

Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held via teleconference on Monday, February 1, 2021 @ 7:00 PM.

Present via Zoom video conference Chairman David Delaney, Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman, Selectmen John Tuzik and John Barry and Selectwoman Vanessa O'Connor. Also present, Town Manager (TM) Joseph Colangelo, Executive Assistant Janet Tierney, Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee, Interim Finance Director (IFD) Chelsea Stevens.

Meeting called to order

At 7:00 pm The Chair announced that the Board had just come from Executive Session, called the Open Session meeting to order and asked for any public commentary.

Resident Caleb Estabrooks raised his virtual hand and informed the Board that the Historical Commission is working on a formal request to the Board of Selectmen to form a Historic District Study Committee to look into appropriate locations for a Historic District in Hanover. The proposed Historic District could then be brought to Town Meeting for a vote. The Board Agreed to put this on a future agenda.

Mr. Estabrooks also suggested that the water bills include a comparison of the billed party's consumption of water compared to the average homeowner in town in an effort to make those with larger consumption amounts aware of it and hopefully spur them to change their habits. The Board expressed support of the idea.

Minutes

The Board voted to approve the January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Discussion

Senator Michael Brady and Representative David DeCoste joined the meeting and discussed the status of the roll out of the Covid vaccinations, State and local level projects they are working on for the benefit of Hanover, the state budget and the status of the upcoming DEP/DPH cancer study report. Resident David Ladd raised his hand and proposed that the state form a surplus vaccine wait list in order to avoid wasting leftover vaccines. Senator Brady agreed to bring up the suggestion during his Covid call with the Senators tomorrow.

Both Senator Brady and Representative DeCoste asked that people reach out to them with any proposed legislation to be filed as the deadline has been extended due to Covid.

The Board inquired as to the possibility of having teachers moved up on the list of those receiving the vaccine as their job requires them to be in classrooms full of children. The Board requested an update on the traffic studies performed in town. Representative DeCoste agreed to provide that information.

Resident Mike Cianciola raised his hand and discussed both Senator Brady and Representative DeCoste's pay raises. Resident Steve Louko raised his hand and informed the Senator and Representative that a grant application to acquire funding for the Hanover Rails Trails project is in the works. Both asked that Mr. Louko reach out and provide them with more information on this.

Approved
2-8-21

Annual and Special Town Meeting

TM presented the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget – Town Manager’s Budget Submission Presentation, attached, to the Board.

The Board voted to open the Warrant.

TM, one by one, ran through agenda items 8 through 36 concerning individual proposed warrant articles and provided background to the Board on any proposed updates or other actions the Board may take if they so wished. TM noted that proposed warrant articles 1-6 are housekeeping items and the Advisory Committee, or the Board if they so choose, will plug the numbers in on those.

At agenda item 10, the Board discussed a potential warrant article concerning a Bylaw amendment with regards to the process of appointing the members of the Advisory Committee. Residents John Geary, Bylaw Review Committee Chair David Ladd and Brian May took part in the discussion. Selectman Tuzik and Mr. Geary clarified that Mr. Geary brought this topic before the Board as a discussion item as opposed to a proposed warrant article. Mr. Ladd clarified the charge of the Bylaw Review Committee. The Board voted to refer this topic to the Bylaw Review Committee for further study.

Police Chief Sweeney joined the meeting and presented the Board with the background on agenda item 11 concerning proposed warrant article 9 regarding amending the Animal Control Bylaw. The Chief stated that this amendment would bring the Bylaw in line with current Mass General Law as the law had changed since the current Bylaw had been approved. The Chief also informed the Board that the language was written by Town Counsel and agreed to send a copy of the language to the Bylaw Review Committee.

TM ran through agenda items 12 through 19 providing information to the Board on each.

At agenda item 20, the Planning Board Chair, Maryann Brugnoli joined the meeting and provided background information on proposed warrant article 19 regarding continuing the one-year moratorium for an additional year on the Village Planned Unit Development (VPUD).

At agenda item 21 regarding proposed warrant article 20 concerning the New Fire Station (Planning), TM informed the Board that they could supplant the \$750,000 figure with \$550,000 to get shovel ready. TM also informed the Board that the article could be funded through debt or free cash, either would be an appropriate funding mechanism.

At agenda item 22, the Board had a discussion of CPC’s proposed warrant article number 21 regarding Sylvester and Salmond Schools with CPC members Mary Dunn, Steve Louko and Bill Scarpelli. Selectman Barry expressed a desire to remove the Sylvester School from the article as per the vote at Town Meeting, the handling of Sylvester School is under the Board of Selectmen’s authority.

TM agreed to seek advice from Town Counsel on the Board’s authority to change the language of a proposed CPC warrant article. Planning Board member Giuseppe Fornaro, resident Ken Greene, Bylaw Review Committee Chair David Ladd, and School Business Manager Dr. Tom Raab joined the conversation. The Board agreed that TM would discuss this topic with Town Counsel, provide feedback to the Board, and the Board would revisit this at an upcoming meeting.

TM ran through agenda items 23 – 27. Dr. Raab joined the discussion and provided background information to the Board on agenda items 28 and 29.

ATM provided the Board with background information on agenda item 30 regarding the FEMA Flood Maps.

TM informed the Board that he hopes to have a representative from South Shore Vo Tech come and speak with the Board and provide further information on their proposed warrant article.

Approved
2-8-21

DPW Director Victor Diniak provided the Board with the background information on agenda item 32. TM informed the Board that they could reach out to IFD with any questions on agenda item 33. Building Commissioner Joe Stack provided background information to the Board on agenda item 34.

At the Board's request for guidance on making the changes to the warrant, TM suggested that the Board make a motion to put in amended articles 10 and 11 on the General Fund Budget and Water Budget as provided to the Board today, to amend article 29 regarding the FEMA Maps with the language as provided to the Board and to make the one edit to proposed article 20 regarding the New Fire Station (Planning) changing the number from \$750,000 to \$550,000. The Board voted to make the changes as outlined by the Town Manager.

Fire Chief Jeffrey Blanchard joined the meeting and discussed preliminary plans for the Annual Town Meeting, informing the Board that they are hoping to hold the meeting on May 3rd at the High School, however it is uncertain where things will be with Covid. The Chief informed the Board that he had spoken with Frank Teixeira of Starland and as it stands now the basketball area is unavailable as it is booked, and the turf building is not conducive to holding the meeting there. The Chief mentioned that should things change we should be able to pivot quickly and have a plan b and a plan c on where to hold Town Meeting if need be.

Selectman Tuzik asked if the recent efficiency study performed on the operations of the Clerk's Office should be shared with the Bylaw Review Committee to aid them in reviewing petition article 7 which proposes an amendment to the General Bylaw regarding the Town Clerk's business hours. TM confirmed that the Bylaw Review Committee will have access to the completed report if they would like to see it.

The Board voted to close the warrant.

Work Agreements

The Board voted to approve the Finance Director work agreement as presented.

Other

The Board voted to appoint Selectwoman Vanessa O'Connor as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen.

The Meeting ended and adjourned at 9:34 pm