

**Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held via conference call on Monday, March 23, 2020 @ 6:00 PM.**

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Present at Town Hall was Chairman John C. Tuzik. Present via conference call were Vice Chairman Emmanuel Dockter, Selectwomen Jocelyn Keegan and Selectmen David Delaney and John Barry. Also present was Town Manager (TM) Joe Colangelo, Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee and via conference call Licensing Coordinator/Executive Assistant Janet Tierney.

**Call Meeting to Order**

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Tuzik opened the meeting. The Chair- mentioned Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order modifying open meeting law and explained the use of a conference call for the meeting in order to practice social distancing and group avoidance in response to the COVID-19 virus. The Chair thanked the TM, all department heads and all the employees of the Town of Hanover for their excellent team work in order to minimize the spread of this virus while seamlessly continuing to provide their normal services to the Town. The Chair thanked Selectmen Dockter and Hanover resident Libby Corbo for their leadership organizing a volunteer corps as well as the volunteers they've enlisted and all the residents of Hanover for their understanding and cooperation.

The Chair asked for any public commentary or questions. Seeing and hearing none.

**Licensing**

***Public Hearing – Alba on 53, Inc. - All Alcohol Beverage License***

This Agenda Item, originally scheduled for the March 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen's meeting, was postponed due to the Coronavirus Emergency. The public hearing notice was published in the Patriot Ledger on March 3, 2020 and mailed to abutters on March 4th. Attorney John Walker, representing Alba on 53, Inc. and Alba on 53, Inc. President Nardi Keka addressed the Board via conference call for the public hearing on their application for a New Section 12 - All Alcoholic Beverages-On Premise-Restaurant License at 2053 Washington Street, Hanover. Attorney Walker stated the restaurant will be a fine dining steakhouse, and they have completed all requirements to move forward. Mr. Keka thanked the Board for accommodating them via conference call. Licensing Coordinator/Executive Assistant Janet Tierney stated that the application has received all interdepartmental approvals. She further noted the proposed licensed premise includes a patio area, informing the Board that the applicant has addressed all of the ABCC guidelines. Selectwomen Keegan and Selectmen Barry had no questions and welcomed the applicant to town. Vice Chairman Dockter welcomed the applicant to town and asked what the proposed hours of operation will be. Ms. Tierney stated that the requested hours of liquor service are 11am to 1am Monday thru Friday, 9am to 1am on Saturday and 9am to 11pm Sunday. The Board voted to approve the All Alcohol Beverage License for Alba on 53, Inc. to be located at 2053 Washington Street, Hanover with the above mentioned hours of operation.

**Ratification of Emergency Declaration**

The Chair read the text of the TM's March 13, 2020 Town of Hanover Emergency Declaration into the record. Vice Chairman Dockter supports the Emergency Declaration and would like the TM to speak with Town Counsel regarding information about the legal basis and process for an Emergency Declaration and how an Emergency Declaration ends. Selectwomen Keegan agreed that

understanding the duration and how we move out of the State of Emergency will be helpful information. The Board voted to ratify the Emergency Declaration.

**COVID-19 Update**

TM stated the Emergency Management Team lead by Hanover Fire Chief Jeffrey Blanchard is in excellent shape. Further noting that communication efforts with Hanover residents has been very effective, and the Town is open to the suggestions of residents on any communication improvements that can be made. Governor Baker's Stay at Home Advisory altered the staff members present a Town Hall; however, all essential services are still functioning. TM would like the Board to strongly consider postponing Annual Town Meeting and Elections. State legislation was approved to give the Board the authority to postpone.

Selectmen Delaney is in favor of postponing Annual Town Meeting and Elections. Vice Chair Dockter stated postponing of the Annual Town Meeting and Elections should be coordinated with the Town Clerk and Registrar and suggested the new date be consistent with prior meetings, the Annual Town Meeting on a Monday and the Election on Saturday. Vice Chair would also like the TM and Board to reach out to Representative David DeCoste and Senator Michael Brady regarding financial relief efforts for Hanover residents. Chair Tuzik stated he, as well as TM and Director of Finance Lincoln Heineman, have been in touch with Representative DeCoste and Senator Brady regarding programs and ideas to ease the financial burden on residents.

Selectmen Barry asked if the Board would be meeting every Monday in the future. Chair stated it is likely they will be meeting every week given some decisions need to be made in short order during this challenging time.

TM mentioned the challenges to residents running for local office without the ability to properly campaign or hold any candidate nights at this time. Postponing Town Elections would alleviate this problem. Chair stated the need to continue normal business such as issuing licenses using the conference call format as much as possible.

Selectwomen Keegan expressed concerns regarding not having an approved Town budget after June 30, 2020 if Annual Town Meeting is postponed. TM stated that revisions of the proposed Town budget will be needed given the current crisis since some revenue projections will need to be updated among other things. Director of Finance Lincoln Heineman stated that discussions at the State House are happening regarding allowing town's to have 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the next year's budget to spend on a month by month basis in the event that budgets aren't approved by June 30<sup>th</sup> but nothing is confirmed yet. Selectwomen Keegan would like updates from Representative DeCoste and Senator Brady to be made available to residents in a timely manner especially regarding relief for small business owners.

Hanover resident Vanessa O'Connor of 43 Mayflower Circle requested that new associated deadline dates be made available to candidates and the public quickly if the Annual Town Meeting and Elections are postponed. TM stated those dates should be decided at the Board's next meeting March 30, 2020 at 6pm. Selectwomen Keegan mentioned that most election workers are within the COVID-19 at risk age group and this should be considered when discussing rescheduling.

Representative DeCoste addressed the Board via conference call and stated his office is working with the Town Clerks of all three towns on their recommendations for rescheduling Annual Town Meeting and Elections. The State Chamber of Commerce is working with the State Legislature to create a package that will complement aid from the Federal level. Representative DeCoste's office is assisting residents with unemployment filings and working with the Small Business Administration to help businesses. Vice Chairman Dockter asked Representative DeCoste if the change of House Bill 4572 to 4580 affects the language regarding a town's ability to extend the budget by 1/12<sup>th</sup> from the previous year's budget. Representative DeCoste stated the bill is not finalized, and he will look at the language.

The Chair asked for any public commentary or questions. Seeing and hearing none.

The Chair read a Winston Churchill quote "This is not the end, it's not even the beginning of the end. But perhaps it's the end of the beginning."

**Executive Session**

The Chair asked for a roll call vote to enter into executive session to consider legal strategy with respect to the Fireworks Site as the Chair determined that an open session discussion may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chairman Dockter, aye, Selectwomen Keegan, aye, Selectman Barry, aye, Selectman Delaney, aye, Chairman Tuzik, aye. The Board will not be returning to Open Session.

At 6:37pm the Board moved into Executive Session.

At 7:32pm the meeting ended and adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted by Irene Coleman.*