

Meeting Minutes of the Regular Hanover Select Board 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, March 4, 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, Selectman David Delaney and Selectman Steve Louko, and present via Zoom Selectman John Tuzik.

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.

Presentations

Overview of the Planning Board's MBTA Multi-Family Zoning Proposal for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant from Planning Board Chair MaryAnn Brugnoli and CDMI Director Ann Lee

Planning Board Chair Maryann Brugnoli and Assistant Town Manager/HR Director/CDMI Director Ann Lee (ATM) appeared before the Board and provided an update on the MBTA Multi-Family Zoning Proposal for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Brugnoli informed all that the MBTA Communities Act requires MBTA communities, which Hanover is regarded as an MBTA adjacent community, to create a Zoning Ordinance or Bylaw that will provide at least one district within which multi-family housing is permitted by right provided that such housing shall be without age restriction and will be suitable for families with children, and to identify a parcel or parcels of land on which a minimum of 750 units could be built. Ms. Brugnoli took a moment to acknowledge Ann Lee and Joe Stack who went above and beyond with all of the work they have performed on this project in order for the Town to be compliance. AT and Mr. Stack worked along with Ms. Brugnoli and Planning Board Member Giuseppe Fornaro on this project as the Town is currently without a Town Planner. Ms. Brugnoli informed all that ATM was able to obtain a grant to hire a consulting firm VHB, (Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin) to aid the Town in this process. Five sites were identified in this exercise to identify parcel or parcels of land. All are along Route 53. four of which are not workable due to water restrictions, conservation restrictions or lack of egress. One site checked all the boxes and it is located in the retail portion of Hanover Crossing. Officials from Hanover Crossing are knowledgeable on the subject, have been informed of the plan and are o.k. with the plan. Ms. Brugnoli informed the Board that they plan to present the plan which has been filed with the State at Town Meeting and the Planning Board will also be holding a Public Hearing on the plan on March 18th, noting that all are welcome to attend. When asked Ms. Brugnoli informed all that Town Meeting will hopefully vote to approve the plan so that Hanover is in compliance with the State. This will require a 50% plus one vote to pass at

Town Meeting. Ms. Brugnoli clarified for those listening that this is not a mandate to build housing but an exercise to find land. The Board discussed the overview presented with Ms. Brugnoli and ATM. When asked Ms. Brugnoli informed all that if passed at Town Meeting Hanover will be in compliance with the MBTA Communities Act. Town Meeting would be approving an overlay district which will be called the MBTA Communities Act District. Ms. Brugnoli further clarified for those listening that if approved at Town Meeting Hanover Crossing would have the right to develop that amount of housing if they wished to. With no further questions or comments the Board thanked Ms. Brugnoli and ATM for coming and all the work they have done on this.

Presentation on a Billboard Proposal on Rte. 3. from Shawmut Strategies Group and Interstate Outdoor Media

Dave Neglio, Attorney Kelly Grey and Joe Rull appeared before the Board and presented the Interstate Select Media New England LLC proposal, [attached](#).

The Board discussed the presentation with Mr. Neglio, Attorney Grey and Mr. Rull.

When asked, TM agreed to bring Article language to the next meeting for the Board to consider putting on the Warrant. The Board expressed an interest in moving forward and seeing what the proposal would look like.

Presentation from Chief Kane on the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS) “Hands-Free” Report by Salem State University

Chief Kane and Lieutenant Zemotel appeared before the Board and addressed the Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS) “Hands-Free” Report by Salem State University, [attached](#), and presented the Hanover Police Department Massachusetts Uniform Citation Data Analysis Report Discussion – Select Board March 4, 2024 presentation, [attached](#). Noting that Hanover does not use the electronic citation reporting ECitation Program which the Chief believes accounts for most of the missing data in the Salem State University report. The Chief informed the Board that HPD is waiting on notification of a grant award to obtain the ECitation equipment and as soon as the funding is obtained the Department will move quickly to get that equipment. The Board discussed the report and presentation with Chief Kane and Lieutenant Zemotel.

The Chair stated that she appreciates the Chief coming and speaking proactively to the Board about this report as opposed to being on the defensive and further stated that given that the Town has been presented with statistical information it should be looked at to determine why the results were as they were and acknowledge that there may or may not be an issue as opposed to disregarding it. The Chair inquired as to next steps to take a closer look at why the Department was flagged like this. The Chief informed all that he is here tonight to receive direction and feedback from the Board and the Department will be conducting more implicit bias training and better tracking of vehicle stops, further noting that he considers this a starting point. The Chair stated that she is happy to help in any way as are the rest of the Board Members and commented that she likes to see the work the Police Department does to continue to improve their work in the Community.

Annual and Special Town Meeting and Election

Review Updated Draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

TM ran through the updated Draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, [attached](#), with the Board.

Presentation and Discussion of the Proposed \$400,000 Technology Improvements Capital Item

Michael Oates, Director of Finances and Operations for Hanover Public Schools, Michael Wildrick, Director of Technology Operations for Hanover Public Schools and Brian Ciccolo Teacher and Chair of the Information Technology Study Committee appeared before the Board and presented the Information Technology Study Committee FY25 Technology Warrant Article Presentation, [attached](#).

The Board discussed the proposed Warrant Article with Mr. Oates, Mr. Wildrick and Mr. Ciccolo. When asked Mr. Oates informed the Board that the School's preference would be to have this as part of the School Department's Operating Budget year over year.

TM informed the Board that since this is a proposal for a lease payment it would have to be funded through Free Cash as you can't take out a debt for lease payments.

The Chair commented that the presentation was helpful and expressed a desire to reconnect on this topic once we get through this budgeting cycle to discuss capital expense vs. operating expense and to see what that looks like.

TM and Finance Director Chelsea Stevens (FD) ran through the other proposed changes to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles as listed on this evening's Agenda, below, and the Board discussed the proposed changes with TM and FD.

Article 12: Insert sum of Appropriation to the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund

Article 14: Insert dollar amounts of the Revolving Fund Limits

Article 17: Insert updated dollar amounts for the Single and Married Gross Receipts Limits

Article 19: Insert Article Language and update Article Title in Index

Article 20: Insert New Article 20 and adjust Article numbering thereafter

Article 21: (Former Article 20) Insert Article Language

Article 40: Delete Article- Appropriate Funds Radio Infrastructure and update Article numbering thereafter

Consider Opening the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Board voted to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

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

Consider Amendments to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Board voted to amend the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as listed on the Agenda as well as noted in the red line version of the Warrant provided this evening, [attached](#).

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

Consider Closing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Board voted to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

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

Review Special Town Warrant

FD informed the Board that the only change is the final amount was inserted for Article 1 - payment of prior year's expenditures, so now the list is complete. TM confirmed that this was attached to the Agenda and there is no need to vote.

Select Board Policies - Updates

Consider Updating the Electioneering Policy to Align with State Law (Select Board Policy 6-3)

TM informed the Board that this [proposed policy update](#) is for the purpose of aligning with current State law.

The Board voted to update the Electioneering Policy from 50 feet from Town Hall to 150 feet from Town Hall to align with State law.

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

Consider Updating the Personnel Regulations re: Direct Deposit (Select Board Policy 5-1)

TM informed the Board that Direct Deposit will result in cost and efficiency savings to the Town, almost every employee in Town is currently receiving their paycheck through Direct Deposit at this time and this update would insert Direct Deposit into the Personnel Regulations going forward. Seeing no questions or comments, the Board voted to [update the Personnel Regulations regarding Direct Deposit as presented by TM this evening.](#)

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

Consider Updating the Sexual Harassment Policy (Select Policy 5-6)

ATM appeared before the Board and informed all that this update would bring the Town's policy up to date with current State and Federal Policies and would also update the list of Hanover's Sexual Harassment Officers. Seeing no questions or comments, the Board voted to [update the Sexual Harassment Policy as presented the Board as revised March 4, 2024.](#)

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

Consider Updating the Insurance Minimums for Hanover Based Non-Profits for Use of Town Facilities (Select Board Policy 7-16)

DPA informed all that this update is to bring the Policy in line with the current recommendations of the Town's Insurance Company as well as to move the Automobile Liability Insurance requirements down under the Additional Required Coverage(s) if Warranted by Exposure section. TM also mentioned that there is a proposed name change for this Policy as it had originally been put in place to help small, Hanover based nonprofits however it is really about the Insurance

Minimums for use of Town owned facilities. Seeing no questions or comments the Board voted to [update the Insurance Minimums for Hanover Based Non-Profits for Use of Town Facilities in accordance with the updates the Board received this evening.](#)

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

Consider Updating the Anti-Discriminatory Harassment Policy (Select Board Policy 5-2)

ATM appeared before the Board and informed all that the changes in Sexual Harassment Policy also affected the Sexual Harassment Section of Anti-Discriminatory Harassment Policy so the proposed changes would make the Sexual Harassment Section of the Anti- Discriminatory Policy mirror the Sexual Harassment Policy.

The Chair confirmed with ATM that the Policies would be recirculated once approved. Seeing no questions or comments the Board voted to approve the [updates to the Anti-Discriminatory Harassment Policy in accordance with the revisions the Board received this evening.](#)

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

Consider Approving and Signing Letter to Governor Healey re: Supporting the Listing of the Fireworks Site on the National Priorities List (NPL)

TM informed all that he had worked with Special Counsel Robin Main to draft this letter which Attorney Main feels accomplishes the Select Board's goal, if so approved, to show support of the Governor moving forward with listing the Fireworks Site as a Superfund Site.

Seeing no questions or comments the Board voted to approve and sign the [letter to Governor Healey](#) regarding the Town of Hanover's support for the Former National Fireworks Site for Superfund Listing.

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

Consider Voting an Interest to Dispose of 188 King Street (Select Board Policy 2-5)

TM informed all that this property is a building that the Town owns and has been sitting vacant for at least a decade. At one time this was a Fire Station and there is no current Fire Department or other municipal use identified for this building, so it makes sense to start the process to see if this is a property we can dispose of and that may be of better use in someone else's hands.

The Chair commented the Town's Land Disposition Policy is geared more towards an initiated request for disposition of land and suggested a process be looked into for the Town to initiate taking a look through a chunk of land it owns each year to see if makes sense to keep it or not.

The Chair clarified that this vote in no way would obligate the Town to do anything this is just a piece of land that has been identified, can we look into whether or not it is in use or could be used for something, and starts the discussion.

The Board discussed this process with TM and FD. When asked TM informed all that the policy outlines if given approval for interest, a review committee would produce a report and if favorable

there would be a joint Public Hearing with the Board of Assessors and the Select Board. The Select Board would be asked if they want to put it on the Town Meeting Warrant and it would then have to pass at Town Meeting to be sold. FD then informed all that if it passed at Town Meeting to be sold, we would put out an RFP and it would go through the RFP process. The Town would receive bids and it would go to the highest bidder. FD agreed to look into whether or not it could be sold at less than the assessed value if the bids were to come in low.

The Board voted to initiate the land disposition process pursuant to Select Board Policy 2-5 based on the [Town of Hanover Disposition of Land Form submitted by TM regarding 188 King Street](#).

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

Town Manager Forum

TM informed all that Spring preparations are underway including preparations for Memorial Day, the date of the 2024 Pride Event has been set for Saturday, June 1st and further preparations will be starting on that, Paul Gromer from MASSPower Choice will be coming back to kick off the Public Comment Period on the Municipal Electric Aggregation Plan, and TM in line with one of the Select Board goals to begin preparations for Hanover's 300th Birthday, is in discussions with the Cultural Council to see if they would be amenable to taking on preparations for the 300th coming up in 2027.

Select Board Forum

Vice Chair Nyman reminded all that Super Tuesday is tomorrow and the poles will be open from 7am to 8pm.

The Chair announced that the Hanover Pride Event has a tentative date of June 1st from 4pm to 8pm and the Hanover Unity Council and Hanover Pride are looking for volunteers that want to help at the event or leading up to it. Anyone interested can email HanoverPride@gmail.com

Adjourn

The meeting ended and adjourned at 9:29pm.