

**Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held in a hybrid approach via teleconference as well as in person at Hanover Town Hall on Monday, April 26, 2021 @ 6:30 PM.**

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Present at Town Hall, Chairman David Delaney, Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman, and Selectman John Tuzik. Present via Zoom teleconference Selectwoman Vanessa O'Connor and Selectman John Barry. Also present, Town Manager (TM) Joseph Colangelo and Executive Assistant Janet Tierney, and present via Zoom teleconference Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee.

**Call meeting to order**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:21pm apologized for the delay, as the Board has just adjourned from Executive Session.

Under the Public Comment Section, the Chair turned the meeting over to Selectwoman O'Connor who addressed the racist flyers which were discovered today anonymously posted around town and left on car windows. Selectwoman O'Connor stressed that it is important to take a few minutes to reflect on our Community's values which were unanimously agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen last September. She then read aloud the Board of Selectmen's Statement on Community Inclusiveness, attached, and stated that everyone is entitled to their speech and opinions however, this community is united, cares for and protects each other. Hate will find no shelter here.

The Board expressed that these racist comments do not represent the views of the Town of Hanover and encouraged those you see these flyers around Town to remove them and contact the Police Department. The Board also stated that if people prefer, they can reach out to the Board Members who will contact the Police Department on their behalf. Selectwoman O'Connor provided her contact information and informed the nameless agitators that she is happy to discuss their views with them.

**Minutes**

The Board voted to accept the following Meeting Minutes as listed on the Agenda:

November 2, 2020

November 4, 2020

November 9, 2020

November 16, 2020

November 23, 2020

December 7, 2020

December 21, 2020

January 4, 2021

April 5, 2021

**Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Thomas Raab joined the meeting and presented the Hanover School Department Special Education Reserve Fund Transfer Request, attached, to the Board. The Board voted to grant the request of the School's Chief Financial Officer to

Approved  
5/3/2021

transfer \$250,000 from the Special Education Reserve Account to the Hanover School Department Operating Budget.

### **Appointments**

The Board discussed appointing applicants to the newly formed Transfer Station Study Committee. Applicants Derek Schipper, Kenneth Dussinger, Robert Webb, Steve Freedman, Pimhatai Koslowsky, Todd Szymczak and Damien Smith spoke with the Board regarding their reasons for wanting to serve on the Committee.

The Board appointed all those that applied; Steven Freedman, Julia Traggorth, Todd Szymczak, Derek Schipper, Robert Webb, Kenneth Dussinger, Damien Smith, Pimhatai Koslowsky, Allen Knafo and Patrick Coughlin, to the Transfer Station Study Committee.

### **Hanover Historical Commission – Request to form a Local Historic District Study Committee**

Historical Commission Member Caleb Estabrooks was invited up to the podium and presented the Historical Commissions request for the Board to form a Local Historic District Study Committee, attached. The Board agreed to add this to the Board’s first Agenda after the new Board Members are elected in order to keep the discussion moving forward.

### **Conservation Land Donation of 18.8 Acres (Parcel 79-8) on Water Street.**

Mr. Scott McFadden of the Wildlands Trust joined the meeting and discussed a proposed donation of conservation land from Mr. Phil Johnson, information attached. TM informed the Board that the Conservation Commission had made the required motion to accept the donation, and the next step would be for the Board to ratify that motion. TM agreed to put this on the Board’s Agenda in May as a decision item. TM mentioned that this is on the Boards Agenda this evening to be presented to the Board and to hear any concerns from the Board or the Public before the Board makes a decision.

### **Presentation from Samantha Woods, Executive Director of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association**

Samantha Woods joined the meeting and gave a presentation titled, “Reconnecting our Rivers and Estuaries”, attached. Ms. Woods discussed upcoming opportunities for funding, information provided on the “Future Partnerships” page of the attached presentation. The Board expressed an interest in continuing to look into this. TM agreed to speak with Samantha offline.

### **Licenses**

The Board confirmed with the Licensing Coordinator that all the renewal applicants are in compliance with no violations, taxes paid and Department Head approvals have been given.

The Board voted to renew the

Avitabile Inc. dba Avitabile Fine Jewelers, 1774 Washington Street,  
Jean W. Winn dba Hanover Coin & Jewelry, 803 Washington Street, and  
Hajnasr Jewelers of Hanover Inc. dba NASR Jewelers, 280 Columbia Road  
Junk Dealers Licenses.

The Board voted to renew the Boston Bowl Hanover Inc. dba Boston Bowl, 58 Rockland Street Bowling Alley License.

**Annual & Special Town Meeting: Discuss Board of Selectmen Commentary for Board of Selectmen Sponsored or Co-Sponsored Articles**

The Chair ran through each of the above-mentioned articles.

Article 4 – TM informed the Board that it is a standard Article the Board has every year. The Board typically does not care to add commentary on it.

Article 6 - involving elected vs. appointed Town Clerk. The Chair mentioned that it may be more efficient if the Board passed over this at Town Meeting and discuss further as a Board what the best position of the Town is moving forward to addressing the Town Clerk's Office and position for the future. Further noting it may be best to digest Cathy Harder Bernier's response and then talk about it as a Board and figure out what the best solution would be down there to address the concerns brought forth to the Board by residents and taxpayers regarding the Town Clerks position. TM clarified that the article can no longer be withdrawn, however if the Board no longer wishes to support it at Town Meeting, that is something that the Board could make a motion on. The Chair asked that this topic be put on the next meeting's Agenda or the one after, immediately following Town Meeting.

Article 10 – General Operating Budget. TM expressed that the Budget was submitted more or less on the policies and directives the Board provided, and if the Board is supportive of the budget they could indicate that.

The Chair asked for any questions or comments on the Budget, seeing none.

The Chair made a motion to not support Article 6 at Town Meeting and have further discussions as to what direction the Board would like to take with regard to the Town Clerk, the elected vs appointed issue, that people have been asking about. Selectman Barry seconded the motion. Selectwoman O'Connor asked for clarification from the Town Moderator. The Moderator raised his virtual hand and joined the conversation. He suggested the following motion for Town Meeting, "The Board of Selectmen moves to refer this question back to the Board of Selectmen for further study". The Chair thanked him for the clarification. The Moderator shared his thoughts on the grant dates mentioned in the Watershed presentation. The Board voted in favor of the motion on the floor.

David Cedrone from WATD joined the discussion but was having technical difficulties. He questioned why the Town felt an appointed Town Clerk would be better than an elected one.

The Chair clarified that he wasn't sure that was the position of the Town.

Mr. Cedrone asked what was the reason to change the position to appointed.

The Board declined to answer as this topic was not on tonight's agenda.

Johanna Saltz from the Globe raised her virtual hand and stated that the topic was on tonight's Agenda as a discussion of Town Meeting Warrant was listed and asked what concerns people have had with an elected Town Clerk.

The Board declined to answer as it is more prudent for the Board to discuss this further themselves before commenting on it. However, the Board is not looking to prevent discussion on this or any matter.

Article 11 – TM had nothing to add. The Board did not have any questions.

Article 12 – TM could see the Board of Selectmen being supportive of this and maybe make a firm statement of support at Town Meeting. Selectman Tuzik suggested the following commentary, “Approval of the article with the fees as described would allow the Town or the Board a reasonable way forward to reinstating C&D temporarily”.

TM clarified that the fees will be permanent until Town Meeting resets them at some point in the future. The Board further discussed this article.

Article 20 – The new Fire Station Planning Article. Fire Chief Blanchard joined the meeting and updated the Board on the land, saying that the Town should have ownership of the property very shortly, and he will hopefully have an update for the Board prior to Town Meeting. The Chief gave his presentation titled, “North Hanover Fire Sub-Station Response Time Data and Predictive Modeling”, attached. The Board agreed that Selectman Tuzik will provide the Board’s commentary in support of the Article.

Article 33 – TM recommended that this article be voted down now that we have a better picture of the Town’s free cash and the money the Town will capture through the second stimulus. There isn’t a need for additional funds to keep the Town in a good financial position, so there isn’t a need for the voters to overly tax themselves. The Board agreed.

The Board wished Selectman Barry a Happy Birthday.

### **Work Contracts**

As the Board did not have a chance to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Hanover and the Hanover Municipal Employees League (HMEL) Dispatchers, all agreed to hold a quick Executive Session prior to next Monday’s Town Meeting to discuss it before voting on its approval.

### **Town Manager Report**

TM informed the Board that there was an onsite meeting at the High School Parking Lot to discuss it as a location of the proposed Farmers Market. TM stated that the location is workable for all Town Departments including the School Department, he feels good about the location and moving the planning forward.

### **Board of Selectmen Forum**

The Chair asked people to stay safe, remember that they have the ability to be Covid tested and to keep in mind that it is still out there, as he had just recently lost someone near and dear to him to Covid.

The Vice Chair gave a shout out to the Garden Club Members for taking care of the all the traffic islands and thanked them for all they do.

**Response to the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by the Town Clerk**

TM provided the update that he had forwarded the complaint to Town Counsel who in turn reached out to the Attorney General's Office. TM agreed to brief the Board when more information becomes available. The Board had no comment on this topic at this time.

**Adjourn**

The meeting ended and adjourned at 8:58 pm.