

**Meeting Minutes of the Hanover Select Board Special Meeting held in a Hybrid Format with both in person attendees in the First Floor Hearing Room of Hanover Town Hall as well as remote attendees via Zoom videoconference, on Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:30pm.**

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**Call meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance**

At 6:30pm the Chair called the meeting to order.

Present at Town Hall were Chair Vanessa O'Connor, Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman, and Selectman Steve Louko. Selectman David Delaney was present via Zoom and Selectman John Tuzik was unable to attend.

Present at Town Hall were Town Manager Joe Colangelo (TM), Assistant Town Manager, HR Director, CDMI Director Ann Lee (ATM), and Director of Public Affairs, Licensing and Insurances Janet Tierney (DPA).

All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments**

In accordance with Select Board Policy 2-6, the Chair requested any public comments, seeing none.

**Resident Forum**

**An opportunity for Residents to provide the Select Board with their feedback on the decision of whether or not to support listing the Former National Fireworks Site as a Superfund Site**

The Chair took a moment to recognize that the Board has received letters in support of the Select Board voting in favor of the listing of the Former National Fireworks Site as a Superfund Site from the following people: Don Perry, Jessica Curtis, Dan Piper, Kay Talcot, Charlie Knapp, John Risgen, Liam Getty, Tricia Joslin Gaghan, Libby Ritchie, Allison Foley, Irene Piper, Mary and Steven Dunn, Richard Hopkinson, Michelle Davidson, Lisa Lopez, Joanne Lynn, Tom Kennedy, Linda Cosgrove, Colleen Mulligan, John Sundholm, Catherine Engle, Karen Baker, Kathleen Manahan, Lauren Delaney and Matt Wood.

The Chair clarified that the timeline of August 2025 to open the site and get things rolling should the Select Board vote in support of the Superfund Site Listing, which was provided by the EPA at the meeting a couple of weeks ago, is the EPA's estimated timeline and not the Town's timeline. Further noting that while the Town has input in it and are part of the discussion, the EPA will be the ones determining what that timeline will look like.

The Following residents appeared before the Board and spoke in favor of the Board voting in support of the Former National Fireworks Site listing as a Superfund Site:

Greg Satterwhite commented on Les Molyneaux's comments at the last Fireworks Site Meeting, noting Mr. Molyneaux's question of whether or not if we received funding from the DOD or other source, the cleanup could continue until the EPA took over. Mr. Satterwhite also expressed that he is in favor of the listing. The Chair informed all that even if the Town were to receive funds, the EPA and the MassDEP have different protocols and procedures involved with running the site, and with the changeover, a pause would more than likely have to take place either way. The Chair further noted that the Town is not in a position to push for or require that funds be given as the Town is not one of the parties negotiating for a potential settlement at this point. Les Molyneaux

appeared before the Board asked if the Attorney General would be able to renegotiate with the responsible parties namely the Department of Defense (DOD) to allow Tetra Tech to continue working on the site for the responsible parties namely the DOD. Mr. Molyneaux expressed frustration that he has not been able to receive an answer to that question. The Chair noted that she has provided an answer to this question multiple times and informed all that the Town has no ability to force the DOD to provide funds or negotiate anything as the Town is not a party to the negotiations DOD is involved in with the Attorney General's (AG's) Office. The Chair informed all that the AG's Office has indicated to the Town that the negotiations broke down. The Chair commented that the Town has no knowledge of what the DOD is thinking what their positioning is what their judgement is in terms of their liability and that has not been decided by the court and therefore, the Town has no avenue to affect that.

Mr. Molyneaux expressed that he would like the answer from the Attorney General's Office on this. Selectman Louko suggested that Tracie Triplet be added to Mr. Molyneaux's call list as she is the representative that had attended the monthly meetings with the Town. Further informing all that the AG's office, in their perspective, have exhausted all avenues they could pursue as the DOD was unwilling to settle to the extent the AG and Mass DEP thought they would need them to settle, including a contingency for any migrated contaminants to other parts of the river system. The DOD said based on their policy, they could not settle with such a large contingency. Mr. Molyneaux said he would be happy to hear from the AG's Office and is happy to say he has an appointment with them. Vice Chair Nyman stated that she personally invited a representative from the AG's Office to the recent meeting on the Fireworks Site, and was told they were told they couldn't go because it was an EPA Meeting. The Vice Chair noted that they did however provide Ann Landry's contact email for any residents with questions for the AG's Office. Mr. Molyneaux stated he is in favor of the listing as a Superfund Site.

Gregory Joslin appeared before the Board via Zoom, and reiterated his email to the Board asking the Board to vote in favor of the Site becoming a Superfund Site. The Vice Chair thanked Greg as well as Kira Purcett for reaching out to her in support of the listing. Noting that the feedback received from the residents means a lot to the Board Members.

Selectman Louko asked that the emails could be either read into the record or made available to residents. The Chair agreed to ask TM to post them to the website once it is confirmed that it is ok post them as public records. Seeing no further questions or comments the Chair closed the resident forum and announced that the next step will be a vote at the next Select Board Meeting on whether or not to support the listing of the Former Fireworks Site as a Superfund Site.

## **Presentation**

### **Review and Discuss the 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft of the Town Manager's Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget**

The Chair took the next Agenda item out of order and ahead of this Agenda item.

### **Presentation from the Affordable Housing Trust regarding the history of Select Board controlled and St. Mary's owned parcels near Barstow Village, and the Barstow Village Project**

Steven Carroll, Chair of the Affordable Housing Trust appeared before the Board and presented [The Affordable Housing Trust presentation](#) regarding the history of Select Board Controlled and St. Mary's owned parcels near Barstow Village and the Barstow Village Project, attached. Mr. Carroll recommended on behalf of the Affordable Housing Trust, a Warrant Article to transfer the

parcel located in the area of 70 Legion Drive to the Affordable Housing Trust to investigate its feasibility for senior housing. The Board discussed the proposal and affordable housing in Hanover with Mr. Carroll. Resident and Scout Leader Eric Grund appeared before the Board via Zoom and mentioned for informational purposes that the land in question is used for Scouting purposes. Mr. Grund inquired if Scout Leaders have been included in the conversation. Resident Viola Ryerson appeared before the Board via Zoom and commented that she embraces land use for Senior Housing, recognizing that there is a need of it, however asked that septic and traffic issues of this proposal be considered along with the possible affects on the aquifer.

The Board agreed to have a full Board discussion on this topic after the budget piece gets off the ground, and thanked Mr. Carroll for coming.

The Chair then moved to the previous agenda item.

### **Review and Discuss the 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft of the Town Manager's Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget**

TM presented the Fiscal Year 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft Budget Presentation – January 29, 2024, [attached](#), and noted that all Softrite Budgets are available for viewing on the website.

TM informed all that there are late breaking changes proposed in particular from the School Department, further noting that the School Committee is currently holding a Public Hearing/Budget Meeting as we speak and recommended that it might make sense for people to watch the recording of it once it is posted tomorrow. Therefore, TM informed all that he would be submitting the Budget to the Select Board next Monday night instead of this evening. TM ran through some of the points being discussed publicly tonight at the School Committee Meeting.

The Chair asked for any question or comments. Resident Tim Gillespie appeared before the Board via Zoom and inquired as to where all the money is going. TM informed all that there will be a more comprehensive budget presentation next week. The Chair stated that the Board appreciates Mr. Gillespie's feedback and the Board Members are working very hard to be sure tax dollars are going to the best use. Mr. Gillespie further discussed his thoughts with the Board. The Chair asked Mr. Gillespie to have any residents he is concerned about reach out to the Board Members and the Board Members will connect them with services. The Vice Chair also mentioned that Town Meeting is free to attend and provides an opportunity to vote on the Budget.

Selectman Louko inquired if the apartment buildings are paying a commercial tax rate or a residential tax rate. Finance Director Chelsea Stevens (FD) appeared before the Board and informed all that they pay the residential rate based on the code from the DOR, because they are being used for residential purposes. As requested, FD agreed to look into it further.

Andrea Krause appeared before the Board via Zoom and asked if it would be possible to start Town Meeting at 6:00pm. TM agreed to look into it. Ms. Krause also inquired if the School is looking to decrease or prorate the tuition for the kindergarten, when there isn't sufficient money to run what currently exists. The Chair confirmed that that is on the table, however the Board does not have a say in how the School Committee allocates the funds within the School Budget. The Chair spoke on the full day kindergarten proposal, commenting that the sooner we take the hit financially adding that to the budget the sooner the Town would get the money back in Chapter 70 funding.

The Town Clerk appeared before the Board and informed all that the time of the Town Meeting is set by the Bylaws. The Chair noted that a change would require an amendment to the Bylaws then which would require a Warrant Article and a Town Meeting vote.

TM stated that tonight the Select Board is seeing a new budget proposal with new priorities from the School Department and the reason it is being delayed to next week is to give the Board the opportunity to review the information, digest it and provide feedback. TM further noted that the feedback is an important aspect of the budget, as this has presented a bit of a policy change to what we have been seeing in the Budget up until now.

### **Licensing**

#### **Consider Approval of the Draft Town of Hanover 2023 Annual Report to the ABCC [MGL Chapter 138, §10A]**

DPA presented the [Draft Town of Hanover 2023 Annual Report to the ABCC](#) to the Board. Seeing no questions or comments the Board voted to approve the Draft Town of Hanover 2023 Annual Report to the ABCC.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Delaney, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Chair O'Connor, aye, Vice Chair Nyman, aye.

### **Budgeting and Finance**

#### **Consider approval of the Draft Fiscal Year 2025 +5 Year Capital Plan**

TM informed all that there are no changes from last week and the Capital Plan is ready to be adopted tonight, noting that a Capital Plan is not a promise to pay but a plan, however it does give some teeth to such things as grant writing.

Seeing no questions or comments, which the Chair clarified is because the Board has been looking at this for months now, the Board voted to approve the [Draft Fiscal Year 2025 +5 Year Capital Plan](#).

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Delaney, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Chair O'Connor, aye, Vice Chair Nyman, aye.

### **Annual and Special Town Meeting and Election**

#### **Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

TM informed all that the Annual Town Meeting Warrant closed on the 25<sup>th</sup>, therefore starting tonight, in order to make any amendments to the Warrant the Board will need to vote to open the Warrant, Vote on the Amendments, and then Vote to close the Warrant.

TM ran through the proposed [Amendments to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant](#).

DPA informed the Board that typically the printers ask for two weeks lead time for the print job and then there is also a date by which we have to post the Warrant prior to Town Meeting.

### **Town Manager Forum**

TM informed all the answer to Resident Viola Ryerson's question from a previous meeting regarding the dollar amount the School Department budgets for transportation out of District was received from the School's Finance Director and the answer is \$1.4 Million.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting ended and adjourned at 8:24pm.

Approved  
4/22/24