

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held via conference call on Monday, June 15, 2020 @ 6:00 PM.

Present at Town Hall, Chairman John C. Tuzik. Present via Zoom video conference were Vice Chairman Emmanuel Dockter, Selectman David Delaney, Selectwoman Jocelyn Keegan and Selectman John Barry. Also present Town Manager (TM) Joe Colangelo and via Zoom video conference, Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee, Executive Assistant Janet Tierney, Fire Chief Jeffrey Blanchard, Finance Director (FD) Lincoln Heineman, Town Counsel (TC) Kevin Feeley, and Town Moderator Doug Thomson.

Call Meeting to Order

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00pm and asked for any public commentary, informing those watching that they may share their comments or questions by hitting star 9 or raising their virtual hand. Seeing none, the Board moved on to the next agenda item.

Meeting Minutes

The Board voted to approve the following Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes as listed in the meeting's agenda:

April 20, 2020

April 27, 2020

May 4, 2020

May 18, 2020

June 2, 2020

June 5, 2020

COVID-19 Emergency Management Agency Update

Fire Chief Blanchard provided the Board with the Covid 19 update, informing the Board that as of this morning there have been no new cases reported in the last 7 days. At this time there are 67 confirmed cases and 11 suspected cases for a total of 78. The Chief went on to provide the Board with an overview of the Emergency Management Response operations and their preparations for Town Meeting and the reopening of the schools in the fall. The Chief informed the Board that the ambulance receipts are keeping pace with last year's ambulance receipts. The increased call volume has not materialized yet, as the projected increase was tied to the opening of Hanover Crossing and new apartments. The Chief shared that the Cares Act check should help offset any reduction there.

TM provided an update on reopening operations and facilities, informing the Board that today was the first day Town Hall employees have returned back to a normal work week, including the late day on Wednesday. For the time being, residents may make appointments to come into Town Hall and conduct business. The only thing that is holding up the complete reopening to the public is the completion of some safety precaution capital improvements.

TM went on to say that the recycling bin is fully operational and the transfer station is allowing c&d disposal until the end of the month, when the Town's contract runs out. He further stated that the Library services will begin opening up in July.

TM informed the Board that applications of Outdoor Dining have begun to come in and the staff, and in particular Kim Dixon, has been doing a great job turning the applications around in a few hours. TM noted that he has seen people in Town taking advantage of outdoor dining, and it looks

very nice. He further informed the Board that Passport Services will begin soon and information regarding setting appointments will be on the website tomorrow.

The Chair invited resident Amy Madden, who had raised her virtual hand, to join the discussion. Amy informed the Board that she was disappointed to hear that c&d disposal was ending in Town, and asked if that decision could be reconsidered. She stated that having it available encourages home improvement projects which are good for property values, and it also discourages illegal dumping. She acknowledged that the costs are high but noted that the access to the transfer station hasn't been monitored properly for years. The Chair thanked Amy for her questions and commentary and told her the Board would certainly consider it. TM informed the Board that transfer station fees and c&d removal fees would need to be set at Town Meeting, as he does not have the authority to set the fees now and have them ratified at a Town Meeting later. TM noted, that we are gearing up for a likely November Special Town Meeting and after the election the new Board may want to think about putting this on the warrant if they want to have the removal of c&d in the future and with fees allowing the Town to at least break even.

Selectman Barry questioned if residents could pick up a mail in ballot at the Clerk's Office now that the Town Hall is open. The Clerk joined the meeting via zoom conference call to respond. She informed the Board that for this week only, the Clerk's Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday, for walk-in in person absentee voting or to drop off an application for an early ballot. Mail in ballots are also still an option. The deadline for both processes is Friday the 26th by noon. The Clerk instructed that any resident, who would like to receive a mail in ballot in time to make it under the deadline, should make the request now. The Clerk further described the process and timing of handling mail in ballots and early voting ballots. TM read a question that had been emailed in, asking what hours the Town Clerk's Office is open and staffed. The Clerk stated 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon is a safe bet. The Chair asked if the Clerk's office will be open from 12:00 noon to 4:00p.m. to conduct other business. The Clerk replied typically no, it would be best for people to stick to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Annual & Special Town Meeting

The Chair decided to take the question of change of location of Town Meeting under consideration first, due to the fact that the Town Moderator Doug Thomson and Town Counsel (TC) Kevin Feeley attended the meeting to discuss this issue.

TC informed the Board that under MGL Chapter 39, §10, the Town sets the date, time and location of Town Meeting via warrant. TC advised the Board that if they were to change the location of Town Meeting from the High School, the Board of Selectmen should do it in accordance with a motion to open the warrant for the sole and limited purpose of changing the location. They would then need to repost and redistribute the warrant. TC informed the Board that due to the deadlines for posting, the Board would have to have the warrant posted as early as possible tomorrow morning. TM offered to drive the warrants to the Board Members for signatures if needed to get this done.

Chief Blanchard informed the Board of the reason that Starland was chosen as the proposed site for Town meeting. He stated that it was chosen in order to meet the guidelines for social distancing without having multiple rooms and deputy town moderators involved. The Chief stated that the High School can maybe hold 200 people and given what is going on with Covid 19, and its impacts on the budget process, 200 may quickly fill the High School up. He further mentioned that if Town Meeting needed to be moved because it had surpassed capacity, moving to another location with

social distancing protocols would be a logistical nightmare. He informed the Board that University Sports Complex at Starland's front main building would hold 700 people with social distancing and plenty of parking and a suitable sound system that is ready to go. The Chief stated that a team of people will be there to help move people through and get to their seats.

The Board and the Chief expressed their gratitude to Starland for helping and supporting their community.

Mr. Wilson, a resident of Hanover, raised his virtual hand and was invited to join the discussion. Mr. Wilson asked if, with social distancing, there had been any of talk of proxy voting or call in voting at town meeting. Mr. Wilson was informed that as things stand right now, there is no option for Town's to hold an open virtual Town Meeting. The Attorney General could possibly change that, but it hasn't happened yet.

The Board voted to reopen the warrant specifically for the sole purpose of moving the Annual Town Meeting from Hanover High School to the Starland Sports Complex. The Chair informed the public that Starland Sports Complex is located at 645 Washington Street.

TC advised that there be a motion for both the Annual and the Special Town Meeting.

The Board voted to open the warrant specifically for the sole purpose of moving the Special and the Annual Town meeting from the Hanover High School to the Starland Sports Complex, located at 645 Washington Street, Hanover, MA.

The Board voted to move the Annual and Special Town Meeting, both being held on June 29, 2020, from the Hanover High School to the Starland Sports Complex.

The Board voted to close the warrant.

The Board made arrangements to sign the warrant.

The Chair moved on to the quorum issue, informing the public that under Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020: an Act Relative to Municipal Governance during the Covid 19 Emergency, the Board is allowed, in consultation with the Town Moderator, to adjust the quorum necessary to hold Town meeting. The Moderator recommended the Board consider moving the quorum from the current 100 to 50 for this year's Special and Annual Town Meetings. The Moderator informed the public that regardless of whether or not the quorum is changed, if due to the new and different processes there is a backup of people waiting to get in to the Annual Town Meeting, the Moderator will wait for those in the queue to get in before beginning. The Moderator commented that the proposed change of quorum is just in case something happens and it is needed in order to hold Town Meeting and get the Town's business done.

TC confirmed that there is a 7 day notice period for taking a vote to reduce the quorum. He informed the Board that the Town would then have to notify the Attorney General's Office within 10 days of voting to reduce the quorum, but those 10 days are not contingent in any way on when the town meeting is held.

TC advised the Board that given the importance of this issue, he would feel more comfortable if the Board took the vote at their meeting one week from tonight.

The Board agreed to vote on the quorum next week.

TC agreed to look at the language of the agenda the Board is planning to post for next week's quorum vote.

The Board moved on to discuss the draft commentary for the warrants. TM and Vice Chair Dockter provided draft commentary for review. The Vice Chair cautioned against sharing draft commentary as it had not yet been voted on and adopted by the Board. The Board discussed their various thoughts on commentary and agreed to continue the discussion, if needed, at their next meeting.

Resident and Candidate Steve Louko raised his virtual hand and was invited to join the conversation. Mr. Louko expressed an interest in the draft commentary for the CPA surcharge article. Vice Chair Dockter provided an overview of the draft warrant article language which was historical and factual in nature as opposed to offering any opinions on how the residents should vote. The Chair commented that in his opinion it is the Board's job to provide the residents the opportunity to look at the facts and decide which way they want to vote, regardless of the Board's opinions one way or the other.

TM suggested that Mr. Louko reach out to the Advisory Committee Chair or watch the recording of the Advisory Committee's last meeting in order to gain insight on the Advisory Committee's position on the CPA surcharge.

Selectwoman Keegan stated that she had shared the Board's draft commentary with Peter Johnson, and offered to help if CPC wanted to include a dissenting opinion.

FD informed the Board that an article proposing a reduction of the CPA surcharge from 3% to 2% was on the 2017 Annual Town Warrant and it did not pass.

The meeting ended at 7:21 pm