

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 9, 2006

7:30 PM – MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – HANOVER, NH

The Chairman, Brian Walsh, called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:30 pm. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice Chairman; William "Bill" Baschnagel, Selectman; Peter Christie, Selectman; Allegra Lubrano, Selectman; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Chairman Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and announced that the first order of business would be the Approval of the Minutes.

Chairman Walsh asked the Board to refer to the Minutes of October 3, 2005 and asked whether there were any changes.

Selectman Lubrano MOVED that the Board approve the Minutes of October 3, 2005 with minor corrections. Vice Chair Connolly SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2005 WITH THE MINOR CORRECTIONS.

Chairman Walsh asked the Board about the Minutes of December 5, 2005 and whether there were any changes.

Chairman Walsh and Selectman Connolly noted some changes that needed to be made. Selectman Connolly specifically mentioned that Selectman Lubrano needed to be added as attending the meeting. There was also a correction on page 8 that should state that the time limit for spending should take place "within 6 years".

Selectman Lubrano MOVED to approve the Minutes of December 5, 2005 with the changes requested. Vice Chair Connolly SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD VOTED TO UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2005, WITH THE CORRECTIONS.

Chairman Walsh asked about the Minutes of December 19, 2005 and asked for changes or Board comments.

Selectman Lubrano MOVED to accept the Minutes of December 19, 2005 with the revisions. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2005 WITH THE MINOR CORRECTIONS.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Walsh announced the meeting for the benefit of the CATV audience. There were no comments from the public.

3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF WESTERLY SEGMENT OF BUCK ROAD AS A PUBLIC STREET.

Chairman Walsh advised that this item is a continuation of a public hearing that was started at 4:00 on Buck Road.

Ms. Griffin referred to a map of the area. It begins just west of the entry drive to the Upper Valley Land Trust on the north to the private business to the south. It is the section of Buck Road that was extended to serve Wheelock Terrace including the partial cul-de-sac.

Chairman Walsh advised that it was built 4 or 5 years ago.

Ms. Griffin advised that this is part of a refinancing for the organization and not a transfer of ownership.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to accept the said westerly segment of Buck Road as a public street. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion. Ms. Griffin added that Town staff also recommended the acceptance. It was a challenging project to control the grade change. THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERLY SEGMENT OF BUCK ROAD AS A PUBLIC STREET.

Chairman Walsh asked if the reason for this is that the lot Wheelock Terrace is built on needed frontage. This is part and parcel with the discussions held with the Planning Board members about public vs. private roads. Ms. Griffin advised that there were two issues, one is frontage and the second is that the turnaround actually facilitates DPW's efforts toward maintenance. It is a very short amount of additional roadway to maintain and will not have a significant impact on the budget. It becomes convenient for the Town too.

Ms. Griffin advised that there was a lot of site work that had to be accomplished to make it a safe turnaround.

Chairman Walsh stated that there is a public benefit, a turnaround and a few hundred feet of additional maintenance. It lengthens the cul-de-sac. Chairman Walsh asked what would happen if the Board did not accept the segment of roadway.

Ms. Griffin advised that the frontage issue was a topic of discussion but she has not had the opportunity to discuss this with staff about background. The Board's decision relative to acceptance 'trumps' the Planning Board's decision to approve this. It is unclear what the affect on the owner would be if it were not approved.

Vice Chair Connolly stated that this would also be an unprecedented decision on behalf of the Select Board.

Ms. Griffin advised that she thinks Chairman Walsh's point is what happens with future requests in this area in taking on additional roadways. What makes sense from the Town's perspective is that this is an elongation of an existing road that makes maintenance easier.

Chairman Walsh feels that there didn't seem to be a major public purpose in making this a public road and what is the benefit of private vs. public.

Selectman Baschnagel agreed that public interest vs. private is an issue. He mentioned that the site plan approved this as drawn and he spoke to the issue of drainage that starts at the top of the hill.

Ms. Griffin stated that this was not an easy project in the design and limitation phase. As the Board may recall, this project originally called for a wooden guardrail and the Town made them take it down because it did not meet the State RSA standard. The Town mandated that the drainage was at the right grade change and it was not a 'slam dunk' for the developer as far as finalizing this project. There were challenges during the construction phase.

Vice Chair Connolly advised that this was not an easy process at the Planning level either.

Chairman Walsh felt that this is an example of what the Boards will deal with in future discussions.

Selectman Baschnagel advised that current development on Greensboro Road is a self-sustained project and interacts with the intersection that is used

strictly by the homeowners in that section. It's a relatively simple layout and it comes back to public vs. private interest.

Ms. Griffin advised that given the zoning of this area and the knowledge that the adjacent properties could be developed fairly intensively, the traffic that comes down Buck Road, the more justified the Town is to make the road public. When the staff was contemplating this, the Gile Tract was originally a possibility to impact Buck Road.

Chairman Walsh asked if there were any other comments or points of learning to take from this. Hearing none, the Board moved on to the next item.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF VEHICLE LEASE FOR REPLACEMENT OF HANOVER WATERWORKS COMPANY VEHICLES.

Ms. Griffin advised that the Town leases the vehicles for the Waterworks Company and then the Company reimburses the Town for the expense. The recommendation is that the Board authorizes the staff to execute the lease.

Selectman Lubrano MOVED to approve the authorization to execute the vehicle lease for the replacement of the Hanover Waterworks Company vehicles. Vice Chair Connolly SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE VEHICLE LEASE FOR REPLACEMENT OF HANOVER WATERWORKS COMPANY VEHICLES.

5. RECOMMENDATION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF COPIER LEASE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Ms. Griffin advised that this is the lease purchase document so it happens at the end of the lease and normally the Town uses the copiers another 2, 3 or 4 years beyond the expiration of the lease depending on the use of the machine by the department.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the execution of the copier lease for the police department. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE COPIER LEASE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

6. FY 2006-2007 BUDGET UPDATE.

Ms. Griffin advised that it's been a difficult year again. Ms. Griffin is waiting for a figure from Betsy McClain as to how much money has to be cut depending on the FEMA funds. Ms. Griffin will develop a Plan A and Plan B budget.

Ms. Griffin advised that Valley Net left as the Town's internet service provider (ISP). The Town is in the process of looking at several modifications to the internet service that should hopefully not cost the Town more money. Corey Stevens is spending a lot of time looking at alternatives so that we can keep the services that we've grown accustomed to without spending any more money. She may know more at the end of January. By Valley Net leaving, it costs about \$10,000 more in internet costs and it was a great deal with Valley Net while it lasted.

Chairman Walsh mentioned that Valley Net is located in the basement. The revenue from that should be equal to the amount that is lost. Ms. Griffin stated that this is true but she'll have to wait to see how that plays out over the next couple of months.

Selectman Baschnagel advised that it is his understanding that Valley Net sold their ISP service to SoverNet and did SoverNet give the Town a quote?

Ms. Griffin advised that they did give a quote and it was more and SoverNet has since changed their operation.

Ms. Griffin stated that the ball is definitely still in motion and the Town is looking at several angles. She just wanted the Board to know that everything is up in the air. G4 is the new long distance telephone service provider. Verizon hit the Town with a large increase.

Ms. Griffin advised that health insurance is about a 13% increase.

Chairman Walsh asked what that meant for dollars.

Ms. Griffin advised that it's about \$50,000. She advised that they have to budget for the wage scale adjustments. In this years budget there was a 1% COLA and the Town needs to catch up to the July 1 number which is 2 %.

Ms. Griffin advised that there is a 53% increase in water rates due some time in the next fiscal year depending on when the water filtration plant comes on-line.

Chairman Walsh asked about the FD budget for this. Ms. Griffin said that the FD does get hit on this one and the good news is that Chief Bradley thinks it will be the fall before the increase hits. The project may be late and therefore the increase would be pushed back to January.

Ms. Griffin advised that the big change is the significant increase in electric bills as of April 1st when the transition rates expire. Joe Cote is working on an article for The Spectator to alert the public about this. There is a 75% increase that is assumed and it will apply to residential rates as well. After speaking with Granite State Electric (GSE), about 75% of the Town's expense will increase 100%. There is no way to know what that increase is until the bids come back from the electric company. GSE pools all of its smaller customers which includes the Town and the Town has been told to expect a 75% increase. Betsy McClain will be working on numbers for the budget. This was not expected for this year's budget and the Town should feel the full impact on July 1.

Ms. Griffin stated that the deregulation was supposed to create more competition but because the transition rate has been extended twice, the result is higher rates.

Vice Chair Connolly advised that it will raise her home rate from 12 cents/kwh to 21 cents/kwh.

Ms. Griffin encouraged Joe Cote to look at this and she is concerned that residents will not be prepared for this.

Vice Chair Connolly asked if the members of Congress were alerted to this.

Ms. Griffin advised that not yet. She advised that it's a matter of when it happens and not if. At some point it has to be dealt with.

Selectman Baschnagel doesn't understand the basis for this. Ms. Griffin mentioned that she has asked Betsy McClain to look further into this to get the background.

Chairman Walsh feels that this is a perfect issue for the Municipal Association. The Town may have been unique when the Town was tied to Wilder Dam but this is different and it should be worked on from the Municipal Association on behalf of the NH Towns and Cities.

Ms. Griffin stated that she did send an e-mail out to colleagues in the municipal network to see what would happen if all the municipalities got together on this issue and people aren't paying attention to it.

Chairman Walsh asked if there was a coalition of other cities and towns in the State would they be locked in for a period of time. Ms. Griffin would look into that.

Ms. Griffin is budgeting a 9% increase in gasoline and a 12% increase in heating oil. Frank Austin has urged the Town to boost transfers into equipment reserve because he is seeing an increase cost in fleet purchases is outstripping what has been saved in the reserve. Largely it is the increased cost of steel and some of the increase is fuel. Ms. Griffin advised that it's something she has to weigh in how much to set aside for the vehicle reserve versus using the money for other things. Frank Austin has gone through the vehicle replacement schedule and his fear is that there won't be enough money to stay on the replacement schedule. Ms. Griffin has asked Frank Austin to provide her with a revised schedule showing the vehicles being used a little longer than the Town has done in the past.

Ms. Griffin advised that the public works department is asking for a boost in money to the paving reserve. The focus has also been to put in place a CIP for replacement of the buildings such as roof replacement, etc.

Ms. Griffin also added that they are looking for ways to replenish the undesignated fund balance because it was tapped into for the emergency road repairs. This also depends on the outcome of the FEMA funds.

Selectman Baschnagel asked if there was a date to find out about the FEMA money and whether this should be a separate warrant article.

Ms. Griffin is hopeful that they will know by the end of the month. The appeal is supposed to take about 2 months. The Town was 2 months out on January 6th so it should be soon. If she hears by the end of the month, this will allow a couple of weeks to figure out which scenario to bring to the Board for budget.

Selectman Lubrano wondered if the time frame would be thrown off due to the demands on FEMA this year.

Ms. Griffin stated that it didn't take long to hear from them the first time. The State sent its letter on August 6th and the Town heard back two months later.

Selectman Christie is not very encouraged and feels that Plan B is the most realistic approach.

Ms. Griffin said that it's just a tough year and the Town will get through it. She will come before the Board with priorities.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin had nothing else to report but suggested that Friday night from 6-8 in Pine Park at the Golf Course there is an inaugural event called "Howl at the Moon" and there are 450 attendees expected. There will be snowshoes and cross country skiing.

Selectman Lubrano stated that there will be food stations. Ms. Griffin advised that it's turning out to be a very popular family event. Chairman Walsh wanted to commend the Recreation Department for doing a great job.

8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Peter Christie

The Recycling Committee is working on planning events for this year including the 4th of July. The Finance Committee is meeting regularly to better understand and anticipate the school budget. There will be a couple of new members to the Committee.

Ms. Griffin advised that Tom Blinkhorn has been appointed to the Finance Committee. There is another appointment and the letters have gone out. Selectman Christie advised that they would make a formal announcement at the next meeting.

Chairman Walsh explained that the Finance Committee is appointed by the moderator of the school district.

Chairman Walsh asked Selectman Christie to commend the Recycling Committee for the wonderful tree recycling event.

Kate Connolly

The Planning Board met once to discuss the Qroe project and came to a conclusion that what they were presented with was too large with regard to location and access. The Planning Board is also reviewing a minor subdivision on 3 Mile Rd. The subdivision for the Gile Tract was heard and

approved last Tuesday. Tomorrow night the Board will be working on the proposed zoning ordinance.

Bill Baschnagel

Selectman Baschnagel reported that the Public Transportation Board (PTB) met just before Christmas. The budget seems to be on track. The land swap discussions have been going on and he is not sure if it is positive at this point or just alive. There are a lot of people involved and there is sorting out to be done such as property lines.

Chairman Walsh asked if this is the area behind the parking lot of Town Hall. Selectman Baschnagel confirmed this area and there are a number of different variables being looked at. Selectman Baschnagel felt it is a good exercise even if they can't come to an agreement.

Allegra Lubrano

Selectman Lubrano reported that she attended the Community Substance Abuse Advisory Committee (CSAAC) meeting today where the group agreed to ponder how to best serve the community by making them aware of CSAAC's existence. The focus of the meeting was the elementary school age children and their parents. The feeling is that a lot of parents don't seem to worry about substance abuse at the elementary level and the group wants to do something, possibly this spring or fall. The last two CSAAC meetings have been very productive.

Brian Walsh

Chairman Walsh announced that the 19th is the Chamber of Commerce annual meeting at 5:30 at the Hanover Inn. There has been a lot of press about the new Director of the Chamber. Chairman Walsh thinks she's great.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Walsh asked for any other business. Hearing none he moved on to adjournment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AT 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allegra Lubrano, Secretary

Minutes transcribed and prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

1. **Selectman Lubrano MOVED that the Board approve the Minutes of October 3, 2005 with minor corrections. Vice Chair Connolly SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2005 WITH THE MINOR CORRECTIONS.**
2. **Selectman Lubrano MOVED to approve the Minutes of December 5, 2005 with the changes requested. Vice Chair Connolly SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD VOTED TO UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2005, WITH THE CORRECTIONS.**
3. **Selectman Lubrano MOVED to accept the Minutes of December 19, 2005 with the revisions. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2005 WITH THE MINOR CORRECTIONS.**
4. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to accept the said westerly segment of Buck Road as a public street. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion. Ms. Griffin added that Town staff also recommended the acceptance. It was a challenging project to control the grade change. THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERLY SEGMENT OF BUCK ROAD AS A PUBLIC STREET.**
5. **Selectman Lubrano MOVED to approve the authorization to execute the vehicle lease for the replacement of the Hanover Waterworks Company vehicles. Vice Chair Connolly SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE VEHICLE LEASE FOR REPLACEMENT OF HANOVER WATERWORKS COMPANY VEHICLES.**
6. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to approve the execution of the copier lease for the police department. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE COPIER LEASE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**
7. **Vice Chair Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Lubrano SECONDED the motion. THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AT 8:20 P.M.**