

Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held in a hybrid format via teleconference as well as in person in the First Floor Hearing Room of Hanover Town Hall on Monday, June 7, 2021 @ 6:30 PM.

Present at Town Hall, Chairman David Delaney, Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman, and Selectwoman Vanessa O'Connor. Selectman John Tuzik was unable to attend.

Also present, Town Manager (TM) Joseph Colangelo, Executive Assistant Janet Tierney, and Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee.

Executive Session (6:30pm)

The Chair opened the meeting and in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)2, requested a roll call vote to enter into executive session to conduct a strategy session related to the ongoing negotiations being conducted between the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director who are representing the Town of Hanover/Board of Selectmen in the collective bargaining agreement negotiations with the Police Union, and also contract negotiations with non-union personnel, namely the Community Services Director, as he had determined that a discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the negotiations.

The Chair announced that the Board will be returning to open session.

Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Vice Chair Nyman, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.

At 7:05pm the Board returned to Open Session and made arrangements for remote attendees to gain access to the meeting.

Call meeting to order

At 7:10pm the Chair called the meeting to order.

Present were Chairman Delaney, Vice Chair Nyman, Selectwoman O'Connor and Selectman Louko.

Also present, Town Manager (TM) Joseph Colangelo, Executive Assistant Janet Tierney, Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee, and Finance Director (FD) Chelsea Stevens.

The Chair asked for public comments on any topics not on this evening's agenda, seeing none.

Vice Chair Nyman discussed attending Ms. Ireland's Civics Class, during which the name of the Board was discussed. The Vice Chair suggested that the Board of Selectmen look into changing their name, as there are now two female Board Members. The Chair instructed that this be looked into and put on a future agenda for further discussion.

The Vice Chair also thanked Superintendent of Schools Matt Ferron and Police Chief Sweeney for presenting her with a plaque, which had been donated to the school by the graduating class of 1978 in memory of her late husband Robert Nyman, on the occasion of the plaque being retired as the school mascot has now changed to the new Hanover Hawks.

Approved
6/21/2021

The Board thanked Veterans Service Officer James Crosby and American Legion Commander Ray Miller for their efforts in organizing the Memorial Day Parade, and congratulated Hanover High School's Class of 2021 on their Graduation.

Selectman Louko reminded those listening that as people are now able to get out and about, it is a good time to check on your neighbors and make sure they are doing o.k.

The Chair informed all that the one RFP Proposal received in response to the recent Sylvester School RFP, has been retracted, and therefore there won't be a need for Agenda item 17 this evening.

Minutes

Selectman Louko requested a change to the Draft Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2021, under Town Meeting Review, to reflect that only some of the Board Members had a desire to request a limit on the length and number of presentations at Town Meeting, as he did not share that desire. The Board agreed to the change. The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes of May 17, 2021 as amended.

Consider Approval of Board of Selectmen and Town Manager Board and Committee Reappointments

The Board discussed the reappointments and decided to further look into which Boards are active/inactive at this time, and take a vote on the reappointments at the next meeting.

Consider Board Liaison Reorganization

The Board Members discussed the Liaison Reorganization and expressed the Boards and Committee's they each wish to serve on.

Selectman Louko expressed an interest in serving as Liaison to two Committees which Selectman Tuzik served as Liaison to last year. As Selectman Tuzik was unable to attend the meeting today, Selectman Louko agreed to touch base with him later to see if he is willing to give those liaison spots to Selectman Louko.

The Board agreed to finalize the list of Liaison assignments at the next meeting.

Selectman Louko discussed the vacancy on the Conservation Commission and described the Commission's purpose, encouraging people to volunteer.

Resident Paula Larson appeared before the Board and inquired as to whether or not a new Committee would be formed to discuss future plans of the Sylvester School, and encouraged the formation of such Committee. The Board agreed to have a warned agenda item for a more substantive discussion of future plans for the Sylvester School.

Interview Candidates for the Vacant Seat on the Board of Registrars as put forth by the Democratic Town Committee. The Democratic Town Committee put forth three candidates Laurie Stella, Kathi Thomson and Brian May. Kathi Thomson and Brian May were unable to attend the meeting. The Board was informed that although the Democratic Town Committee was required to put forth three candidates, Laurie Stella was the one candidate with the most interest in serving on the Board of Registrars. Laurie Stella, joined the meeting via Zoom and discussed her background and interest in serving on the

Board of Registrars with the Board. The Board voted to appoint Laurie Stella to the vacant seat on the Board of Registrars as put forth by the Democratic Town Committee.

Consider Amending the Transfer Station Rules & Regulations to Allow for Construction & Demolition (CD) Debris effective July 5, 2021 [Board of Selectmen Policy 11-1]

TM ran through the proposed amendments to Policy 11-1 to allow for the acceptance of Construction & Demolition (CD) Debris at the Transfer Station, and informed the Board that the changes, if approved, would be effective July 5th.

DPW Director Victor Diniak joined the meeting and further discussed the plans for accepting CD Disposal at the Transfer Station.

The Board voted to amend the Transfer Station Rules & Regulations, Selectmen Policy 11-1 as proposed, attached.

Review Proposed Policy for the Disposition of Town Owned Land

TM informed the Board that there are 300 plus town owned parcels of land and of that 160 or so are under Board of Selectmen control and would fall under this policy. TM presented the proposed policy to the Board stating that the policy is being proposed in an effort to tighten up the process and have a cleaner approach the next time someone inquires about the availability of a piece of Town owned land. The Board discussed the proposed policy with TM, and proposed the addition of a Department or Department Head as an entity that can initiate this process, and that directed TM to take a look back at the process used in the past in these cases and put this topic on a future meeting's agenda. TM welcomed any additional feedback from the Board or the Public regarding the proposed policy. The Board requested that the list of all town owned property with street addresses be circulated and put on the Town's website.

Consider Amending Policy for Cash Receipts and Turnover [Board of Selectmen Policy 7-10]

FD presented the proposed amendments to the policy for Cash Receipts and Turnovers. The Chair asked for any questions or comments for FD regarding this, seeing none. TM informed the Board that these amendments need not be adopted tonight but if the Board is in favor of them, they can approve them at the next meeting. The Board agreed to continue this item to the next meeting.

Consider Approving Vacation Carry Over due to COVID – 19 [Board of Selectmen Policy 5-1]

TM informed the Board that this is the same request that was granted last year. The reason for the request being that a lot of employees were not able to use their vacation time during the year due to the Covid 19 emergency. If approved, employees would be allowed to carry their vacation time over to January 1st, 2022. TM further mentioned that if all employees were rushed to use up their vacation time by July 1st, there would be too many employees out at the same time. This measure would allow employees to space out their vacations over the next six months. The Board Voted to approve the proposed vacation carry over due to Covid-19.

Discuss Adopting Updated Water Rates [Board of Selectmen Policy 7-17]

FD presented the water rates proposal, attached, to the Board.

TM informed the Board that they need not make a decision tonight, however a decision will need to be made prior to the end of the Fiscal Year. DPW Director Victor Diniak joined the discussion and expressed that the hope is that the Board will support Scenario 2 of the proposal.

The Chair summarized that the Board will need to adopt one of three scenarios in order to meet the budget and from what FD and Victor Diniak said, Scenario 2 is recommended.

The Board discussed the proposal with FD. FD agreed to send the Board the full spread sheet version of the spread sheet contained within tonight's proposal presentation. Chief Blanchard joined the discussion and expressed that he encourages new builders to include sprinkler systems as they protect life and property, and that he hopes that the adopted scenario will not attach a negative connotation to having those systems installed.

Mr. Diniak clarified that there is no fee for connection or the meter and agreed to take a look at the size of the lines and look into possibly refining the list.

Diane Sawin raised her virtual hand but was unable to connect.

Kathi Hessi submitted the question of whether or not the rates project usage by Hanover Crossing. Mr. Diniak stated that the Hanover Crossing usage is not expected until the third quarter but ultimately, yes.

The Board further discussed the proposal with Mr. Diniak and agreed to put this item on the next agenda for a vote. TM asked the Board to send him any feedback they may have on this topic before the next meeting.

Discuss Adopting Updated Ambulance Rates [Board of Selectmen Policy 7-6]

Fire Chief Blanchard discussed the updated ambulance rates, informing the Board that he is not recommending any changes to the ambulance rates for the next fiscal year. The Board discussed the ambulance rates with the Chief.

The Chair asked for any questions, seeing none.

The Board voted to adopt the updated ambulance rates.

Discuss Concept of Town of Hanover Local Historic District Study Committee

The Board discussed the concept of forming a Town of Hanover Local Historic District Committee with TM, Caleb Estabrooks and Peter Johnson. Selectwoman O'Connor agreed to work with TM and Mr. Estabrooks on the proposed Committee's proposed mission statement language in order to make it more inclusive and have the voices most central to the discussion highlighted in the process.

Discuss Concept of Town of Hanover Water Advisory Committee

Selectman Louko presented the concept of creating a Hanover Water Advisory Committee to the Board, draft mission statement attached. The Board discussed the concept. Based on the Board's feedback, TM agreed to work with Selectman Louko to reword the mission statement of the Committee. The Board agreed to place this topic on a future agenda for a more in-depth discussion.

Update on Status of Sylvester School RFP

Lauren Nauman posed a question via chat to the Board regarding a way to reverse 2019 Town Meeting vote for the Board of Selectman to have full control of the future of Sylvester School. TM confirmed that it would require a Town Meeting vote to reverse the 2019 Town Meeting vote, and suggested the Board warn a future agenda item on this topic for a deeper discussion. The Board agreed to discuss it further at a future meeting.

Board of Selectmen Forum

Selectwoman O'Connor informed those listening that the Hanover Unity Council together with various Town groups were hosting a community event for Pride Month on June 12th at the Council on Aging from 2pm – 4pm.

Vice Chair Nyman proposed introducing a Social Media Policy that would address people who are elected, appointed and/or employees of the Town and requested that this topic be put on a future agenda for further discussion. The Board discussed the proposal. The Chair requested that TM look into what surrounding Towns have in place in order to aid the future discussion. TM agreed.

Adjourn

The meeting ended and adjourned at: 9:33pm