

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

November 5, 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; Peter Christie, Selectman; Bill Baschnagel, Selectman; Athos Rassias, Selectman and Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT.

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

2. CATV UPDATE.

Bob Franzoni, CATV, gave a handout to the Board. Mr. Franzoni reported that the high school and the high school gym is wired so Town Meeting can be live at the high school which will also be easier for CATV.

Mr. Franzoni reported that the CATV Board had decided to do more with Government needs. The Hanover Selectmen's Meeting of September 24th is being podcasted on the CATV website. CATV will be investing \$25,000 into downstreaming all government meetings so that people can download it and watch it as many times as they would like. There will be the ability to downstream everything on their website in December. The last 2 hour meeting took 8 hours to get it on the web, but with this new system the meeting will be sent automatically to the website. The host website is free of charge for non-profits. The website is www.catv.org and he suggested that the Town website reference this website. The CATV website has a link to the Town of Hanover website.

Chairman Walsh asked if would be possible to get a report as to how many people downstream the meetings. Bob Franzoni stated that he is able to see if the site is streaming from the Hanover website. Mr. Franzoni reported that there have been 18 people from Singapore checking out the website. The first report would come in January and he can contact Ms. Griffin with a number. They are still working on a number for the amount of time that something is put up on their website and right now they are thinking of using 1 month as a guideline.

Mr. Franzoni will deliver DVD's to the library in about a month to eliminate using VHS tapes.

Chairman Walsh would like to know how long the Howe Library keeps the recording of the meetings since it is at their discretion. Ms. Griffin thought that perhaps the Town should take possession of the recording after the Howe is done with it. Chairman Walsh

felt that there was value of retaining them and then again to destroy them but they should think about the whole process.

Chairman Walsh asked about open channel space. Mr. Franzoni reported that if Lebanon came on board, it would be tight with just 2 channels. Ms. Griffin noted that there are occasional requests from residents asking to broadcast Hanover Planning Board meetings.

Ms. Griffin asked if it was possible to get the auditorium wired. Mr. Franzoni reported that the auditorium, gymnasium and library are currently wired.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING TAX RATE TARGET FOR FY 2007-2008.

Selectman Christie asked the Board to consider his idea to ask Town staff to develop a budget which he would call a 'steady state budget' which would appropriate all of the known expenses and using the CPI, MNS target for the MNS material that they don't know about, and use that as a base; no growth but no reduction as well in terms of the services that they provide. He would recommend that staff provide a normal wish list and then come up with a list of activities or expenses that would reduce spending over time to bring the budget back to the CPI.

Selectman Christie reported that Betsy McClain did some numbers for this proposal and the steady State budget would have an increase of 5.29%; if you eliminate the Reservoir Road project, it would turn out to be less than a 1% increase.

Ms. McClain noted that \$336,000+ was budgeted for the Reservoir Road rebuild. To come up with a practical budget-to-budget, she left that in and that budget would go up 5.29% and although this won't be seen in taxpayers tax bill, the goal was to see what the relationship to CPI would be if they just inflated compensation, materials and supplies. They will be saving money because they will be taking the one year's expense out.

Chairman Walsh stated that his vision is to have a set of numbers or a graph that shows the money prior to the large expense and then after and how this increase is annualized. Selectman Christie stated that the real increase would be 5.3% but there would be a one time offset which would bring it down to less than 1%. Chairman Walsh wanted to be able to show the taxpayers that they put this expense in and where it was taken back out.

Selectman Baschnagel noted that the taxpayers are expecting their tax rate to go down but there has been an increase in the budget in other areas over time.

Selectman Christie advised that a steady state budget proposal would come to an increase year-to-year of 5.3%. He also would like to see the departments come back to the Board with program cuts which, if the Board chose to implement them, would come to a 2.4% increase. Selectman Christie would like to have sufficient time to discuss these issues at Town Meeting.

Vice Chairman Connolly asked about the undesignated fund balance and whether this needs to be raised this year. Ms. McClain noted that in FY 2009, there is \$52,500 expense with a 0% increase change in that line item.

Ms. Griffin suggested that they present the budget document as they have in the past but what they should talk about is how to present their conversations to have a more meaningful and strategic discussion. Chairman Walsh suggested that in their conversations it should be at more of a strategic level versus reviewing small line items. Selectman Baschnagel wanted to talk about all of the content for example, the cost around 1 more officer or sending out personnel for 3 inches of snow versus 1 inch. Selectman Christie wanted a time allocation and felt that there could be a faster way to go through the budget review process. Chairman Walsh would like to do the hard discussions first; here's the baseline, here's where it might go up or down, rather than going over each line item and doing the hard conversations at the end.

Chairman Walsh stated that it sounds like a constructive approach but he feels that the CPI does not relate to the Town budget this year.

Ms. Griffin will forward to the Board the sentiment that will be brought forward to the Department Heads.

Selectman Rassias asked if the Municipal Cost Index would be a better benchmark. Ms. McClain didn't pursue that avenue because she did not have the information for the Board when questions were raised. Selectman Christie felt that they should be using the more commodity specific data. Ms. Griffin was surprised to see the change in the CPI within the last month.

Chairman Walsh doesn't want to be in a place that removes any initiatives that provide a more efficient way to get things done. Ms. McClain noted that the challenge will be for the Department Heads to be creative in making service oriented changes in a broad approach.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE 2008 MEETING SCHEDULE.

Chairman Walsh and the Board went over scheduling conflicts in the proposed 2008 schedule and made some minor changes.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE 2008 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING SCHEDULE.

**5. BANNER REQUEST.
- Hood Museum**

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the banner request from the Hood Museum. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUEST FROM THE HOOD MUSEUM.

**6. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:
- Zoning Board of Adjustment Revised Appointments**

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to appoint Ruth Lappin as a regular member, Bernie Waugh as an alternate member and Carolyn Radisch as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF APPOINTING RUTH LAPPIN AS A REGULAR MEMBER, BERNIE WAUGH AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER AND CAROLYN RADISCH AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin noted that staff is busy getting ready to send out support documents for the budget to the department heads. They are waiting for the tax rate target from the Board. The budget review will be done before the Christmas holiday. The first two or three weeks in December will be busy with these discussions allowing for more time to consider options in January. Ms. Griffin noted that it is their goal to get the Capital Improvement Projects in front of the Board after December.

Ms. Griffin reported that she is awaiting an update on the NH Retirement System and that the Governor's Task Force has been meeting over the last two months to review the issues facing the Retirement System. She hopes to have a sense as to what the Task Force will be recommending before they finish their work on the budget.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Local Government Center Conference is this week on Wednesday and Thursday.

Chairman Walsh announced that on Wednesday night, November 7th there will be a discussion regarding the proposed new jail for Grafton County held at the Lebanon Senior Center. Ms. Griffin reported that the estimated cost is over \$40 million. Vice Chairman Connolly would like to see exactly what is included in the project and how the price is generated. Ms. Griffin noted that the first price was \$44.5 million but it was reduced to \$40 million when they removed the proposal for a new Sheriff's office.

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Chairman Walsh would like to know how this money converts to dollar figures for the taxpayers in Hanover. Ms. Griffin noted that the principal and interest impact would be a 15% increase per year, over 20 years for the bond for the Grafton County Tax. This cost does not reflect any additional operating costs.

8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Peter Christie

Selectman Christie reported that the Gile Hill groundbreaking took place with the Governor. He noted that there were members from Twin Pines, The Hartland Group, members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Town staff present and it was very much a community event. He also noted that Bob Strauss was recognized at the event for making this happen.

Kate Connolly

Vice Chairman Connolly had nothing new to report.

Bill Baschnagel

Selectman Baschnagel participated in two parking discussions in the last couple of weeks. One with the Chamber group and one with Town staff and Dartmouth College. There should be upcoming reports from both groups in the near future.

Athos Rassias

Selectman Rassias had nothing to report.

Brian Walsh

Chairman Walsh reported that the Upper Valley Land Trust will be having a slide show at the Howe Library at noon on Thursday which will highlight the good work that they have done over the years.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no other business.

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10. ADJOURNMENT.

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

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

1. **THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE 2008 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING SCHEDULE.**

2. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the banner request from the Hood Museum. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUEST FROM THE HOOD MUSEUM.

3. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to appoint Ruth Lappin as a regular member, Bernie Waugh as an alternate member and Carolyn Radisch as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.**

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4. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.**

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