

Meeting Minutes of the Special Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held via conference call on Monday, June 22, 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, and Selectwoman Jocelyn Keegan. Selectman John Barry was unable to attend. Also present Town Manager (TM) Joe Colangelo and via Zoom video conference, Executive Assistant Janet Tierney.

Call Meeting to Order

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00pm informing those watching that they may share their comments or questions by hitting star 9 or raising their virtual hand.

The Chair reminded those watching that the local election polls will be open from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 27th. He encouraged those who haven't had the opportunity to vote yet to get out there and vote. He also encouraged people to attend the Special and Annual Town Meetings which will be taking place at 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm respectively, on Monday, June 29th at the University Sports Complex at Starland, noting that there will be plenty of space for social distancing. Selectwoman Keegan reminded those watching that if they prefer, residents may vote in person at the Town Clerk's Office between 8:00 a.m. and 12 noon from now until Friday.

The Board recognized the following individuals who are stepping down from their volunteer positions after many years of service: Maureen Cooke who served for 7 years on the Taxation Aid Committee, Dick Farwell who served 14 years on the Council on Aging Advisory Board, Katie Duff who served on the Cultural Council for 16 years and Richard DeLuca who served 28 years on the Planning Board and CPC. The Chair thanked them for their commitment of time to the Town of Hanover. The Chair also acknowledged two of the sitting Selectmen, who after this meeting will be stepping down, Emmanuel Dockter and Jocelyn Keegan, and thanked them for their service to the Town.

The Chair informed the public that a long time teacher at the Hanover Middle School, Donald Ronchetti had passed away today, noting that Mr. Ronchetti was a very dedicated teacher who loved what he did. The Chair stated that the Board's thoughts and prayers go out to the Ronchetti family.

The Chair asked for public commentary. Seeing none.

Meeting Minutes

The Board voted to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2020.

Annual & Special Town Meeting

The Board voted to reduce the required quorum for the Special and Annual Town Meetings pursuant to Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020 to 50 people.

Budget Commentary

The Board voted on the Board of Selectman's Budget Commentary.

Chairman Tuzik, aye, Vice Chairman Dockter aye, Selectman Delaney nay, Selectwoman Keegan, nay. The Chair noted the split vote.

The Vice Chair clarified that the Board is not voting on the budget or the Advisory Committee's position on the budget, just the commentary.

TM informed the Board that the School Committee has released their commentary which basically stated that the School Committee unanimously endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommended budget. The Chair stated that the idea is to work together to go before the public in a unified way, along with all of the major stakeholders, to demonstrate to the residents and public that this is the best of a bad situation, but that it would work and make everyone comfortable and whole. He further noted, it is not a discussion of the budget per se but a discussion of the commentary.

The Board expressed their various opinions of the budget and the commentary.

The Board then voted to approve the Board of Selectmen's commentary regarding the budget as written and presented. Vice Chairman Dockter, aye, Chairman Tuzik, aye, Selectman Delaney, aye, Selectwoman Keegan, nay.

Article 7: CPA Home Rule Act Commentary

The Vice Chair gave an overview of the proposed Board of Selectmen Article 7 commentary.

The Chair stated that this is strictly factual and the Board's intent with this commentary is to provide the information to the folks and let it play out on Town Meeting floor in terms of letting the residents decide how they feel about it.

The Vice Chair clarified that a vote in favor of this commentary is not to be interpreted as a vote in support of the article.

The Board voted to approve the Board of Selectmen commentary on the article regarding CPA.

Vice Chair Dockter, aye, Chairman Tuzik, aye, Selectwoman Keegan, aye.

Annual & Special Town Meeting Preparations

Fire Chief Blanchard via Zoom video conference provided an overview of the preparations and process for social distancing at the Town Meeting on Monday, June 29th at the University Sports Complex at Starland. The Town Clerk via Zoom video conference discussed the check in process at Town Meeting. Chief Blanchard stressed the importance of asking Town Meeting participants to arrive a little early and allow extra time for this process.

The Clerk informed the Board that handouts will be available, as in years past, at the check in tables. Chief Blanchard informed the Board that there will be plenty of hand sanitizer stations and a small supply of masks on hand.

Chief Blanchard gave an overview of the process for social distancing and mask requirements at the Town Election on Saturday, June 27th at Hanover High School. The Clerk discussed the cleaning protocols at the election, and provided an overview of this year's mail in voting progress. TM discussed costs associated with holding Town Meeting at Starland, and informed the public that he does not have an exact cost yet, but he is working with Starland to come up with a fair and appropriate cost which will be shared with the public. He further noted that this expense will be submitted to the County through the Cares Act. TM mentioned that Starland is a desirable location because, should it rain, the Town won't have to worry about a wash out and Town Meeting be able to move forward with a full experience.

Resident Gerry O'Hearn, raised his virtual hand and asked about the sanitization of the pens being used to vote. The Clerk informed him that residents are encouraged to bring their own black pens, however there will be plenty of pens on hand which will be placed in a collection bucket after each vote.

The Board encouraged people to go out and vote.

Restaurant Reopening and Outdoor Dining

The Board voted to ratify the following Outdoor Dining application approvals granted by the Town Manager pursuant to Board of Selectmen Policy 9-10:

Burke's Alewerks Outdoor Dining
Crossroads Café Outdoor Dining
Jersey Mike's Subs Outdoor Dining
Mamma Mia of Hanover Outdoor Dining
The Draft on 53 Outdoor Dining

The Board and TM discussed the possibility of making the expanded outdoor dining options become more permanent.

The Chair strongly encouraged the residents to patronize the businesses that have made some rather sizeable investments in improving their properties and making them compatible with the rules handed down to them. He noted that many of them have been without revenues for some time and had to lay out further monies in order to stay in business, therefore residents can pay them back by patronizing their establishments.

The Vice Chair asked that the Town keep in mind those businesses, and if there are changes with the Cares Act or other funding that becomes available, be proactive in reaching out to them and informing them of any changes that they could benefit from.

Finance Director Lincoln Heineman, via Zoom conference, informed the Board that as he understands it under the Federal guidelines, the Cares Act is limited to municipalities, and Plymouth County may per the Commissioners decision, open it up for nonprofits. It could not be used by for profit entities.

The Chair recommended that any small business utilize the Small Business Administration, (SBA). He shared that he had an incredible personal positive experience with the SBA. He stated that the SBA has many mechanisms that small to medium sized businesses can take advantage of, and it is a relatively streamlined process.

Vacation carry over due to Covid-19

TM provided an overview of the proposed personnel regulation change, which would allow employees covered by the personnel regulations to carry over all of their remaining vacation leave, in excess of the amount currently allowed, as long as the vacation is used by January 1, 2021. TM informed the Board that many area communities are taking similar action.

The Board voted to approve the proposed usage of vacation plan as proposed by TM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.