

Jean Robinson, and she wanted to note that the statement that only 2.5% are able to vote is wrong, Town Meeting is open to all 7,000 voters and we don't have to pretend that we represent those that are not here.

Bob Strauss, was one of the petition carriers and spoke to about 30 households and 28 of the 30 signed the petition and you would have to speak to the other half dozen carriers but he thinks that response was overwhelmingly in favor.

Orrin Judd, stated that the advocates are speaking of the separation of powers as if that supported their argument when in fact it refutes it. The President is given the power to wage war. There has never been a case where the President went to Congress to see if it's okay to spy on the enemy. After 9/11 the Congress has allowed the President to use his powers in these types of circumstances. On its own terms, the amendment fails.

James Walk, noted that he was a soldier for 28 years and this particular article has to deal with the warrantless wire tap and if you consider what's happened in the past, the President who perhaps have done some things to safeguard us, we have had no further acts against us since 9/11 and so far we have remained untouched. Is this due to wiretapping? I don't know. But the result is that we have remained safe which is what the President of the United States job is to ensure.

Margaret Bragg, agrees with Dick Braughmann and has been waiting to vote on this article and people had plenty of opportunity to speak to this Article.

Quinton Deming, noted that on the procedural point of whether a vote here represents, if it doesn't, then neither have we approved the budget. On the question of things like whether or not the Congress authorized the President to do anything he wanted, I think the speaker is in error and the law is very clear and there is no question it was violated. The issue really is, on this motion, on this issue is whether this is a government of law or whether it is a dictatorship, it's that simple.

Robert Russell wanted to make a very brief point about unauthorized rendition, torture, imprisonment with no word to anybody and this has happened to human beings just like us, just like me, just like you, for the last several years. It's time to say 'no' this is a country of law or it's not.

Bud Munson, wanted to talk about a little bit of pre-emption, are we a country of laws, have we forgotten that we have a congress as well as a President. Have you so lost faith in our system of government? Do you think George Bush is a dictator or that he dictatorial power? I personally have an abiding faith in the US system of government and the separation of powers and the ability of this country and this government to work through these problems as the Constitution and the laws have protected us this far and they will again. I don't really think you want to be talking of a vigilante committee and that's what you're doing here. I strongly urge that we respect our laws and procedures and we don't take this matter up here; this is for the Town budget. We haven't been asked to vote on the US systems of government.

Karen Morrill and I am speaking for myself, I live at 80 Lyme Road and I thank you for the opportunity to speak. For the previous speaker, I would refer you all to two New York Times editorials. One is May 1, 2006, called "Veto, Who Needs a Veto." The other is a March 20, 2006 editorial of the NY times called "The President and the Courts" I was going to speak about those but I clipped my comments on purpose to be brief. I stand tonight in support of article 37 for two reasons. I feel it my responsibility as a citizen of the United States to speak up, in my case cry out when I see the continued increasingly alarming damage done at home and abroad by the policies of the administration of President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. Together and with others, they have mistaken a crime against humanity for an act of war and have pitifully responded with arrogance and destruction as to drag this nation to a new low in its history and a new low in the world's view of us Americans. The second reason is because of the continuation of that damage which could occur over the next 2 year and 6 months before the 2008 election is in my view unacceptable and far too great to be tolerated. Impeachment is our constitutions only recourse and I feel that my duty to urge the beginning of that process. I hope that my fellow voters will consider this article.

Bernie Benn, in 1973 I lived in the town of Thetford VT and we had this similar conversation at our town meeting that year. The same idea about whether or not town meeting should be discussing a national issue. We did bring it to the floor to impeach President Nixon and it did pass and we were the first in the nation to bring such an action.

Leonard Kent, lives at Kendal but in the 1990's he lived in Berrill Farms and in 1988 moved from Andover MA to Vermont so he considers himself a native of the area. I would like to point out that what we are considering doing tonight is representing a voice of a group of people who have passed a tremendous motion and who represent the active concerned members of this community and he feels that they have the right to go on record to do anything they want to do.

Dennis Goodman noted that on April 12 in the Valley News, there was an interview with Bernie Sanders who is not exactly a conservative or a Bush supporter felt that calling for impeachment was going too far and he was clearly unambiguously against it. He also noted a website on the internet run by 3 Dartmouth Grads from the 70's. Franklin D. Roosevelt did the same thing prior to WWII. Everyone should recognize that Franklin Roosevelt is doing the same exact thing that the President and the Vice President are being accused of.

Steve Schlosser, advised that not only is he a police officer in Hanover, he did 20 years active duty in the Army and he is dead set against this article. You got to remember what happened on 9/11. 3,000 people died. They are not tapping your phone, they're not tapping my phone. If your not doing anything wrong, what are you worried about. We're trying to save people's lives, how do you do it? You've got men and women serving their country. You've go to show some positive reinforcement.

Moderator Black called for a standing vote.

RESULTS: YES 111 NO 42 ARTICLE PASSED.

ARTICLE THIRTY-EIGHT: (Article by Petition) To see if the Town will vote to support a Resolution to end the United States occupation of Iraq, to include a collaborative response by the two houses of Congress that will rapidly lead to an agreement on a specific budget and timing for the ending of the U.S. occupation and to the dismantling of all U.S. military bases in Iraq.

Chairman Walsh MOVED Article 38 by Petition to see if the Town will vote to support a Resolution to end the United States occupation of Iraq, to include a collaborative response by the two houses of Congress that will rapidly lead to an agreement on a specific budget and timing for the ending of the U.S. occupation and to the dismantling of all U.S. military bases in Iraq. SECONDED.

Thank you Madame Moderator and all of the Hanover residents who are here tonight. My name is Glendon Mayo. I reside at 80 Lyme Road in Hanover. I am the Chairman of a group of citizens of the Upper Valley working together under the name of the Citizens Action Alert. We meet periodically to discuss matters of national and local importance, and work together to assure that our elected representatives are made aware of our points of view. Our meetings are open to anyone who wishes to participate. Tonight, I am speaking as the representative of some 150 or more Hanover residents who signed the petition that resulted in having Article 38 brought before you. Most of those signers are here in the room.

Unfortunately, the full text of the resolution was not printed in the Town Report. In the event that those of you in the audience have not read the full text of our proposed resolution, I will read it to you:

Therefore, be it resolved that we respectfully demand that our New Hampshire Congressional delegation take the leadership in calling for a collaborative response by the two houses of Congress that will rapidly lead:

- 1. to an agreement on a specific budget and timing for the ending of the American occupation of Iraq by military as well as private security forces, and**
- 2. to the dismantling of all United States military bases in Iraq, and**

Be it further resolved that this entire Resolution be forwarded to our New Hampshire Congressional delegation by the Selectmen of the Town of Hanover.

In the preamble of the resolution, these points were made:

The US occupation of Iraq is of deep concern to most Americans. Polls by respected agencies show that the overall confidence in the President and his administration is about 35%. These same polls showed that 41% of the respondents felt that things were going well with the US efforts to bring about stability and order in Iraq, while 55% felt that they were not going well. In another poll, (April of this year) when asked if we should stay on the current course or change course and scale back on our objectives now, 54% said change as to 38% who said stay the course. It is of great interest that a poll just conducted of service personnel only by the Military Times, a military organ, showed that only 54% of the regulars say that the President's performance in Iraq is favorable. The majority also say that the action should be terminated soon.

The human, economic and political costs of this occupation are out of control, diverting our nation's attention away from concerns badly needing attention, both domestic and international. The human costs continue to mount. Not only have we lost lives of our own Americans, and those of others joining the US in the occupation, but the people of Iraq have suffered losses that we really can't count. The best estimate that we have found varies from between 80,000 to 100,000 who have died as a result of the occupation since it began. This does not report those who are injured. This does not even address the human costs throughout the rest of the world that must be ignored while our attention is focused on Iraq!

The economic costs are perhaps not as well recognized, in view of the way they are addressed in Washington. Very little is included in our national budget for the direct costs of the occupation of Iraq. What is addressed is the defense budget, which increases annually. This year, the "discretionary" portion, which includes military, is about 1

trillion out of 2.47 trillion dollars. The military portion of the discretionary budget is 54%, and does not include foreign military funding.

The total direct cost of the invasion and occupation of Iraq to date has reached some 279 billion dollars. Of the additional 72 billion just approved for Iraq operations alone, 65 billion will be for military operations, 4 billion will be for the reconstruction and 3 billion will be for intelligence.

The cost to New Hampshire to date is \$1.3 billion for the cost of war in Iraq. And that's not a war, it's an occupation. For the same amount of money, the following could have been provided here in New Hampshire:

- 121,913 People receiving health care or
- 25,045 Elementary school teachers or
- 162,000 Head Start Places for Children or
- 484,199 Children Receiving Health Care and on and on including
- 32,457 Public Safety Officers

There is no question in our minds that the US administration has been the leader of and the cause of this invasion and occupation of Iraq. The fact is that we, the citizens of this country, must either tell our elected representatives at the federal level that they, never having authorized a war, must reassume control of the country's progress and state authoritatively that the invasion must come to an end, or we must continue to be prepared to live in an increasingly oppressive nation, neglecting concerns that we feel should be addressed, and destroying our personal economic standings to pay for the whims of the present administration.

We do not believe that it is possible to "cut and run". We are beyond that. Any action this country takes must be such that the remainder of the world nationals will be willing to assist in the rehabilitation of the country that is called Iraq, no matter what its future is to be. And we must recognize that we, the citizens of this country will be called on to fund a major part of that effort. But it will be an understandable expenditure, not a military one. And we must remove all of our military bases and our special private security forces in order to make the remainder of the world believe that we are not still bent on preemptive military occupation of any country that incurs our displeasure.

To close, our resolution demands that our NH delegation take the leadership in re-assuming the only control that Congress has by setting a budget and a timetable for the conclusion of the occupation of Iraq.

I urge you to vote affirmatively on this resolution as presented.

Robin Carpenter, stated that this article obviously has some similarities to the previous one and most notably that it's an issue of national politics being brought to Hanover. Secondly, it's a slam dunk to pass in Hanover. I did notice that not one of our town

leaders saw fit to stand for or against that Article and to me, if our Town leaders feel it more appropriate to sit down and shut up on this issue at a Town Meeting, then I think that's more appropriate for us too.

Ann Allen said she'd like to represent some of the countries that are actually fighting with the boys in Iraq. The fact that you can have a democratic meeting like this, in a couple of years, this could be Iraq. How selfish of you to think purely of yourselves. Give peace a chance. You may call in an occupation. Let's remember this. Don't get at George Bush, get at the terrorists. What your Commander in Chief wants is for someone to stand up and say Damn those terrorists! This is a terribly unrepresented meeting. If Saddam hadn't fallen, who would come next, his two sons? How many would have died under Saddam? You are a very tiny lucky community, you have everything, everything in this community and you have democracy, you can speak without someone getting at you. The only people who have things to fear are the terrorists. Please, you represent not only this tiny hamlet of Hanover, but you represent a world and we were so grateful in England when you had the guts to try to help us and you did stand up and fight. You lost thousands of men willing to give their lives for democracy. If you can't see the wider picture, I've just given you.

Jim Rubens, like to get a note that would embolden and perhaps indicate caution to those who might vote for this. Emboldened because the use of Town Meeting in New Hampshire to provide political pressure on Washington. On the cautionary side, a case was made that this is not partisan but he would indicate otherwise. Would you have voted for impeachment against Chief Justice Brock? On President Clinton who traded campaign cash from the Chinese? Those who would vote for this, watch that it's not a partisan action.

Sally Page, noted that we have been forgetting to ask for abstentions which would allow the Select board to stand up.

Dennis Goodman, stated that just for the record, 111 voted for the last Article so 1.4% has put the Town of Hanover on record as adopting the most extreme position and when we get to Article 38, he would like to offer an amendment: **To see if the Town will vote to support a Resolution to end the United States occupation when requested to do so by the duly elected government of Iraq. And, further, to include a collaborative response by the two houses of Congress that will rapidly lead to an agreement on a specific budget and timing for the ending of the US occupation and at the request of the government of Iraq for the dismantling of all US military bases in Iraq. SECONDED from the floor.**

Charlie Muntz, of Blueberry Hill, there was a question as to whether you can amend a resolution. Ms. Griffin advised that as far as she knows they can vote to amend the resolution, it may not pass but you can vote to amend it.

Moderator Black restated the motion.

Rich Howarth advised that as a point of order and that what they are voting on is the amendment to change the text of the motion.

Mr. Mayo noted that the amendment is being proposed so that everyone clearly understands that when you are asked to vote upon the proposed amendment, you are asked to change the wording of the original resolution and if you do so, you will have destroyed the original resolution.

Marilyn Blight, Hanover, asked the Moderator to read just the words used for the amendment so people are very clear about what the amended words are.

Moderator Black stated that the amendment is ‘when requested to do so by the duly elected government of Iraq and at the request of the government of Iraq.’

A resident from South Park Street stated that there is a question as to what the duly elected government of Iraq is. The country is an occupation so it is not clear who the duly elected government is so to have that government request us to leave, we won’t know if they’re requesting it. Whenever something happens there that we don’t like, we go over there and pressure them until they change. Who is speaking for the people of Iraq? I don’t think we are helping them by being there so I support this resolution and I don’t think we should change it.

Orrin Judd, questioned how the amendment would defeat the intent of the original resolution. And as far as the government in Iraq, the United Nations recognizes it as a legitimate government.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on the amendment to the resolution.

Mr. Mayo asked for a point of order, if they vote yes, they are changing the original resolution. So if they vote no, the amendment is defeated.

Moderator Black stated that for clarification the vote is for the amendment and then there needs to be a vote on the original resolution.

Moderator Black called for the vote. The majority of votes were against the amendment.
The AMENDMENT FAILED.

Moderator Black moved on to discussion about the original resolution.

The ARTICLE PASSED with a majority vote.

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

Bob Keane, Etna, wanted to point out the appreciation for whoever put together the Town Report. Moderator Black recognized Penny Hoisington as being that person. He also

went on record in appreciation for all those who work in the government of this Town and the assurances made that this is one of the nicest places to live.

Fire Chief Bradley, wanted to state that this year the Town faced a very difficult challenge with the budget and the tax increases, on behalf of the Hanover Fire Department, he wanted to express his appreciation for the support shown.

Lee Udy, stated that she and Elaine Hawthorne would like to express their thanks to Louise Longnecker for her six years of fine service as Supervisor of the Checklist.

Moderator Black stated that this town is run by its citizens and the number of people who serve on the Committees and Commissions really make this town what it is and we owe a great bit of gratitude to those people.

Moderator Black ADJOURNED the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Garipay, Town Clerk

These minutes were prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.