

**Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held via Zoom conference call on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 @ 6:00 PM**

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Present via conference call: Chairman John Tuzik, Vice Chairman Emmanuel Dockter, Selectman David Delaney and Selectman John Barry. Selectwoman Keegan was not able to attend. Also present Town Manager (TM) Joe Colangelo, Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee and via conference call Executive Assistant and Licensing Coordinator Janet Tierney, and Finance Director (FD) Lincoln Heineman.

At 6:00 p.m. the Chair opened the meeting, and wished one of Hanover's newest and most important residents, Shannon Colangelo, a very Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

The Chair went on to note the job very well done on the "Adopt a Senior" program for high school students and gave Ray Miller and the Miller family a very special thank you for adopting his daughter and making it so very nice for her.

The Chair asked for any public commentary, and informed 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 postpone the approval of the meeting minutes to a future meeting.

Chief Blanchard via conference call provided the Board with the Covid 19 Emergency Management Agency update. The Chief informed the Board that all departments are responding to Covid on a daily basis in one shape or form.

There have been 71 confirmed positive cases of Covid in Town which is up from the 57 reported in the last update. The Chief informed the Board that he has been preparing with mutual aid for any civil unrest that may occur in Town.

Telehealth has transitioned into a large room at the Senior Center and the space is prepared to occupy 8 nurses. As the curve flattened, they have moved into a smaller room in anticipation of the Senior Center reopening, however they are maintaining the ability to start a larger operation back up if need be. The Chief informed the Board that the VNA is currently trying to get back out into the community more and the Fire Department is still responding to suspected Covid patients. The precautions taken add to the transport time as the ambulance has to be taken out of service for disinfection between runs. The Chief informed the Board that all are complying with best practices as they are rolled out in order to maintain the safety of the first responders and those they come in contact with. They continue to use Personal Protective equipment (PPE) and seem to have an adequate supply for now. The Chief is working with the School Department to ascertain what reopening will look like, and what would be adequate in terms of the supply of PPE for School Staff and Nurses. The Chief is hopeful that the schools can get back to normal in the fall. The Chief has been working with Victor Diniak to be sure the right disinfection products are being used and used at the right quantity.

Approved  
6/15/2020

He informed the Board that fortunately the Town has enough disinfecting concentrate to get us through many months, however for higher disinfection areas, for example the School Nurse office or areas of known Covid contact, the Town will need to work on having enough disinfection products.

The Chief informed the Board that Arthur Ceurvels is working to chase down those supplies. The Chief has been in touch with the Town Moderator and they are working on how to hold a safe Town Meeting in keeping with the requirements of social distancing. The Chief believes we have enough space to hold it safely at the High School. The Chair thanked the Chief and asked for questions or comments from the Board.

Seeing none, the Board moved on to TM's update on reopening operations and facilities.

TM informed the Board he is aiming to open to the public and conduct normal business hours on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. This plan is contingent upon improvements being made within Town Hall for social distancing and protective measures being in place for the public as well as the staff. If those measures are not in place, then the date may be pushed off. TM noted that the Library will begin returning to service in early July.

TM informed the Board that the reopening plan will be available online tonight or tomorrow.

TM informed the Board that the transfer station has been checking for stickers and the cardboard recycling will be open soon. TM agreed to reach out to Victor on when C&D will be accepted.

TM stated that he will post the specifics on the acceptance of recycling on Facebook. TM informed the Board that Arthur Ceurvels and Victor have been looking into technology for the transfer station but haven't pulled the trigger on anything yet.

TM stated that he has received emails from people noticing that the Town is getting serious about the stickers. The transfer station has been handing out information on the requirements but is giving it a grace period for people to get used to it before enforcement begins.

TM informed the Board that the transfer station is being staffed with current staff for the time being. The Chair asked for any questions or comments on this topic.

Seeing none, the Board moved on to FD's status report on the FY2020 budget. FD informed the Board that there are no substantial updates except that the initial application has been submitted to Plymouth County for the Town's share of the Federal Cares Act reimbursements for Covid 19 expenses.

FD moved on to discuss the approval of the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget to be used if the Town is unable, due to Covid 19, to hold a Town Meeting and approve a budget by July 1<sup>st</sup>. FD informed the Board of the differences from what was spent last year in July of 2019. Payroll was three weeks in July and this year it is four so that figure will be slightly higher. Also, the pay contribution to Plymouth County this year has substantive increases and will be higher than last year. FD agreed to request that Plymouth County still apply the discount if the Town delays the upfront payment.

FD informed the Board that the reimbursement amount requested in the Federal Cares Act application is \$108,540.99, and applications will be made every two weeks on an ongoing basis.

FD confirmed that if a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget is approved, and thereafter the Town is able to hold Town Meeting and vote to approve the budget in June, the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget will then go away.

TM agreed to speak with the School Department and FD at the meeting tomorrow regarding holding onto funds as much as possible in order to cover the expenses of the measures and accommodations they will be required to make to reopen.

The Chair asked for questions or comments on this topic.  
Seeing none, the Board moved on to touch on the FY2021 budget.

TM informed the Board that the most important update is that currently the best bet is that the Town will be looking at a 10% reduction in State aid in FY2021. TM stated that that equates to roughly a loss of \$700,000.00 on the School side and \$250,000.00 on the Town side.

TM informed the Board that he and FD are working through the ramifications of that and it will be difficult to use any less than the amount of free cash allocated for in the budget and reduce revenues as discussed without making some serious cuts.

TM agreed to speak with the Advisory Committee tomorrow night and share the information gained with the Board on Friday.

FD informed the Board that roughly 16 or 17 percent of the Town's revenues come from State aid. FD commented that it is hard to predict what State aid will look like in FY2022, but it will be prudent to expect and plan for a reduction in State aid in FY2022.

The Board moved on to discuss the Annual and Special Town Meeting warrants.

The Vice Chair agreed to provide the Board with commentary on the CPA surcharge article.

The Chair noted that with more facts provided on Friday the Board will be in a better position to coalesce around commentary.

TM agreed to draft something for the Board that the Board can then add their feelings to. TM stressed the need for the Board to decide how they would like to bridge the gap left by the forecasted reduction in State aid. TM agreed to provide recommendations for the Board on how to deal with the gap on Friday. The Board discussed the possibility of putting forth a budget at Annual Town Meeting to get us through the fall and then holding a Special Town Meeting in the fall to make adjustments to the budget in order to avoid making hard decisions in the current fog of uncertainty.

The OCPC presentation was postponed and will take place as soon as it can be rescheduled.

The Board moved on to the consideration of Board of Selectmen Appointments.

Janet confirmed that all those scheduled for reappointment had been contacted and responses have been received from those not interested in reappointment. The Board voted to appoint and/or reappoint those on the appointment list attached to tonight's Agenda.

The Board moved on to the Town Manager's update. TM thanked Selectman Barry for sending information on what Boston is attempting to do to encourage social distancing.

TM stated that the State is making it easier and swifter for restaurants to offer outdoor dining.

He stated that ATM had sent out guidelines and policies for the Board to review and provide feedback on. TM passed it over to ATM who had done the lion's share of the work.

ATM ran through the three very similar applications for outdoor dining areas located in street parking areas, private parking lots or public parking lots/sidewalks.

ATM informed the Board that at their request she would condense the three separate applications into one document making it easier for everyone.

TM noted that if the Board approves this document, Kim Dixon will be reaching out proactively to all restaurants in Town, and the information will be placed on social media. The Town would begin to accept applications on Friday.

TM informed the Board that Janet had reached out to the ABCC and was informed that the Board of Selectman could grant authority to the Town Manager to approve these applications. If the Board adopts this policy it will allow staff to administer it in an effort to make things more user friendly and streamline the process.

ATM informed the Board that she could probably get the tent specifications from the Fire Department and provide them along with the application.

The Vice Chair questioned if a restaurant does not have enough outdoor space could they move to a different site for these purposes. Janet informed the Board that the outdoor premise needed to comply with the ABCC's Patio Guidelines and be contiguous to the licensed premise but agreed to reach out to the ABCC in the morning to ask for clarification on this.

The Board agreed to meet on Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. to approve the policy and possibly the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget.

Resident and Candidate Vanessa O'Connor raised her virtual hand and asked if this license extension offer applies to Burke's Alewerks. TM agreed to get that answer for her as Janet was having audio difficulties.

Selectman Barry stated that his thoughts and prayers go out to ATM and her husband and all law enforcement responding to the civil unrest, particularly Boston PD.

ATM thanked Selectman Barry.

In closing, the Board commented that its thoughts and prayers are with the Country to heal wounds in a civil way noting that there is a lot more that unites us than divides us.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.