

FINAL

**2008 TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF HANOVER
Tuesday, May 13, 2008
Hanover High School Gymnasium**

The annual Town Meeting of the Town of Hanover, New Hampshire convened on May 13, 2008 at 7 a.m. by the Town Moderator, Marilyn “Willy” Black, at the Hanover High School Gymnasium. Moderator Black explained that the polls would be open from 7:00 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 Eight of the Town Meeting Warrant.

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

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

Peter Christie	462 (Re-elected)
Brian F. Walsh	482 (Re-elected)
Write-ins	7

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

Marilyn “Willy” Black	486
Write-ins	3

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

Michael J. Ahern	
Write-ins	45

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

Jean Keene (Write-in)	40
Other Write-ins	34

One Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of two (2) years;

Linda McWilliams	468
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One Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of six (6) years;

Elaine Hawthorne	476
Write-ins	1

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

Paul Gardent	444
Write-ins	2

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 Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 1 would amend Section 201.1, Accessory Uses, to add “RO” to the list of zoning districts where a setback for noisy institutional use is required.

At a Public Hearing held February 26, 2008, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 457 NO 80 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 Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 2 would amend Section 232, Noise Standards, to include noise limits for the testing of electrical generators.

At a Public Hearing held February 26, 2008, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 438 NO 101 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 Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 3 would add “Institutional Dining Facility” as a new use permitted by Special Exception in the Institutional Zoning District, would define this term, and would set forth parking requirements relative to the number of persons employed in the facility.

At a Public Hearing held April 1, 2008, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 454 NO 75 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 Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 4 would add a new Section 408, Parking and Transportation Demand Management Plan Option, to enable parking requirements to be satisfied by a parking and transportation demand management program that could include off-site parking, shuttle service, use of public transit, ride-sharing, pedestrian and bicycle commuting, and other alternatives to required on-site parking.

At a Public Hearing held April 1, 2008, the Hanover Planning Board voted 6:1 to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 436 NO 95 ARTICLE PASSED

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

The following is on the official ballot:

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

Amendment No. 5 would amend Section 212, Inclusionary Housing, to provide traditional and open-space subdivisions and multi-family developments with the same bonus-density allowances now available only in Planned Residential Developments.

At a Public Hearing held April 1, 2008, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 408 NO 118 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 Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 6 would amend Section 702, Wetland, Water Body, and Intermittent Stream Protection and other relevant sections of the Zoning Ordinance regarding wetland, water body, and intermittent stream protection, to increase the applicability of administrative permits to smaller projects, to refine the criteria for wetlands special exceptions, to permit seasonal docks without the need for a special exception, to allow a special exception to be granted from dimensional setback requirements; and to update relevant map references and definitions.

At a Public Hearing held April 1, 2008, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 336 NO 207 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 Hanover Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 7 would amend Section 1001.1, to specify that only an alteration of a building or structure which would result in a change of its use or an expansion of its footprint or volume would necessitate a Zoning Permit and that only an increase in a sign’s size or the introduction of lighting would necessitate a Zoning Permit.

At a Public Hearing held February 26, 2008, the Hanover Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting adopt this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 465 NO 78 ARTICLE PASSED

BUSINESS MEETING

Moderator Black started the meeting and introduced the Ray School 5th Grade Band who performed *My Country Tis of Thee*. Moderator Black noted that this is the first year that these children have held an instrument in their hand and the first time they have ever played together.

Moderator Black introduced the members of the Board of Selectmen and the Department Heads and Town Staff.

Moderator Black invited Lyn Swett-Miller, Chair of the Recycling Committee to speak to the audience. Lyn Swett-Miller made the following statement:

“Thank you Willy! We are incredibly fortunate to have so many citizens actively working to ensure a healthy, sustainable community here in Hanover. Clearly, we have our elected officials, but we also have numerous voluntary groups who harness their energies to promote positive changes to support our community and beyond. There is the Climate Projection Campaign promoting no idling and energy efficiency in our town, the Kids for a Cooler Upper Valley promoting the "Green Bag" Project, there is the Conservation Council and Commission with their numerous activities on behalf of the land, and there are countless creative others taking action every day.

I am here to represent the Hanover Recycling Committee, which has recently been reconstituted as the Hanover Sustainability committee. To celebrate this evolution, we are introducing another campaign.

The tag line is: Refill, don't landfill.

The project: A special offer to promote a Hanover Re-usable water bottle - Although not in from the manufacturer, the bottles will be green with the Hanover logo printed in white. They have been funded by contributions from the sustainability committee and will be offered at the break-even price of \$5 each.

So, the question of the day: What in Hanover can you do 1,563 times for just \$1.00? You can fill a 12 ounce bottle with municipal **tap** water. Why pay \$1.50 or more for a single-use, potentially toxic plastic water container, when you can re-use a non-toxic re-fillable container **1,563 times for \$1.00?**

As our information sheet suggests, each year Americans send about 38 billion plastic water bottles to landfills. Producing all of these bottles required more than 17 million barrels of oil last year - that is enough oil to fuel more than 1 million cars for a year and generated more than 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide. **Let's be part of a solution, not the problem. Make a difference - Go to the tap.”**

Moderator Black went over the general rules of Town Meeting and asked the audience if the motions could be read once. The audience voted in favor of this by a show of hands.

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

Selectman Baschnagel 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; Joe Roberto; Three Fence Viewers, each for a term of one (1) year; Edward Lathem, William Garrity, and Robert Morris; Two Surveyors of Wood and Timber, each for a term of one (1) year; John Richardson and Ed Chamberlain and such other officers as the Town may judge necessary for managing its affairs. SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly.

There was no discussion on Article Nine. **The motion passed and the nominees were ELECTED.**

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000,000 for the construction of wastewater treatment system improvements and replacement of obsolete treatment processing equipment at the Water Reclamation Facility as identified and recommended in an engineering report prepared in Fall 2006; and to authorize issuance of not more than \$6,000,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the New Hampshire Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33, and to take all action as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this vote. Borrowing such sum through the issuance of traditional bonds and notes will only be undertaken if sufficient funds are not available from the State Revolving Loan Fund, which is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Funding for the debt service associated with the loan is paid for by wastewater rates paid by users of the wastewater system, and is not paid for by General Fund taxes. A two-thirds ballot vote is required.

Selectman Christie MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000,000 for the construction of wastewater treatment system improvements and replacement of obsolete treatment processing equipment at the Water Reclamation Facility as identified and recommended in an engineering report prepared in Fall 2006; and to authorize issuance of not more than \$6,000,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the New Hampshire Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33, and to take all action as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this vote. Borrowing such sum through the issuance of traditional bonds and notes will only be undertaken if sufficient funds are not available from the State Revolving Loan Fund, which is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Funding for the debt service associated with the loan is paid for by wastewater rates paid by users of the wastewater system, and is not paid for by General Fund taxes. A two-thirds ballot vote is required. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

Selectman Christie made the following statement at Town Meeting:

“This is the third (and hopefully last) year that we will be discussing significant needs at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (now affectionately known as the Hanover Water Reclamation Facility).

The plant was originally built in 1960, using primarily State and Federal funding. It was upgraded in 1988. Several years ago, which was about 15 years after that refurbishing; the Town started planning the next rebuild of the plant? With the help of an outside engineering consulting firm, the expertise of our Town staff, and oversight from the Select Board a renovation totaling \$14.3 million was decided on. The adopted plan accomplished all of the “must do” and “should do” items, but not all of the “would like to do” elements of the original proposal.

The total project has been tackled in three phases.

Phase one was \$4.7M and was part of the 2006/2007 budget. Phase two was \$ 2.1 M and was part of the 2007/2008 budget. These first two phases were funded from a State Revolving Loan, Capital Reserves, Water Reclamation Facility, Undesignated Fund Balances, and a user rate increase of 50%.

Phase three is \$7.4M and is part of the 2008/2009 budget, to be paid for with a proposed \$6M bond and with \$ 1.4M from remaining capital reserves and fund balances.

I think it will be helpful to address several questions that were asked at the Public Hearings:

First: The Water Reclamation Facility is funded exclusively through user fees and is not part of the General Fund.

Second: Phase three does not increase the capacity of the Plant. In 1988 the plant was permitted to handle 2.3 million gallons a day. All upgrades and renovations to date have been to allow us to successfully operate the plant at the permitted capacity. At the beginning of these latest projects, we could have targeted for lower than the permitted capacity, but that would have been both extremely short sighted and cost ineffective.

Point 3: The Water Reclamation Facility services both Hanover and parts of Lebanon.

The reason for supporting Lebanon is twofold:

- Water flows downhill and Lebanon's participation allows rates to be lower.
- The plant was originally sized to handle flow from the natural watershed that flows downhill to the plant. This includes parts of Lebanon along route 120 (namely Centerra and the Hospital), and north along Route 10. For Lebanon to have to pump that water over the mountain such that it could then flow downhill to their plant would cost Lebanon over \$10M in capital expense.

In addition, Lebanon pays approximately 30% of the cost of operating the plant thus saving the average Hanover household \$120 per year in fees.

Point 4: Rates will not need to be increased beyond their current levels. The rate increase put in place last year and implemented in the bills that went out earlier this month are adequate to support Phase three expenses, including the bond cost going forward.

We don't have many options relative to refurbishing the Plant. We are legally and morally obligated to properly treat waste flow before discharging it into the Connecticut River and the plant equipment has reached or will quickly reach the end of its useful life.

One area of flexibility that we do have involves how to fund this last phase. Tom Blinkhorn from the Hanover Finance Committee (thank you Tom), myself, Betsy, and Peter Kulbacki looked at many options. We concluded that a 15 year bond was the most attractive. By bonding the bulk of the remaining work, the Town has the full funding up front which will allow for a more logical and economic project. It will also match up who is paying and who is receiving the benefits – which were felt to be important. In addition, the market for this type of Bond is also very favorable at this time.

I hope you will support this bond issue - if for no other reason than not to have to hear me talk about it again next year – that in itself has got to be worth more than \$6M to you -- don't you think?"

Moderator Black asked the audience for any discussion on this Article.

Jim Aronson, lives in Etna, advised that he is a geology professor commended the efforts of the Hanover Recycling Committee. Mr. Aronson noted that he spoke with someone who recalled when no one could swim in the Connecticut River prior to upgrades to the facility. In 1988, changes were made and all of those investments in the past have paid us back many fold. One of the more serious issues is the degradation of the methane collection system. This makes this Article such a win-win situation. In a normal modern plant, there are digestives that work with the main solid part of the load and those digesters have to consume an enormous amount of energy. Mr. Aronson stated that everyone received the analysis from the Climate Protection Campaign that Charlie Sullivan put together. This analysis itemizes the carbon dioxide footprint for the 5 major municipal contributors.

Mr. Aronson went on to note that the Water Reclamation Facility accounts for 25% of the Town's carbon footprint which we are committed to reducing. Not included in the analysis is the greenhouse footprint. Mr. Aronson stated that methane is a very powerful greenhouse gas; 50 times by weight compared to carbon dioxide. There are two sides to the coin that made this such a win-win. If methane is used as the heat source for the digestives, right now we burn 30,000 gallons of fuel (which may cost \$4.00/gallon in the near future or \$120,000/year) and this can be largely replaced by the methane as proposed in Article 6. The footprint for the Water Reclamation Facility is 800 tons of carbon dioxide out of a total municipal output of 3,250 tons. When you figure in the methane which already has the benefit of replacing the fuel oil that adds another 3800 tons of carbon dioxide effect in terms of the greenhouse effect.

Mr. Aronson stated that the Iroquois has a principle for governing themselves 'in every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next 7 generations.' Mr. Aronson encouraged the voters to pass this Article.

Louis Sapir, Kendal, asked if there is an underwriter for this bond and does the underwriter give priority to those who live in Hanover.

Ms. Griffin referred the question to Betsy McClain. Ms. McClain stated that this is a State Revolving Fund which means that it is not traded on the open municipal bond market and so proceeds become available as previous recipients of loans make their payments.

Kim Perez, Etna, confirmed that this was a 15 year bond. Ms. Perez asked about the toxins from the hospital and the college and whether those flows are more expensive to treat and whether they are being billed appropriately for their use.

Mr. Kulbacki explained that they have an industrial treatment program in place and Lebanon also has one where they monitor discharges from large utilities and there are certain limits and a way to bill them for not meeting those limits.

Moderator Black asked for any other discussion. There was no further discussion on this Article and Moderator Black asked the audience to vote by ballot and the votes were collected.

RESULTS: YES 130 NO 5 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE ELEVEN: 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.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED that the reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers as printed in the 2007 Town Report be accepted, as well as any Special Resolutions. SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly.

Moderator Black introduced Ned Wittington, Aileen Chaltain and Jill Polli for the presentation of the Recreation Volunteer of the Year.

Ned Wittington made the following presentation to Jill Polli, Recreation Volunteer of the Year:

“Get ready folks, because the Recipient of this year’s Volunteer Service Award may not be happy once she hears who is receiving it. I’m sure she will show *great polish and restraint* when she is called forward to accept this well deserved award...!

A *“behind the scenes kind of person who doesn’t need or want attention for her efforts, a tireless worker, a loyal and passionate advocate for the Rec. staff and its programs* is how this person is most often described by those who have worked with her. In short, she’s one of the quiet gems in our community.

I know you’d prefer that the award really go to Janet, as we said it would, but today is your day, **Jill Polli!** We’re so grateful for all you’ve done and while we know you’d

rather not be in the spotlight, it's time for you to step into the limelight for just a minute and let your community publicly thank you. I should tell you that probably 3 or 4 people were designated as decoys and Jill thought she was going to be presenting this award to someone else.

But you won't be completely alone up here... ***David, Eliza and Christian, come up and join us!***

Jill, as you can imagine, your family is so very proud of you two. They shared a few comments with me.

"We're so proud of you. We know you love the Rec. Board and Hank and we've had fun participating in the events that you helped organize, like the games at Pond Party and the concessions at the Basketball Tournament. Love, David, Eliza, Christian."

So, not only does the Rec. Department benefit from this quiet, unassuming whirlwind, she also brings a "one, two, three, punch" to the table in her husband David, her daughter Eliza, and her son, Christian. They are at her side every step of the way whether it be:

- manning the concession table at the Rec. Department Basketball tournament;
- helping run the games, and food, and whatever else Jill needs them to do at Pond Party;
- being the heart and soul of the Rec. Dept's Haunted House;
- being Jill's able assistants at the July 4th Parade;
- helping hand out water and keep runners on track at the annual Turkey Trot;
- selling T-shirts for Afghan Children's Fund;
- collecting donations and helping organize the Tsunami Relief and Alstead Flood efforts;
- and helping load the "Hurricane Katrina Relief Truck."

Jill has also felt her family's support when she filled in as Interim Reception/Right Hand Woman (in the early days of the RWBC!), when she went to meeting after meeting after meeting as a member of the Athletic Fields Committee, then again when she agreed to serve as the Rec. Board's liaison to the Dresden Athletic Advisory Committee. This, in addition to holding down two full time jobs -- as Mom and the *other one* that she gets paid for!

Hank Tenney, the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Hanover, says about Jill...

"It would not be possible to offer and provide a quality program, like we have, without volunteers like Jill. Jill burst on the scene and gave more than was asked in providing supervision at our dances, basketball tourney, special events and as a secretary when we were looking to fill a position. She always works to help make things better. In addition to all the activities she participated in, she showed this with her involvement in

working on the committee for the new facility at the school and staying involved as a parent coordinator for the many sports activities her children were involved in.

Without hesitation, the Polli family deserves this award. Giving this award to Jill is a small way of showing my appreciation for how much Jill and her family have done for the Town and the Recreation Department over these many years.

Jill, in your own words, the Volunteer of the Year Award is an award to the person or group of people who have shown their love of community by volunteering on a regular basis, thereby forming the cornerstone of our recreation department that relies heavily on volunteer support in order to provide so many of the great special events that the Hanover Rec. Department is proud to sponsor. It is my honor to present the 2008 Hanover Parks & Recreation Board's Volunteer of the Year Award to you, Jill Polli!"

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Hanover, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, increase the exemption to \$80,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, increase the exemption to \$120,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, increase the exemption to \$165,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$32,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. This article represents a recommended modification of the current exemption for the elderly of \$65,000 for a person 65 to 75 years of age, \$95,000 for a person 75 years of age up to 80, and \$130,000 for a person 80 years of age or older and would be effective April 1, 2008 for the 2008 tax year.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Hanover, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, increase the exemption to \$80,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, increase the exemption to \$120,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, increase the exemption to \$165,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$32,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. This article represents a recommended modification of the current exemption for the elderly of \$65,000 for a person 65 to 75 years of age, \$95,000 for a person 75 years of age up to 80, and \$130,000 for a person 80 years of age or older and would be effective April 1, 2008 for the 2008 tax year. SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly.

Selectman Rassias explained the exemption based on NH State Law and that The Town of Hanover adopted at Town Meeting several years ago and last modified it in 2003.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Twelve. The motion PASSED and Article Twelve was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: Shall we modify the exemption for the disabled? The exemption, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers shall be increased to \$165,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$26,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$35,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. This article represents a recommended modification of the current exemption for the disabled of \$130,000 and would be effective April 1, 2008 for the 2008 tax year.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to modify the exemption for the disabled. The exemption, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers shall be increased to \$165,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$26,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$35,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. This article represents a recommended modification of the current exemption for the disabled of \$130,000 and would be effective April 1, 2008 for the 2008 tax year. SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagel.

Selectman Rassias explained that the State Law allows exemptions as described in the motion.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Thirteen. The motion PASSED and Article Thirteen was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37 for the exemption for the blind from the assessed value of residential real estate for property tax purposes? This statute provides that every inhabitant who is legally blind shall be exempt each year, for property tax purposes, from the assessed value on a residence to the value of \$30,000. This article represents a recommended modification of the current exemption for the blind of \$25,000 and would be effective April 1, 2008 for the 2008 tax year.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37 for the exemption for the blind from the assessed value of residential real estate for property tax purposes. This statute provides that every inhabitant who is legally blind shall be exempt each year, for property tax purposes, from the assessed value

on a residence to the value of \$30,000. This article represents a recommended modification of the current exemption for the blind of \$25,000 and would be effective April 1, 2008 for the 2008 tax year. SECONDED by Vice Chairman Connolly.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Fourteen. The motion PASSED and Article Fourteen was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept from Dartmouth College a portion of property located on the easterly side of Grasse Road in Hanover (map 4, lot 10) according to such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate and reasonable; said portion of this property to consist of no more than 10.2 acres, to be used for recreation, affordable housing and/or conservation purposes.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept from Dartmouth College a portion of property located on the easterly side of Grasse Road in Hanover (map 4, lot 10) according to such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate and reasonable; said portion of this property to consist of no more than 10.2 acres, to be used for recreation, affordable housing and/or conservation purposes. SECONDED by Selectman Baschnagel.

Vice Chairman Connolly advised that this was part of a 1981 subdivision.

Moderator Black asked for a vote on Article Fifteen. The motion PASSED and Article Fifteen was ADOPTED as written.

Kim Perez, Etna, noted that there was a flyer that went to residents promoting energy efficiency and asked if the police department has looked at energy efficient vehicles for their fleet. Chief Giaccone noted that they are looking to replace two vehicles (Administrative and Detective cars) with hybrids but the core of the fleet will be gas powered vehicles. The MPG is 15 mpg which is greater than vehicles they are using now.

Bob Norman, supports Article Twenty, Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and feels that this initiative will help the Town take advantage of inventory that shows where the Town can see the most savings in future years.

Hilary Pridgen, asked about the four police cruisers and two sedans and whether this is 1/3 of the fleet or 1/4 of it and their scheduled replacement. It seems like a lot of vehicles to replace in one year. Ms. Griffin stated that they replace the cruisers every 3 years and the two administrative years every 6 years. Ms. Griffin added that it is her hope that in 3 years there will be a hybrid police cruiser package available on the open market. Ms. Pridgen asked whether it made sense to hold on to a couple of the police cruisers longer. Ms. Griffin stated that the maintenance for these high mileage, highly used vehicles costs the taxpayers much more than keeping them on the replacement rotation.

Miriam Osofsky encouraged voters to vote in favor of Article Twenty so that they are able to complete the improvements to Town buildings to increase energy efficiency.

Vice Chairman Connolly asked if the audience wished for her to read each item from Article Sixteen through Twenty-Two or whether they would prefer to simply vote on the Articles together. The audience chose not to have Vice Chairman Connolly read each Article but rather vote on all of them at the same time.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,750 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 2006-2007. 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 SEVENTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,750 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 2006-2007. 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 EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,124,910 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
Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 60,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$105,500
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$240,000
Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 22,160
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 76,170
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$567,080
Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 10,000

ARTICLE NINETEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$556,441 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:

Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Dispatch Radio Console Upgrade</i>	\$ 20,000
Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Sidewalk Tractor 03; Truck 09</i>	\$186,300
Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund <i>Police Cruiser Fleet (4 cruisers; 2 sedans)</i>	\$221,500
Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund <i>Line Flusher; Truck #20224; Snowblower for Skidsteer</i>	\$128,641

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.

ARTICLE TWENTY: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund under the provision of RSA 35:1 for preventive maintenance and energy efficiency initiatives to Town buildings, and to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be placed in this fund towards this purpose.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,175 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 2006-2007.

ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,373 for partial funding of two projects proposed by the Bike and Pedestrian Committee, 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, VA and will not lapse until these projects are complete or June 30, 2012, whichever is sooner.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED Articles Sixteen through Twenty-Two as written in the Town Warrant. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED and Articles Sixteen through Twenty-Two were ADOPTED as written.

Vice Chairman Connolly invited Moderator Black to speak to Article Seventeen. Moderator Black announced that in the Town Report it was reported that David Nutt has passed away. In 1966 he read the motion to create the Conservation Commission which passed that year and then he read a second motion which created a fund of \$2,000 for the Conservation Commission in the Town of Hanover he is owed a great deal of gratitude for starting this whole movement.

ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE: 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 24, 2008, between the Town of Hanover and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1348, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits for its members:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2008-2009	\$28,300
2009-2010	\$15,756 (low) to \$47,267 (high)
2010-2011	\$15,913 (low) to \$48,685 (high)

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,300 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriations at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED that the Town vote to approve the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 24, 2008, between the Town of Hanover and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1348, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits for its members:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
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2009-2010	\$15,756 (low) to \$47,267 (high)
2010-2011	\$15,913 (low) to \$48,685 (high)

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,300 for the 2008-2009 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.

Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

Selectman Baschnagel noted that the Town has three unions; police, fire and AFSCME. The Town is still in negotiations with the police and fire unions but have come to an agreement with AFSCME.

Dave Bradley, asked who these employees are and how many there are. Ms. Griffin stated that she believed there were 19 members in the union and they are public works employees.

Kari Asmus, Etna, asked what was included in the salary increase and why the numbers aren't more similar year to year.

Ms. McClain stated the reason is because the increase in the wages is mitigated by/ contract also calls for an increase in the cost share of health insurance premiums so the 3% increase in wages is reduced by the fact that employees will be bearing more of the cost for health insurance. For those making \$45,000 and under is 10%; between \$45,000 and \$55,000 it will be 12% and over \$55,000 will be 15%.

Ms. Asmus asked if the Finance Committee voted on the union negotiations. Dick Podolec, Finance Committee, noted that they voted in favor of the overall budget but did not separate this item out specifically.

The motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Three was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$17,658,571 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, for the purposes set forth in the Town budget. This sum does not include the funds voted in any of the preceding or succeeding articles.

Selectman Christie MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$17,658,571 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2008-2009 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 Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

Selectman Christie made the following presentation to Town Meeting:

“I will try to keep this brief as Willy has come close to using the big hook on me in the past.

Every year I stand up here and tell you what a hard budgeting year it has been –“the hardest ever”. Well, this year I can tell you that it was the easiest ever – (pause) at least for the Select Board. You see - we set Julia off with a budget target of around 1% increase in the tax rate based on our five year plan, and she, Betsy and all of the Department Heads did the hard work of delivering against that guideline and presented a draft budget with no increase in the tax rate. The Select Board decided to add \$70,000 to the budget to protect against the need for additional road repair after our severe winter

(seems like a long time ago but the memory still lingers of trying to drive over and around huge frost heaves on King Hill, Laramie Road, Blueberry Hill, Trescott, Hanover Center and a bunch more roads).

We ended with a budget, presented for consideration tonight, with a general fund tax rate increase of 0.66%. In the spirit of full disclosure, the rate would have been 6% if you eliminated the \$300K of extraordinary one time road repair money needed for the June 2005 wash outs from last year's base. Still a job well done.

A few items of special interest from this budget:

We make a final allocation of \$50,000 in this budget for the 2005 road repair wash outs – that repair work will now be behind us.

We continue to get killed by escalating energy related costs which dominate our materials budgets. Electricity, heating oil, gasoline, and asphalt costs are all increasing at much greater than the general CPI. As one example, just between October/ November 2007 when the budget was being pulled together by staff and the March 2008 presentation to the Select Board, gasoline prices had increased enough to add about \$50,000 to our expected expenses – that is almost 0.6 % on the tax rate. The Board did not increase the budget accordingly, but rather asked staff to once again sharpen their pencils and make additional tradeoffs.

As we look down the road a bit we see two new costs that will impact us in the next few years:

The New Hampshire Retirement System is seriously underfunded. We had the privilege of reviewing a two inch thick, 175 page report, by an independent study commission (you know it is not good news when it goes over ten pages) and with the help of Dick Carney (thank you Dick) figured out that through a series of miscalculations, bad assumptions, mismanagement and accounting missteps, that the retirement fund is now in the hole to the tune of \$2.6 Billion. Towns are predicted to pick up most of the shortfall and we will see that cost starting in next year's budget for sure.

Second, the new County Corrections Facility Bond will add \$400 to the tax bill of a \$400,000 home starting in 2009.

It is unreasonable to expect the Town to absorb those magnitudes of outside increases through its own cost reductions.

On a different note, as part of our "Cool Cities" initiative and Climate Protection Campaign, this budget reflects a significant commitment to reducing the Town's carbon footprint. Several times during the budget review process our normally mild and understated Chairman, Mr. Walsh, strongly reminded all involved that relative to green house gas reduction it was not "business as usual".

The proposed budget includes:

- Continuous monitoring of the Town’s carbon foot print against the base line that was completed this past year (thank you Charlie Sullivan).
- Establishing a Building Maintenance Reserve to fund needed building renovations.
- Installing programmable thermostats in all town facilities.
- Replacing some lawn areas with wild flower plantings.
- Use of B-10 Bio Diesel in town vehicles.
- Shifting a portion of our Town fleet to hybrid vehicles.
- Replacing old traffic signals with LED’s.
- Replacing pedestrian warning lights with solar powered signals.
- Elimination of non essential streetlights and replacing of old lights with more energy efficient fixtures.
- Reduction of methane emissions at the WRF.
- Expansion of the Town’s recycling program and the evolution to a Sustainability committee.
- Funding to work with Natural Steps to develop a series of community work shops around sustainability.
- Installation of “Idle Free Zones “at key entrances to Town and in municipal and school parking lots.

These are all low hanging fruit that will both save money and reduce our footprint going forward.

I feel the hook coming, so I will end by thanking Elizabeth Rathburn for taking such good minutes year round, Julia, Betsy, and the Department Heads for the fine job they did in preparing the budget, to Penny Hoisington for the must read Town Report, and to all of you who generously volunteer to keep Hanover the wonderful community that it is.

So I thank you all and open the floor for discussion.”

Darrell Hotchkiss noted that he is a lawyer in Town and supports the motion for the budget but pointed out that there is an error on page 131 that states that he is a plaintiff’s attorney that has brought a case before the Town of Hanover that has cost the Town \$5,852. There is no plaintiff named Strohlic and he has done no such thing. He noted that there is an increase of 33% over the \$90,000 budgeted last year for \$120,000. For most cases this is because the Town has had to defend itself against an entirely correct decision and he wanted it known that he thinks that the Zoning and Planning Department does an exquisite job. In the particular case that’s been misstated, there has been an entirely correct decision by the Zoning Administrator which has been upheld by the ZBA. He felt it would be wrong to have him listed on the roster of shame as the plaintiff’s attorney or that his clients would be listed as someone who are suing the Town.

The motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Four was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE: To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with RSA 41:26-c, to authorize the appointment rather than the election of the Town Treasurer.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED that the Town vote, in accordance with RSA 41:26-c, to authorize the appointment rather than the election of the Town Treasurer. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

Vice Chairman Connolly asked for a round of applause for Michael Ahearn for his services as Town Treasurer.

The motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Five was ADOPTED as written.

Moderator Black asked the audience if they would allow non-residents to speak to the next few Articles. Moderator Black also noted that this is the first Town Meeting that she has been to that Foster Blough has not attended. She asked for a round of applause for all of Foster's years with the Town.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX: (Article by agency request) 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 third year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Selectman Rassias 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 third year this article has appeared on the warrant. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

Kevin O'Leary, UVHS, asked the residents to support this Article. They provide services to the Town of Hanover and noted that they currently have a contract with the Police Department to allow officers to bring stray dogs to the facility. The fees that the UVHS charge do not cover their expenses so they are asking for the Town's support.

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

ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN: (Article by agency request) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by the New Hampshire Association for the Blind. This is the second year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by the New Hampshire Association for the Blind. This is the second year this article has appeared on the warrant. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

George Theriault, President & CEO of the NH Association for the Blind, stated that this is a charitable organization that provides direct rehabilitation services for people who are blind and severely visually impaired. Mr. Theriault reported that last year they served 66 residents of the Town of Hanover, 81 in Lebanon and have served every town and city in the State.

The motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Seven was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT: (Article by agency request) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$570 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by Tri-County Community Action Agency (Tri-County CAP). This is the second year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$570 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by Tri-County Community Action Agency (Tri-County CAP). This is the second year this article has appeared on the warrant. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

Joie Finlay–Morris, Tri County Cap, stated that they greatly appreciate the Town’s support. They are asking for \$570 because they ask for \$15.00 per household of those residents that they serve in each community. She knows that she will be asking for support again next year due to the huge increase in fuel costs.

The motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Eight was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE: (Article by agency request) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). This is the first year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$500 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). This is the first year this article has appeared on the warrant. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

No one was present to speak to the Article.

The motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Nine was ADOPTED as written.

ARTICLE THIRTY: (Article by agency request) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,100 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by the Outreach House. This is the first year this article has appeared on the warrant.

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$3,100 to support the services provided for the residents of Hanover by the Outreach House.

This is the first year this article has appeared on the warrant. **Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

Susan Shinn, Administrator, stated that Outreach House was established in 1991 and opened their doors on South Park Street in 1997. Their goal is to provide affordable housing and adequate care for senior adults in the Upper Valley. Since its founding, Outreach House has been able to keep the monthly rates significantly lower than the state average for assisted living. The Hanover Police Union adopted Outreach House last year. Outreach House provides housing for 3 Dartmouth Grad students who live there and provide nighttime coverage for their resident's care. They also have a lot of volunteers who contribute with yard maintenance and activities.

Anna Downey, Hanover, stated that she and her Brownie troop visited Outreach House and encouraged support for this Article.

Anne James helped start Outreach House and noted that this is one of the hidden gems in Hanover and encouraged people to stop by and speak to the residents there.

Peter Mertz, Board of Directors, stated that Outreach House is on a very tight budget and are very concerned about the rise in energy costs and grocery bills. This is why they are coming to the Town to ask for assistance.

The motion PASSED and Article Thirty was ADOPTED as written.

Selectman Rassias asked for a petitioner to make the motion for Article Thirty-One.

Hilda Sokol MOVED Article Thirty-One. Ms. Sokol urged all citizens in Hanover to vote yes on this Resolution and made the following statement:

“It asks State leaders to acknowledge that there is a problem with high property taxes and to begin to talk about it. For many years, these state leaders have resisted alternatives to high property taxes and have even taken a pledge not to talk about them. The Pledge locks us into a system of taxation that is unjust and unfair and leads to higher and higher property taxes. The result – this Resolution is really about fairness. The property tax is not fair. It is not based on ability to pay. It produces hardships for many middle and low income wage people and especially our seniors. 60 cents of every dollar raised by State and local government in New Hampshire comes from the property tax. This is twice as much as the average in other states. I know that New Hampshire prides itself as being a frugal State with small government but it relies too much on the property tax to fund State and local government needs. I ask you to vote yes on this fair tax resolution. Help start an open discussion.”

ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE: (Article by Petition) To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:

Resolved: We the citizens of Hanover, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. State leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor to reject the “Pledge”, have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes.

Kim Perez SECONDED the motion.

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

Moderator Black thanked Town Staff for all the work that they have done and all the volunteers on all the Committees and all the Boards and all the Commissions who do the work of the Town. Moderator Black also thanked Public Works for their hard work all winter.

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

Selectman Rassias MOVED that the Town vote to transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

Ellis Rollett asked the Town to consider another venue or sound system. Ms. Griffin stated that they will look into using John DeGange again next year.

Deb Nelson, noted that there are four highway employees retiring this spring after 88 years of service and asked for their names.

Ms. Griffin stated that it is amazing in what the Town is losing in experience. The following employees are retiring in 2008:

Rod Forward
Don Daniels
Chuck Bowdoin
Jim Stone

The work ethic of these four men is incredible. Chuck Bowdoin is incredible and night after night after night would come in to check the roads. Don Daniels can fix anything. Jim Stone knows where every water valve is. Each of these employees deserve applause for their service with the Town of Hanover.

Ms. Griffin also announced that John Kapusta is retiring from the police department after just under 20 years of service.

An audience member MOVED to adjourn Town Meeting. Another audience member SECONDED the motion. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Garipay, Town Clerk

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.