

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 8, 2024 at 6:30pm.

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 John Tuzik was in attendance via Zoom and Selectman David Delaney 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 via Zoom 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.

Presentation

North-South River Watershed Association on the Indian Head River Restoration

Samantha Woods, Executive Director of the North South River Watershed Association, Alex Mansfield ecologist for the NSRWA, and Becky Malamut, Restoration Coordinator for the North River Restoration Project appeared before the Board and presented the Indian Head River Restoration (IHRR): Reconnecting Our Rivers and Estuaries Presentation, [attached](#).

The Board and TM discussed the presentation with Ms. Malamut, Ms. Woods and Mr. Mansfield. Resident Jocelyn Keegan appeared before the Board via Zoom and commented that it is important to move the project forward and advocate for the clean-up and restoration so that the waterways are clean and the fish are edible.

Resident Viola Ryerson appeared before the Board and urged for more definitive research regarding contamination before moving forward with plans to destroy the dam.

When asked Ms. Malamut informed the Board that she will send TM a template of a conditional letter of support. The Chair asked that this be put on the Agenda two weeks from now.

Budgeting and Finance

Discussion Second Draft of the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget

TM presented the Second Draft to the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget, [attached](#). The Board discussed the Operating Budget with TM.

Resident Viola Ryerson appeared before the Board and asked what percentage of the Budget is from the School and how much the School is spending on education and transportation services outside of Hanover. TM agreed to get that information for Ms. Ryerson.

The Board further discussed the Operating Budget with TM.

The Chair asked that to the extent any Board Members have additional thoughts in the next couple of weeks, to hash them out and provide TM with feedback as the Board will be voting on the budget to put forward to the Advisory Committee at the end of the month.

Approved
4/22/24

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

TM ran through the [Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget +5 Year Capital Plan](#) with the Board noting that it will be ready to adopt at the next meeting and stating that it is not a commitment to spend but a plan. The Chair inquired about the Police Department vehicle replacements. TM agreed to invite Chief Kane to attend a Select Board Meeting and provide the answers.

The Chair asked that the Board Members be prepared to vote on the Fiscal Year 2025 +5 Year Capital Plan at next week's meeting.

Annual and Special Town Meeting

Review [Updated DRAFT Annual Town Meeting Warrant](#)

TM informed the Board that the capital items as they appear now in the plan have been added to the Warrant.

Finance Director Chelsea Stevens (FD) appeared before the Board. As one or more of the Board Members had asked about increasing the income for Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Exemption, FD informed the Board that the income limit has been increased in the current version of the Article from \$20,000 to \$25,000 for Singles and from \$30,000 to \$35,000 for Married Couples. FD commented that the thought is that the Town may be able to reach more residents that need help, noting that it is not the maximum but they wanted to increase it to see if it convinces more residents to apply.

The Chair inquired if it would be helpful to the Town's seniors to look into using the 41C1/2 exemption where a percentage of the assessed value of the property is used as opposed to a fixed dollar amount. The Chair further noted that it had been brought up to her and in general the Chair was curious if that would make this process more appealing or accessible to the seniors.

FD agreed to look into it and informed all that there is a link on the website to available exemptions and further informed all that anyone with any question can also call the Assessor's Office for help.

Town Manager Forum

TM announced that 7pm on Thursday we are hosting an event with the EPA and Mass DEP on the future of the Fireworks Site and a discussion point will be whether or not the site will be listed as a Superfund Site and how that process works. TM expressed disappointment with the Attorney General's Office after hearing the news that they will not have a representative present to answer questions at this Thursday's meeting after being invited several times to be there. The Chair and Vice Chair echoed TM's disappointment in hearing that especially with the opportunity being available to attend remotely. Selectman Tuzik asked if the AG's Office had given a reason why they cannot attend the meeting. TM informed all that no reason was given. Selectman Tuzik also expressed disappointment with the news.

Select Board Forum

Vice Chair Nyman thanked the DPW for all their efforts in the recent storm and the wonderful job they did.

Selectman Louko mentioned that he was able to attend the Eagle Scout Banquet and Court of Honor Ceremony and was very impressed at the young men that were raised to Eagle Scout, and

informed all that there are good things going on in the Scouting Community of Hanover

Adjourn

The Meeting ended and adjourned at 8:27pm.