

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held via conference call on Monday, March 30, 2020 @ 6:00 PM.

Present at Town Hall was Chairman John C. Tuzik. Present via Zoom video conference were Vice Chairman Emmanuel Dockter, Selectwoman Jocelyn Keegan and Selectmen David Delaney and John Barry. Also present Town Manager (TM) Joe Colangelo and Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee and via Zoom video conference 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 Zoom Video Conferencing for the meeting in order to practice social distancing and group avoidance in response to the COVID-19 virus. The Chair explained for residents listening how to gain access to ask a question by pressing *9.

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

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of March 16, 2020 were amended, striking PBE (protective breathing equipment) and replacing it with PPE (personal protective equipment). The Board then voted to approve the meeting minutes for February 24, March 2, March 16 and March 23, 2020.

The Board deferred the vote on Executive Session minutes from March 2 and March 23, 2020 until the next meeting.

Board of Selectmen Policies

Transfer Station Rules & Regulations

TM explained the changes made to the new Transfer Station Rules & Regulations policy. Changes have been made regarding documentation required from residents to receive a Transfer Station sticker, how temporary permits are issued and the section regarding hours of operation has been changed to allow the closure of the Transfer Station without pre-notification in case of an emergency. Section 9 (C) has been struck to no longer require a tarp over a standard open bed pick-up truck. The Enforcement section includes causes for having privileges revoked, how the Hanover Police enforce regulations and the process for reinstating revoked privileges. Under #7 Enforcement has been removed because it is unenforceable without a change to the Town's Bylaws at Annual Town Meeting.

Selectwoman Keegan asked if the wording under Swap Shop, Section D meant each item has to have specific permission by staff to be left. TM stated that a list of prohibited items would be available to residents to set the appropriate expectation. Selectwoman Keegan asked if a staff member would be present at the swap shop for every hour the dump was opened. Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Kelley, via Zoom video conference, stated that staff would not always be present at the swap shop since sometimes volunteers would be, and the purpose of the language is to prohibit items that should be charged a fee from being dumped there. TM stated someone would always be in attendance at the swap shop when it was opened. Vice Chair Dockter expressed concern at the cost for having a person always staffing the swap shop and suggested

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changing the language to require a volunteer to be present for the swap shop to be opened. TM stated that they are hoping that volunteers will staff it and also mentioned the Senior Tax Work Off Program. The goal is to make sure that the swap shop does not have junk left. Selectman Delaney suggested the option of closing the swap shop permanently. Selectwoman Keegan stated she's supportive of the swap shop remaining open and being staffed by volunteers. Mr. Kelley stated the expectation would be that if an item was questionable, a staff person would be approached to make a determination. Selectman Barry asked if there would be an additional staff person at the gate. TM stated that he believed they were filling an existing vacant position of gatekeeper in order to fulfill the desire for better dump security. Mr. Kelley confirmed this is an existing part time position. Selectwoman Keegan stated she believes this policy should be enacted sooner rather than later due to many residents cleaning out their homes at this time. Vice Chair Dockter stated he is concerned with the cost of an additional staff member at the gate especially considering the hardships due to the COVID-19 crisis including unemployed residents and possible lost revenue in the budget. The Chair believes the usefulness of the swap shop should be looked at in the future, and he would like to hear feedback from transfer station staff. TM stated if the policy is adopted, the plan would be to make it effective on May 1st. Selectwoman Keegan believes we do need to have a staff member at the gate especially considering there may be some difficult discussions with residents at the gate once the new policy is being enforced. Selectman Barry suggested possibly closing the recycling area temporarily during the COVID-19 crisis in order to have less people at the Transfer Station, promote social distancing and alleviate the problem of many residents currently cleaning house. Vice Chair Dockter stated that many residents wish to recycle for other reasons. The Chair stated the purpose of the new policy is to add security and enforcement at the transfer station. Vice Chair Dockter re-stated his concern about the financial impact of an additional staff member at the gate, and he would rather support current staff and does not support adding additional staff at this time. The Chair expressed an interest in hearing feedback from the Transfer Station employees on the swap shop. The policy will be revisited at the Board's next meeting.

Senior Tax Work-Off Program

The Board moved this discussion to the next meeting.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming

TM explained only one addition had been made to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming policy since the previous draft. In response to a request from Hanover resident Michael Cianciola the ability to close a road if needed was added. Selectwoman Keegan asked if any feedback had been received from residents. TM stated that feedback had been positive, and the policy is similar to what other surrounding towns have enacted. The Board voted to adopt the policy.

COVID-19 Action Items

Postponing the Annual & Special Town Meeting and Local Elections

The Chair stated that after discussion with the TM, AdCom Chair, Town Clerk and Town Moderator, a proposal to change the dates of the Annual & Special Town Meeting from May 4th to June 29th and Local Elections from May 9th to June 27th is before the Board. Vice Chair Dockter stated he supports the postponement of both but asked if the dates could be rearranged so that the Annual Town Meeting is prior to the Local Elections which has been the arrangement historically.

The Chair stated that the proposed dates were selected to avoid conflicts due to prior commitments of key staff needed for both events. The Chair also stated the last possible dates prior to July 1st were selected to give as much time as possible for the COVID-19 crisis to dissipate. Selectman Barry stated residents can benefit from information learned at Annual Town Meeting when making decision at Local Elections held afterward. The Chair stated that these dates were the best option, and a decision should be made sooner rather than later. Selectwoman Keegan stated historically some actions approved at Annual Town Meeting require a vote at the Local Elections afterward, and although there are none at this time, is there a risk given the current COVID-19 crisis that some may need to be added. The Board discussed the challenges of getting anything additional at the last minute on the warrant or ballots given printing deadlines, and the expectation of a large amount of absentee ballots this year. The Board discussed the possibility of having newly elected Board Members at Town Meeting as opposed to member with experience and knowledge of the Articles. The Chair informed the Board that current Board Members who, at the time of the meeting, are no longer serving on the Board of Selectmen will be recognized from Town Meeting Floor and will be given the opportunity to offer their perspective. He further clarified that this is the Board's decision however based on the conversation with the key people involved, these were the best dates within a group of not so optimal options in order to have the key people present for the Special and Annual Town Meeting and Local Election. TM made note that Hanover Day is scheduled for June 27th, the same day as the proposed new date for Local Elections although he sees no conflict with the two events.

The Board voted to re-schedule the Annual & Special Town Meeting to Monday, June 29, 2020.

The Board voted to re-schedule the Local Elections to Saturday, June 27, 2020.

Actions Regarding Fees, Bills, etc.

TM suggested this be moved to the Board's next meeting agenda as discussions are still ongoing with the Town's Finance Director and inquiries need to be made at the state level. The Chair stated the Board would be utilizing all tools and programs made available to them to ease the financial burden of Hanover residents.

COVID-19 Update

The TM thanked Fire Chief Blanchard for all his work directing the emergency response team he has assembled and stated the Town is in the best position possible given the difficult circumstances. The Fire Chief, via Zoom video conference, stated that it has been a team effort and all departments and personnel have had to adjust and have stepped up to be as prepared as possible. An Incident Command System has been created and roles have been assigned. The Fire Chief thanked Selectmen Dockter and Hanover resident Libby Corbo for their leadership organizing a volunteer corps. The public schools are doing an excellent job meeting the needs of students. Community Services are meeting the resident's needs and taking a look at new needs that can be met. The ambulance is ready to respond to cases. The Board of Health has been working closely with the Fire Department and Day Captain Fred Freeman. Work is being done on a Community EMS System. The Fire Chief is proud of the work that's been done and believes we are in a good position.

The TM mentioned a common question he has been getting from residents regarding how the Town is enforcing the recommendations on social distancing from the State Board of Health. Police Chief Sweeney, via Zoom video conference, stated that if the Hanover Police Department is in receipt of a violation complaint, they notify the Board of Health. Once confirmed, if the Board of Health requires their assistance with enforcement, they do so.

Vice Chair Dockter thanked the Fire Chief for all his work and asked how the Community EMS System is progressing. Captain Freeman, via Zoom video conference, stated it's one of the phases under the Community Health Department. There are three phases, the first being building awareness utilizing public service announcements, local TV, a Covid 19 webpage and a telehealth awareness campaign. Phase two being the Community EMS Pandemic Response System with a phone bank of nurses and if approved by the State, planned daily follow ups via phone with Covid-19 positive patients in town. Phase three being a long-term plan within FEMA. Captain Freeman stressed that there is an expectation of significant delays within the healthcare system and emphasized the importance of all Hanover residents setting up telehealth now in order to be prepared.

The Chair reminded residents that if they would like access to this ongoing meeting to ask a question they need to hit *9.

Health Agent Kim Dixon, via Zoom video conference, stated that the Board of Health is working diligently with Police Chief Sweeney on enforcement if people are violating the social distancing recommendations. They are also working with businesses to determine what is essential and non-essential.

Selectman Barry asked if any outreach to the Norwell VNA had been done. The Fire Chief stated they have met with them in the past and have a good working relationship. Fred Freeman stated he has not spoken with them regarding COVID-19 but he will reach out to them.

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

The Chair thanked all the Town's Emergency Management team members for their tireless work, and especially all the health care professional who live in Hanover and other towns for the sacrifices they are making to continue assisting patients during this difficult time.

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: Selectman Barry, aye, Selectwoman Keegan, aye, Selectman Delaney, aye, Vice Chairman Dockter, aye and Chairman Tuzik, aye. The Board will not be returning to open session.

At 7:11pm the Board moved into Executive Session.

At 7:33pm the meeting ended and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Irene Coleman