

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

July 9, 2007

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; Bill Baschnagel, Selectman; Athos Rassias, Selectman and Julia Griffin, Town Manager. Absent: Peter Christie, Selectman.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Walsh opened the meeting to Public Comment. There were no comments from the public.

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADJUSTMENT OF THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE HYDRANT DISTRICT AND THE RURAL DISTRICT TO REFLECT CURRENT ZONING AND TO CONSIDER RENAMING THE DISTRICTS.

Chairman Walsh advised that this item was a product of the last meeting. Chairman Walsh MOVED to define the new Fire Districts as Districts 1, 2 and 3. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

Selectman Baschnagel suggested asking the public for input. There were no comments from the public.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RENAME THE DISTRICTS 1, 2 AND 3.

Chairman Walsh defined Districts 1, 2 and 3 noting that there were maps made available.

Ms. Griffin gave an overview of the changes that were made to the map after the last public hearing. She noted that Oak Hill was taken out of District 1 but Storrs Pond was left in. Grasse Road III was left in District 1, zoned for development and it was noted that there are hydrants along that road. The western slope of Balch Hill was removed from District 1 since it is protected from development. The Appalachian Trail corridor has also been moved from District 1 and placed in District 2. The area south of Hypertherm was also taken out of District 1. The entirety of the land north of Greensboro Road owned by the Leavitt's was left in District 1 and is zoned for development.

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Chairman Walsh noted that there were no changes between District 2 and District 3.

Winifred Stearns asked where the hydrants are on the east side of Storrs Pond. Ms. Griffin pointed out the location of the hydrants.

Anne Morris noted that the revised map is a great improvement and she commended the Board for listening to the people.

Chairman Walsh asked the Board for their input on the revised map. Vice Chairman Connolly felt that they have instituted the underlying rules and felt that the new map is an amplification of that decision. Ms. Griffin noted that the next step will be to notify the residents and give them an appeal period to appeal the decision behind defining their property within a specific district.

Chairman Walsh asked Ms. Griffin to prepare some written clarification of criteria with regard to the Forestry designated areas that are still in District 1.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to accept the map as delineated and the criteria as stated. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE MAP AS DELINEATED AND THE CRITERIA AS STATED.

3. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY2007-08 AS REVISED.

Chairman Walsh asked if Ms. Griffin had spoken with Selectman Christie about any of his concerns in his absence. Ms. Griffin noted that she did speak with him and his only concern was that the Town is somehow avoiding the CPI criteria for setting the tax rate. Ms. Griffin advised him that they are working on coming up with a new model. She assumed that this would be part of the fall discussions to make a list of criteria to use to set the tax rate target. Selectman Baschnagel would like to keep the CPI included to keep it strongly influenced.

Chairman Walsh suggested changing the wording to include CPI as the following: ‘a target is to be informed by the CPI and the Board’s review of the next set of rolling five year projection’s to the Town’s various funds’.

Selectman Rassias noted that when he was on the Finance Committee, there were constant discussions about CPI and felt that it was reasonable to leave it in the wording with the caveat that the Board’s goal may deviate from the CPI.

Chairman Walsh would like Betsy McClain to come up with a clear statement as to the wishes of the Board and forward the information to Selectman Christie and Selectman Rassias for review prior to the budget discussions.

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Vice Chairman Connolly would like to change the word "Charter" under Item 6 with regard to the meetings for long-range transportation planning.

Chairman Walsh suggested changing the wording for Item 6 to 'Clarify the responsibilities of the relevant Boards or Committees relative to their responsibility for long-range transportation planning beginning with a joint meeting of the PTB, Planning Board and Board of Selectman in the early fall'.

Selectman Baschnagel questioned whether updating the Town Meeting Taskforce might be a staff goal versus a Board goal. Chairman Walsh would like this to say 'update the Selectmen and citizens, including notice to prior members of the Town Meeting Taskforce' and have a public hearing on this subject to indicate what the Town has done at the State level to attempt to make changes. He does feel that this item sits with the staff versus the Board.

Chairman Walsh asked if the Board wanted to leave the item 'develop final site management regulations for amendment of the Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations' so vague. Ms. Griffin noted that this was really a matter of bringing groups together to bring a proposal before the Select Board. Chairman Walsh wanted some wording to show that the Board is looking for something relatively simple and not administratively burdensome and will not create costs for the Town.

Chairman Walsh moved on to 'outline the top five increases for each operating area for budget review'. Ms. Griffin noted that this item came from the budget discussions. After discussing the budget items on the list, Ms. Griffin noted that she would provide a package to present to the Board including; top 5 increases, 15 year paving budget, options for restoring capital reserve contributions, electricity expense analysis, audit committee and the social service agency support policy.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to approve the proposed goals and objectives for FY2007-2008 with suggested revisions. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY2007-2008 WITH SUGGESTED REVISIONS.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT ABATEMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

Ms. Griffin noted that this item should not have been included in this agenda. Chairman Walsh moved this item to the next scheduled meeting.

5. RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT SEWER ABATEMENTS.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to adopt the sewer abatements as recommended. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING THE SEWER ABATEMENTS AS RECOMMENDED.

6. RECOMMENDATION TO ABATE TIMBER YIELD TAX RELATED TO TOWN FOREST.

Chairman Walsh MOVED to accept the recommendation to abate timber yield tax related to the Town Forest. Selectman Rassias SECONDED.

Selectman Baschnagel asked about how the Town has treated this in the past and the possibility of reducing the tax due to the blow downs. Ms. Griffin advised that Assessor Mike Ryan gave a conservative estimate for the timber that had been felled during a storm in April. Mr. Ryan noted that by statute the Town is obligated to do this. Ms. Griffin noted that the Town is unable to waive the tax but they can adjust the amount of the tax. Ms. Griffin also noted that this is something that she has not dealt with in the past. Mr. Ryan noted that after the storm, he contacted the State and it was recommended to him to reduce the amount of the tax. It was also recommended that the Town take into account the cost of removal of this timber.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO ABATE THE TIMBER YIELD TAX RELATED TO THE TOWN FOREST.

7. REFINEMENT OF RESIDENCY POLICY RELATIVE TO SALE OF BURIAL PLOTS.

Chairman Walsh advised that the Town is running out of burial plots and it is the Board's wish to make plots available to people with significant ties to the Town of Hanover at the resident rate. They are also available at a different rate for those who were not Hanover residents. Chairman Walsh noted that the resident rate is \$500.00 and the non-resident rate is \$2,000. The proposal is that any resident may purchase a burial plot at the resident rate if they are a current resident of Hanover or can attest to being a previous resident of Hanover or can attest to having lived in Hanover for a period of 20 years.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to accept the Residency Policy relative to the sale of burial plots. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIDENCY POLICY RELATIVE TO THE SALE OF BURIAL PLOTS.

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8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin announced that she is currently working on a proposed 1st Annual Volunteer Recognition event on September 8th at Storrs Pond. She noted that there are about 250 invitees and Myra Johnson is looking at some cost estimates from Blood's Seafood. Storrs Pond is reserved for that date. Ms. Griffin noted that she is working with a \$4,000 or under budget to include food and some type of giveaway for the volunteers. The Board was supportive of this venture acknowledging that the funding would come out of the Selectmen's budget.

9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Kate Connolly

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that the Planning Board met and the Penfield Project on Curtiss Road is on the agenda for a site visit tomorrow night. The Planning Board has two subcommittees that are meeting regularly regarding wetlands and rural areas.

Vice Chairman Connolly announced that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission has a new Executive Director, Christine Walker, who worked for the North Country Council previously.

Vice Chairman Connolly reminded the Board that their friends from Nihonmatsu will be arriving July 27th and she encourages other Board members to join them.

Bill Baschnagel

Selectman Baschnagel advised that the Planning Board had one College project, the Tuck Mall sidewalk and lights and asked permission for a slightly taller lamppost on the north side of Tuck Mall which is moving ahead.

Selectman Baschnagel noted that the Parking and Transportation Board continues to talk about phone-in meter payments which are done through cell phones.

Athos Rassias

Selectman Rassias has nothing to report.

Brian Walsh

Chairman Walsh noted that the County budget is up 17.2% and the State has redone its relationship with the County so that the responsibility for long-term healthcare for the indigent will fall to the property tax.

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10. OTHER BUSINESS.

Ms. Griffin noted that they had a wonderful sendoff for Marlene McGonigle at the Library.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Athos Rassias, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

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