

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held at Town Hall on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.

Present were Chairman John C. Tuzik, Vice-Chair, Emmanuel Dockter, Selectmen: John Barry and Jocelyn Keegan. Also present: Town Manager (TM) Joe Colangelo and Licensing Coordinator/Administrative Assistant Janet Tierney.

At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Tuzik opened the meeting and asked if any member of the audience had any comment or discussion item for the Open Forum portion of the meeting; no response.

Meeting Minutes:

The Board voted to approve the following Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes:

November 18, 2019

December 9th, 2019

December 9th, 2019 – Executive Session

December 16th, 2019

January 6th, 2020

January 13th, 2020

Discussion of Starland's Conceptual Plans to Expand the Premise on their Liquor License

As a courtesy to the guests from Starland, the Chair moved the Starland discussion up on the Agenda. Frank Teixeira, Owner, Kelsey Galante, Director of Marketing and Events, Martine Pelletier, Events Manager, and Dave Meng, Food & Beverage Director of Starland appeared before the Board. Frank Teixeira described the conceptual plans for the future of Starland. The executives would like to turn Starland into a family entertainment center and hopefully expand their liquor license to encompass the entire facility. Mr. Teixeira expressed that he is open to any guidance the Board could give. He informed the Board that Starland is interested in renting out their entire facility for corporate events and trade shows, and having the ability to bartend those events themselves. They would like to make more use of both the main building and the turf building and they also mentioned the use of outside patios.

The Board thanked them for coming and expressed their appreciation of Starland and the investment they have made in the town.

The Board expressed their support of the proposed ideas and requested specific details of their plans including the exact areas where they would like to expand their liquor license and the details on how it will be controlled and managed.

The Board expressed an interest in the Police and Fire Chief's opinions on how to police and maintain the buffers between children and adults at the site, as well as the options for traffic mitigation. The Board expressed appreciation for the Starland executives coming in and getting the Board involved early in the process, and requested that the Starland executives provide the Board with information on how other family entertainment facilities, for example Great Wolf Lodge or Coco Key, and their respective municipalities have dealt with this sort of proposal.

TM recommended that Starland formally fill out an application which is available on the ABCC website and submit it to the Licensing Coordinator, noting that then the application will be formally reviewed most notably by the Police and Fire Chiefs among others.

Approved
2/3/2020

The Board requested as part of this process that Starland provide a picture of where within the buildings they are hoping to expand the liquor license, what the uses would be, the time of day they would be requesting to serve and what controls will be in place to keep the general population from the people consuming the alcohol.

Election Calendar:

The Town Clerk, Catherine Harder-Bernier appeared before the Board.

The Vice Chair mentioned that on March 5th the Board will notify the Clerk of vacancies and asked when election papers would be ready. The Clerk informed the Board that election papers will be available by the end of the month.

The Board voted to approve the election calendar as recommended by the Town Clerk.

Election Warrant for the Presidential Primary

The Board inquired of the Clerk as to whether or not there has been any push back communicated from the Clerks on early voting regarding the burden the legislature is putting on them. The Clerk commented that she loves early voting but it is expensive and the Clerks are trying to have communication in general to streamline the process. She went on to say things are happening at the State level which are out of the Clerk's control.

The Board voted to approve The Presidential Primary to be held on March 3rd, 2020 as recommended by the Town Clerk.

Annual Local Licensing Authority Report to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission

The Board voted to approve the Board of Selectmen's Annual Report to the ABCC as provided by the Licensing Coordinator.

Appoint Members to the Fire Station Planning Study Committee

Elisabeth Mutchler, Roger Leslie, Don Buckley and John Galluzzo appeared before the Board to discuss their applications as citizens at large to the Fire Station Planning Study Committee. The Board thanked them for coming forward and volunteering their time in this unpaid capacity.

The Board instructed that the Fire Station Planning Study Committee is charged to look into options but does not have the burden of making a specific recommendation. The Board's hope is that the Study Committee will look at all the options, evaluate them and come back to the Board of Selectmen with this information. The Board of Selectmen will then have further discussions and deliberations. The Board further explained that there may be more than one property to consider and they hope that the Study Committee will be open minded and represent the citizens of Hanover as a whole, keeping in mind specifically the people who live on the North side of Town, and their need for quicker emergency response times.

The Board voted to appoint Elisabeth Mutchler, Roger Leslie, Don Buckley and John Galluzzo to the Fire Station Planning Study Committee.

Approved
2/3/2020

The Board received a list of representatives from various Boards and Committees who were designated for appointment to the Fire Station Planning Study Committee.

The Board voted to appoint Meaghan Dunne, designee of the Planning Board, Vanessa O'Connor designee of the Advisory Committee, Ruth Lynch designee the School Committee and James Browning designee of the LEPC to the Fire Station Planning Study Committee.

The Board voted to appoint Selectman John Barry as the Board of Selectmen's Representative to the Fire Station Planning Study Committee.

TM commented that there are now 9 members and the Committee should be ready to go. If Historical and or CPC wish to appoint a representative they can be added on.

Continued Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Discussion

TM and the Finance Director ran through the memorandum regarding the FY2021 Budget Discussion Continued and a possible OPEB scenario.

TM asked for guidance from the Board with regards to the following Transfer Station scenarios: a sticker fee, per item fees, elimination of C&D, and enhanced security.

The Board discussed solutions for residential C&D waste if that portion of the dump is closed. The Board discussed that the Town could provide flyers and information on the Town website regarding where residents can call to have their debris picked up. The Board would like to see education and outreach for the residents on options available to them for C&D removal.

The Board discussed per item fees, noting that there is a cost to the Town to dispose of these items and that the fees should be brought up to par with those costs.

The Board discussed sticker fees noting that the residents will pay either through a sticker fee or through property taxes. The Board noted that there may be unintentional costs associated with a sticker fee such as the need for additional security staff and the costs associated with that, and that those additional costs could exceed the benefits of the sticker fees.

The Board requested that the Finance Director provide financial analysis including the OPEB liability of those costs.

The Board discussed enhanced security and the possibility of having an individual from the senior work off program serve as security as opposed to hiring an additional employee and also asking the Police Department to become more involved.

The Finance Director appeared before the Board and discussed the question of whether or not the Board would like to tap OPEB funds to reduce the present annual liability.

Resident Vanessa O'Connor appeared before the Board and asked if anything over \$400,000 could be allotted to defray the current costs.

The Board expressed that given the limited information they had right now they could not decide this issue. Furthermore noting that it may be better to assess this after the Mall is fully developed. The Board requested financial analysis from the Finance Director, showing the impact of both using the funds and not using the funds.

Approved
2/3/2020

The Board discussed reducing the percentage of the commitment to Community Preservation, noting that that as this is a form of tax, and the community should agree on how they are taxed. The Board discussed the possibility of the decision of a percentage reduction being put on the warrant for a discussion and vote at Town Meeting.

The Board asked the Finance Director about the potential effect on the matching funds if the CPC percentage were to be reduced, however the information was not yet available.

The Board requested that the Finance Director provide the amount of the windfall in matching funds expected in FY2021 and the details of any downside of lowering the CPC percentage with regards to the matching funds.

The Board emphasized the importance of residents attending the Town Meeting to vote on tax relief issues.

Review of Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants

TM and the Board discussed the current drafts of the Annual and Special warrants.

The Board requested an update on the work the Town has done in the Affordable Housing Trust to aid low income residents.

The Board requested information on the statutory maximum amount for the senior citizen real estate tax exemption.

The Board asked that TM reach out to Mr. Ladd to see if his article would be moving forward.

The Board requested language for draft articles so they could provide feedback on whether or not they would support it going on the warrant. Also, in an effort to avoid confusion, the Board requested that articles in the Draft Warrant be clearly categorized as an article that is moving forward and just needs to be finalized and an article that is simply there as a placeholder, including a description of where it is coming from, and noting if the article it is still in the discussion or proposal stage.

The Board commented that the articles concerning the pay of elected officials should, according to the Town Bylaws, come from the Advisory Committee but agreed there should be some framework in place.

The Board instructed that in the future it would be helpful to be able to track changes in the Draft Warrant.

The Board instructed that anyone who wishes to submit a petition article will need to do so before the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrant closing dates, they will not be able to submit one at the Town Meeting.

Adopt (new) Water Rate Setting Process

The Board voted to adopt Board of Selectmen Policy 7-17 - Water Rate Setting Process.

Senior Tax Work-Off Program Policy

TM expressed that this policy is a work in progress. He expressed the need for everyone to be on the same page with the hiring of senior tax work-off participants. The Finance Director asked for the Board's input on what they would like in the policy, in particular, whether or not they would like income verification or a strict hiring process included. TM also asked for guidance on the types of tasks that should be considered for the program. The Finance Director informed

the Board that there are currently more applications for the program than available positions. The Board offered the suggestions of sticker enforcement at the dump, manning the swap shop and election positions as suitable tasks for the program.

Adopt Amendments to the Ambulance Rate Setting Process

TM informed the Board that this is an update to an existing policy and the proposed changes with the exception of a few housekeeping items, mirror very closely the Water Rate Setting Process Policy, in particular making sure to review the rates on an annual basis.

The Board tabled the vote on the policy pending review.

The Board requested a report from the Finance or Fire Department, if possible, detailing the balance billing that has taken place since the rates have increased, including how this has compared to previous annual cycles, and how it is affecting residents.

The Chair announced that the Board plans to move into Executive Session and will not be returning to Open Session.

In accordance with MGL 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3, Chairman Tuzik made a motion for a Roll Call Vote of the Board of Selectmen to go into Executive Session to conduct a strategy session related to the on-going collective bargaining agreement negotiations being conducted between the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Finance Director who are representing the Town of Hanover and the Board of Selectmen in the collective bargaining agreements with HMEL, AFSCME, Fire and Police Unions.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Keegan, aye, Selectman Barry, aye, Vice Chairman Dockter, aye, Chairman Tuzik, aye.

At 9:19 p.m. the Board moved into executive session.

The meeting ended and adjourned at 11:20 p.m.