

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 19, 2008

7:30 P.M. – MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – HANOVER NH

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice Chairman; Athos Rassias; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager. Absent: Bill Baschnagel, Selectman; and Peter Christie, Selectman.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Walsh asked for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

2. BOARD OF SELECTMEN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF 2008-2009.

Vice Chairman Connolly NOMINATED Brian Walsh as Chairman of the Select Board for another year. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION AND BRIAN WALSH WAS RE-APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT BOARD.

Chairman Walsh NOMINATED Kate Connolly to serve as Vice Chairman of the Select Board. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION AND KATE CONNOLLY WAS RE-APPOINTED AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT BOARD.

Vice Chairman Connolly NOMINATED Athos Rassias as Secretary. Chairman Walsh SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION AND ATHOS RASSIAS WAS RE-APPOINTED AS SECRETARY.

Chairman Walsh wanted to remove the Task Meeting Task Force. Vice Chairman Connolly asked if they could just re-affirm the liaison appointments from 2007. Chairman Walsh was willing to do this with a note that if Selectman Christie or Selectman Baschnagel wanted to make a change, they could take that up at the next meeting they are in attendance.

Ms. Griffin pointed out that Peter Christie is now serving on the Hanover Water Works Board which is a change from last year.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to re-affirm the liaison appointments from the previous year noting that Selectman Christie now serves on the Hanover Water Works Board and if

either Selectman Christie or Selectman Baschnagel wishes to make a change, they may do so at a future meeting. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-AFFIRM THE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR NOTING THAT SELECTMAN CHRISTIE NOW SERVES ON THE HANOVER WATER WORKS BOARD AND IF EITHER SELECTMAN CHRISTIE OR SELECTMAN BASCHNAGEL WISHES TO MAKE A CHANGE, THEY MAY DO SO AT A FUTURE MEETING.

3. TOWN MEETING RECAP.

Ms. Griffin reported that one of the issues at Town Meeting was the sound system and felt that some experiments need to be done. Although the Town tried to save some money by not hiring John DeGange; it was probably a large mistake. Also, she received a suggestion from Wayne Gersen offering the auditorium for the Business Meeting portion of Town Meeting noting a better sound system and more comfortable chairs.

Vice Chairman Connolly asked if that auditorium would be big enough. Ms. Griffin stated that it is large enough and believes that the capacity is about 750 people and noted that it is rare that they get that many in attendance for the business portion of the meeting.

Ms. Griffin asked the Board to think about what they feel would work best. There were several complaints especially from the older folks. Vice Chairman Connolly noted that there was one question that she did not hear due to the sound system.

Ms. Griffin stated that it was a very good Town Meeting and the improvements to the Water Reclamation Facility which was approved at the meeting will be coming before the Board to determine where they will get the most 'bang for the buck'.

Vice Chairman Connolly felt that the extensive presentations done ahead of time helped the project pass through. Ms. Griffin was surprised that the Resolution passed without discussion.

Chairman Walsh reported that the Americans For Campaign Reform had a dinner that night honoring Warren Rudman who is one of their Honorary Chairs. It was held in Manchester and there were about 350 people from around the country. The keynote speakers were former Senator Howard Baker and his wife, former Senator Nancy Kassebaum-Baker (both Republicans) and the room was 60% Republicans, 40% Democrats and Chairman Walsh stated that it was a fabulous evening honoring a great man and talking about important issues. Chairman Walsh stated that he was sad to miss Town Meeting but happy to be at this event.

4. DISCUSSION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PARKING AND ZONING TASK FORCE REPORT.

Chairman Walsh advised that they will move this item out until the June 23rd Board of Selectmen's meeting. Chairman Walsh also suggested that some statistics be prepared regarding the number of parking spaces available to the public and how many have been transferred to only private use over the last 10 years. Vice Chairman Connolly added that there should be some statistics regarding the public spaces that have been changed to leased spaces.

Chairman Walsh wanted to make it clear that at least one member of the Select Board isn't willing to continue to work hard to create new parking spaces as the business community or members of the business community take away spaces and the Town doesn't get anywhere.

Ms. Griffin provided a current status inventory list to Mr. Tom Byrne and the Board members.

5. 2011 ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE UPDATE.

Tom Byrne stated that he previously provided the Board with a paper regarding the creation of a committee in 1957 for a celebration 4 years later. The government changed in 1963 and there are all kinds of changes over the last 50 years and wondered what the Select Board's interest is in this event and whether they have had a chance to talk about it.

Chairman Walsh stated that although they have not talked about it much, they are enthusiastic about having a celebration of the Town's 250th birthday.

Mr. Byrne stated that there are some issues and that there does need to be an organization, someone in charge of the whole operation like Ed Latham was and on that committee there were Select Board members and a couple of historians as well. Mr. Byrne stated that as time goes by there would be the hiring of people to do certain tasks such as graphic design, etc. Right now research is being done to highlight events and as an example of what the book will be like, it will have a lot of pictures and a timeline of important events. There will be narrative paragraphs regarding certain developments. The Committee currently consists of Jack DeGange, Jay Barrett, Jim Varnum, Willy Black, Sylvia Nelson, Perry Clark and Mr. Byrne. There are small expenses in making copies at the Howe Library so it would help if something could be worked out to get some copying service by the 2010 budget, it will need to be determined how this book is going to be printed and how it will be funded. The hope is to sell the copies but what is the Town's role in that and should they try to find someone to fund it.

Mr. Byrne noted that other Towns have celebrations around this time because they were all founded within 7 days of each other up and down the river. Mr. Byrne stated that they will be unable to rely solely on volunteers because people are so busy.

Ms. Griffin stated that as the Committee continues their work on this project, it would be helpful if they provided the Town with a funding request in conjunction with the 2009-2010 budget. Mr. Byrne stated that Dartmouth College President Jim Wright was interested in the project although he will not be in office then. The College had a large role in the celebration 50 years ago. Mr. Byrne stated that the idea of having the Boston Pops come up to have a concert on Memorial Field (rain or shine) but this will require a big deposit ahead of time. He would like to find

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someone to take charge of the whole event, pulling together Parks and Recreation, etc. The research alone will be a lot of work.

Chairman Walsh asked if there have been any volunteers looking to take over the project. Mr. Byrne stated that they haven't picked anyone specifically and continue with their work on the book project. Mr. Byrne did have some people in mind.

Ms. Griffin encouraged Mr. Byrne to have people e-mail her with people that they might have in mind for this position.

Chairman Walsh suggested that if there are various groups in the community that are interested in celebrating the 250th, they could work with the Valley News to get the interest going in this project even if it is 3 years away.

Mr. Byrne stated that a lot of good stuff was written 50 years ago and 100 years ago. Chairman Walsh felt that there was a special opportunity for someone, perhaps a student, to help gather the history of the past 50 years.

Mr. Byrne felt that there would be some great opportunities to work with some maps and on-line resources to show the changes to the landscape over the last 50 years. Vice Chairman Connolly suggested including The Hood Museum in some of these discussions.

Ms. Griffin stated that she should be able to work out free copying at The Howe and at the Town Office.

Chairman Walsh extended thanks to Mr. Byrne and the committee for all of their work.

6. RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT ABATEMENTS AS PROPOSED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

Chairman Walsh invited Mr. Ryan to speak to the Board regarding the recommendations. Mike Ryan, Director of Assessing, stated that these recommendations are to correct some errors in assessing.

Chairman Walsh asked who was at the meeting on the Advisory Board of Assessors. Mr. Ryan stated that Kate Connolly, Xenia Heaton and Paul Young were in attendance at the meeting and Mr. Birnie was absent. Chairman Walsh asked if the recommendations were unanimous and Mr. Ryan stated that they were.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to accept the recommendations to adopt abatements as proposed by the Advisory Board of Assessors. Selectman Rassias SECONDED.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADOPT ABATEMENTS AS PROPOSED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET.

Ms. Griffin stated that there is a three layer analysis of the County budget. The staff presents their proposed budget to the County Commissioners and then makes any modifications to pass on. Then it goes to the Executive Committee of the County delegation which is made up of a handful of representatives from Grafton County who agree to serve on the Committee. They were going to have the public hearing today and will then meet to make any additional changes to the proposed budget which will then go to the full Delegation for a vote at the end of June.

Ms. Griffin stated that it appears that less than half the County delegation votes on budget because it is always at the very end of the Legislative sessions in Concord and they are always very busy with State business so the County budget tends to be more of an afterthought for them. If the Board wishes to pass along any concerns that they see with the County budget, now would be the time to pass those concerns along.

Vice Chairman Connolly noted that she has worked the figures and keeps coming up with a \$3 million increase versus a \$1.5 million increase. Ms. Griffin stated that it was a combination of an increase in the operating budget and a reduced reliance on undesignated fund balance to balance the budget. Ms. Griffin stated that she would know more after the hearing today. It is her understanding that they are considering revisiting the Grafton County Jail bond vote. Ms. Griffin expects to hear from Representatives Sharon Nordgren and Bernie Benn looking for the Board's input.

Chairman Walsh asked about the difference in the \$1.7 million to be raised by taxes and the \$500,000 to increase the budget is \$1.2 million. Ms. Griffin stated that the largest obstacle in their budget is the reduction of surplus available to reduce taxes.

Ms. Griffin read the following statement from the Grafton County Commissioner's memo dated May 5, 2008: "As a result of increasing that surplus over the last fiscal years, we have significantly reduced the County's fund balance and will only be able to use \$1,525,000 this year to reduce taxes. This is a reduction of \$1,475,000 over last year and this accounts for 8.68% of the 9.89% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes in fiscal year 2009. The Commissioners have adopted a fund balance policy that states that we will endeavor to keep a fund balance of between 5% - 8% of our operating budget; we will be working toward meeting that goal annually." Ms. Griffin summarized that they are trying to limit their operating budget increase to 1.5% and reducing their undesignated fund balance.

Chairman Walsh noted that the County is just under 10% of the Hanover tax amounts. Ms. Griffin stated that they are going to see a significant increase in the County portion when the bond impact for the Jail kicks in. Ms. Griffin stated that the expanded staff significantly increases the operating budget.

8. APPOINTMENTS:

- Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
- Hanover Affordable Housing Commission

Chairman Walsh MOVED to appoint Paul Olsen to serve on the Hanover Affordable Housing Commission and Shirley Montgomery to serve on the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED TO APPOINT PAUL OLSEN TO THE HANOVER AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION AND SHIRLEY MONTGOMERY TO THE SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
- May 5, 2008

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the Minutes of May 5, 2008. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 2 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED AND 1 ABSTAINED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2008.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin reported that the latest CPI increase for April was 4.8% and she presumes that it is mostly fuel costs and it is a whole percentage greater than the CPI in Boston.

Ms. Griffin stated that she will be attending Tufts University as part of the sustainability initiatives for the Town and was hoping to take another person with her and invited any of the Board members or Town staff to join her. It is \$2,275 per person for the Friday through Wednesday program. Chairman Walsh also suggested contacting Kevin Peterson at the NH Charitable Foundation to see if there is money to send a second person. Chairman Walsh suggested asking Len Cadwallader.

Ms. Griffin reported that the next draft of the CIP is almost done. Nancy Collier suggested another joint review of the CIP with the Select Board and Planning Board.

Chairman Walsh suggested having a meeting on June 23rd. Ms. Griffin stated that she would run this date by the Planning Board and Town staff.

Ms. Griffin stated that there will be a meeting on June 10th in Hartford Connecticut for the CT River Valley Transportation Corridor consisting of VT, NH, CT, and MA. Ms. Griffin stated that she e-mailed it to Len Cadwallader, Bill Barr, Bill Baschnagel and Van Chesnut. She is unable to be there but is hoping that someone else will be able to attend. Chairman Walsh asked that Ms. Griffin send the notice to Christine Walker.

11. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Kate Connolly

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that she attended a Planning Board meeting where they subdivided the Trumbull-Nelson property on Route 120 which will now go to site plan review for a large parking facility. This will also be reviewed by the Lebanon Planning Board and the Regional Planning Commission.

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that the Planning Board also approved the relocation of propane tanks and transformers on the South Block Project. The Churches' property hotel was not heard because they found some sort of petroleum contamination on the property so they are assessing the problem and their options.

Vice Chairman Connolly stated that the proposed use of a well on Chase field was revoked and the fields are being rebuilt. Ms. Griffin stated that the College is providing the Board with all the water saving measures that they have already implemented as part of the re-build.

Selectman Rassias asked about the Trumbull-Nelson project. He would like the traffic reviewed in that intersection and specifically bicycle traffic coming out of the Jesse's lot. Vice Chairman noted that a traffic study would also be required. Ms. Griffin noted that the intersection of Medical Center Drive and Route 120 is handled by the State. She felt that an e-mail description or a drawing would be helpful to forward on to DOT District 2 to try to address the issues in conjunction with the Trumbull-Nelson approval. Vice Chairman Connolly also suggested giving that information to the Planning Board.

Chairman Walsh noted that there were previous plans for the bicycle paths on Route 120 toward the hospital which dealt with this question and this should be part of the conversations with the State. Ms. Griffin stated that there was an alternative bike path that came out of the cul-de-sac below David's House which brought riders out to the East side of Route 120. Ms. Griffin recalled that the hospital said no to the easements for the bike path in that area. Chairman Walsh noted that this bicycle route issue has been a problem for the last 15 years and would like to see a solution.

Athos Rassias

Selectman Rassias had nothing to report.

Brian Walsh

Chairman Walsh reported that the Chamber of Commerce had a Board meeting this week.

12. OTHER BUSINESS.

Chairman Walsh asked for Other Business. There was no Other Business reported.

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13. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 3 IN FAVOR OF ADJOURNING THE MEETING AT 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Athos Rassias, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

1. **Vice Chairman Connolly NOMINATED Brian Walsh as Chairman of the Select Board for another year. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.**

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2. **Chairman Walsh NOMINATED Kate Connolly to serve as Vice Chairman of the Select Board. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.**

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6. **Chairman Walsh MOVED to appoint Paul Olsen to serve on the Hanover Affordable Housing Commission and Shirley Montgomery to serve on the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

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7. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the Minutes of May 5, 2008. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED 2 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED AND 1 ABSTAINED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2008.

8. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Rassias SECONDED the motion.**

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