

Meeting Minutes of the Hanover Select Board Regular 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 22, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Call meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance

At 6:42pm the Chair called the meeting to order.

Present at Town Hall were Chair Vanessa O'Connor, Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman, and Selectman Steve Louko and Via Zoom Selectmen John Tuzik and David Delaney.

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.

Appointment

Robert Page to the Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees

Hanover resident Robert Page appeared before the Board. The Chair informed all that the Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to support Mr. Page's appointment to their Board. Mr. Page spoke on his background and interest in serving on the Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees. The Chair requested any questions from the Board, seeing none. Selectman Louko commented that Mr. Page comes with good credentials and will be a good contributor to the Board.

Via roll call vote the Board voted to appoint Robert Page to the Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees. Roll call vote: Selectman Tuzik, aye, Selectman Delaney, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Chair O'Connor, aye, Vice Chair Nyman, aye.

Select Board Goals

Status update of Select Board 2023-2024 Goals

The Chair and TM ran through the Select Board 2023-2024 Board Year Goals, [attached](#), and provided an update on the progress of those goals. The Members of the Select Board discussed the goals.

The Chair requested that TM provide the Board with information on what the challenges are with respect to the conceptual design for B. Everett Hall Field.

The Chair encouraged residents to reach out to Board Members with their feedback on whether or not the Board should be supportive of the Former Fireworks Site being listed as a Superfund Site.

Vice Chair Nyman encouraged the Board to continue to focus on sidewalks, and the sidewalk repair and maintenance program.

Selectman Louko expressed an interest in receiving feedback on the future of the Town's drinking

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water before large capital investments are made, as well as looking into whether it is possible to have the MWRA pipeline bring PFAS free water down to Hanover. TM noted that it is a good point and something that it being investigated now. TM informed all that along with the Deputy Superintendent of Public Works – Water Division Neal Merritt, TM has been working with a consortium of 6 or 7 other Towns, with Hingham taking the lead, and an initial study is being done, as required by MWRA, of what it would take to bring the water pipeline down to the South Shore including Hanover. TM further noted that there is an RFP out now, ARPA funds are being used for this purpose, and it will be at least a year for that study to be completed. The Chair stated that some level of information or conclusions from this study for next year's planning would be helpful seeing that \$5 Million is on the Capital plan for the next year.

Budgeting and Finance

Continued Discussion of the Draft Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget

TM and Finance Director Chelsea Stevens (FD) appeared before the Board. TM informed the Board that there is nothing new to discuss. The budget will be formally submitted next week, with the final riddle for TM and FD to solve being the estimate of the increase for South Shore VoTech.

FD provided an updated debt chart going out to 2048 and TM informed the Board that the good news is that it is dropping every year. TM further noted that in 2030 there will be a reduction of \$6 Million dollars in our assessment to Plymouth Retirement and the Town will also be getting a \$2 Million reduction from 29 to 30 in our debt schedule. So two large cost centers that combined total will be a reduction of \$8 Million dollars in the future.

TM agreed to look into the answer to the question posed by Ms. Ryerson regarding the School Budget. The Chair asked that Board Members be prepared and ready to vote on the Budget at the next meeting.

Continued Discussion of the Draft Fiscal Year 2025 +5 Year Capital Plan

TM stated that the plan will be listed on next week's meeting for adoption, noting that it is a plan and not a commitment to spend.

Vice Chair Nyman discussed the timing of when the Board meets with the Advisory Committee, before or after the Board votes on the budget. TM noted that their practice has been to look for the Select Board and TM to set the policy and then they review it after the policy and the proposal is set.

The Chair commented that the Board could possibly have a policy discussion on that and clarify the Boards relationship to the Advisory Committee and then a discussion with the Advisory Committee on how the Board would like to approach it.

Selectman Louko discussed the possibility of having spending policies by Department.

The Chair commented that it is always a good idea to look at policies in place and try to improve them and this would make a great Select Board goal for the coming year or two.

TM informed all that the auditors and creditors have been satisfied with the Town's policies and how the Town follows policies but it is always worth looking at.

Selectman Tuzik asked for clarification that next week the Board is voting or recommending to

put the two budgets on the Warrant, and not technically voting on one budget or another or the Board's approval or disapproval of the Budget(s), but voting to present it to Town Meeting. TM stated that that is a fair description and informed all that the Board would be voting to accept the Budget as presented by TM into the Warrant, and not voting in favor of the Base Budget or the Override Budget. TM confirmed that then the Budget(s) will appear in the Warrant with the Advisory Committee's commentary. The Chair further added that it will also then be on the ballot. Selectman Tuzik confirmed with TM that there will also be an opportunity for amendments to be made to either of the Budgets on Town Meeting Floor. TM clarified that there could be amendments to the Budget but the Town Moderator would more than likely not allow for an amendment that would be greater than the override Budget.

Annual and Special Town Meeting and Election

Consider Approval of the Draft 2024 Special and Annual Town Meeting and Election Calendar as provided by the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk appeared before the Board via Zoom and presented the Draft 2024 Special and Annual Town Meeting and Election Calendar, [attached](#).

The Clerk informed all that nomination papers will be available on approximately February 1st, and she will keep all informed of the date.

The Board voted to approve the Draft 2024 Special and Annual Town Meeting and Election Calendar as provided by the Clerk.

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

Review DRAFT Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Tm ran through the amendments to the Updated Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant, [attached](#).

The Clerk returned before the Board via Zoom and spoke on the Dog License Fee Article.

Vice Chair Nyman spoke in favor of setting the order of Articles by lottery again this year and the Chair agreed.

Selectman Tuzik asked about the Board's role with regards to vetting out Petition Articles and their constitutionality.

The Chair commented that the residents that put this year's Petition Article forward went through the proper channels to vet it. Tm informed all that Petition Articles do end up on the Warrant and the Board is unable to remove them but the Board has the opportunity to speak directly with Town Counsel to seek Town Counsel's opinion and the Board has the opportunity to present commentary to Town Meeting on the Article as the Advisory Committee does.

The Chair recommended that Town Counsel come to a future meeting to discuss this with the Board.

Town Manager Forum

TM informed all that he attended Chico's retirement party and Selectman Tuzik was there to give a Proclamation to Chico from the Board.

TM noted that Chico is a great guy and is still around Town and will probably help us out in his retirement as well.

Adjourn

The meeting ended and adjourned at 8:07pm.

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