

## **Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held at Town Hall on Monday, March 19, 2018 @ 7:00 PM.**

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Present were Chairman David R. Delaney, Vice-Chair John C. Tuzik, Selectmen: Brian Barthelmes, and Emmanuel Dockter, and Selectwoman Jocelyn Keegan. Also present: Acting Town Manager (ATM) Anthony Marino and Administrative Assistant Janet Tierney.

At 7:04 p.m. Chairman Delaney opened the meeting and asked if any member of the audience had any comment or discussion item for the Open Forum portion of the meeting; no response.

Tom Hickey, Superintendent of the South Shore Vo-Tech and Bob Heywood the Town of Hanover's Representative to the Regional School Committee, appeared before the Board to discuss South Shore Regional School Committee's Warrant Article regarding the Amendments to their Regional Agreement. The regional agreement has not been updated within the last forty years. Mr. Hickey stated that there will be no major substantive changes. He then ran through a summary of the planned changes. Mr. Hickey stated that the Amended Agreement was being presented to all eight of their communities, and he would be happy to provide summary handouts for the Annual Town Meeting.

Josephine Koelsch, Chair of the Visiting Nurse Board, appeared before the Board to donate, on behalf of the VNA, a \$5,000.00 donation to the Town of Hanover, to be used for this summer's Campership Program. She handed out a letter explaining the provisions under which the donation was given. Selectmen Barthelmes noted that he understood that as a result of the previous year's donation over 31 children were able to attend Summer Camp. He thanked the VNA for their involvement in the program and the children of Hanover, he then made a motion to accept the \$5,000.00 VNA Campership Donation which was seconded by Selectman Tuzik. The Board voted unanimously to accept the donation.

Finance Director Lincoln Heineman presented a Finance Department update to the Board. He presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board, on the department structure, department wide accomplishments, bill payment trends and goals. There was a discussion concerning payment in lieu of taxes. Mr. Heineman recommended that as it is voluntary, the Town should first try to identify entities that are likely to volunteer payment in lieu of taxes and then have informal discussions with those entities.

Fire Chief Jeffrey Blanchard and Deputy Fire Chief Jason Cavallaro appeared before the Board to propose increasing the Town of Hanover's ambulance billing rates which have not changed since 2012. They presented a PowerPoint presentation which included ambulance receipts by fiscal year from 2007 to 2017, percentage of Fire Department budget funded by ambulance revenue from FY04 to FY19, ambulance fund allocations by year from FY10 to FY18, the Safer Grant Presentation from August 2017 reflecting estimated savings and increased ambulance receipts, definitions and statistics on services rendered Basic Life support (BLS), Advanced Life Support – Level 1 (ALS1), and Advanced Life Support – Level 2 (ALS2), a chart of the surrounding towns and Comstar Average top 50% ambulance billing rates, bundled rate comparison and a la carte rate comparison. Selectmen Dockter questioned who would be paying

the fees. Chief Blanchard said it varies from case to case. Selectmen Dockter requested to see the actual break down of who pays what. His concern being that this could wind up being another form of tax on the residents. The Chief said that generally the elderly are involved and they are 100% covered under Medicare and Medicaid. He went on to say that there is an Ambulance Billing Review Committee, which meets quarterly to run through ambulance bills. Most of the time billing/ payment issues can be settled by setting up a manageable payment plan but there is also a write off provision in the ambulance billing policy whereby, in cases of hardship, the ambulance bill can be written off in entirety. At Selectmen Barthelmes' request the Chief gave a description of the concept of balance billing. Vice Chair Tuzik commented that while the ambulance rates in Hanover haven't risen in the past 6 years he would imagine the cost of supplies, technology and labor have. The Chief confirmed this. Deputy Fire Chief Jason Cavallaro then spoke to the increased costs associated with providing Advanced Life Support. The State continues to increase the scope of treatments as well as the quantities and types of equipment the Town must have on hand in an ambulance that offers Advanced Life Support, of which the Town of Hanover has four. He emphasized that this is a good thing because it is saving people's lives and shortening their hospital stays, but pointed out that the continually increasing burden must be accommodated either through budget increases or through increased ambulance billing fees. Selectmen Barthelmes requested clarification on Comstar's data. Selectmen Dockter requested to receive information on the various Insurance Companies coverage amounts for ambulance transport. He agreed that billing below coverage amounts would leave money on the table but would like to see the actual amounts and how it would affect the residents. Chairman Delaney clarified with Chief Blanchard that the billing goes directly to the insurance company and most times is seamless to the individual who has been transported. Selectwoman Keegan expressed an interest in seeing what the market could bear with regards to the fees as long as we keep the Ambulance Billing Review Committee in place to aid those who are presented with hardship due to ambulance billing. Chief Blanchard pointed out that the ambulances are operating at a loss and that hiring a private ambulance company for a lower amount won't be feasible. Hanover is not a good model for a private ambulance company. They like quick turnaround times. Selectmen Tuzik noted that while being sensitive to the increased cost of healthcare to all the residents, when you are actually involved in taking a ride in with a family member in an ALS1 situation as he has, the last thing you are thinking about is how much that ride is going to cost you. He said he believed roughly 78% of the transports are ALS1. The Board looked at the figures in the slide presentation and determined that a little over 50% of the ALS1 rides are Medicare or Medicaid patients. Selectmen Tuzik went on to note that the proposed increase had been vetted by the Advisory Committee and analyzed by the Ambulance Billing Review Committee. Selectmen Tuzik then made a motion to accept the Ambulance Billing Rate Increase as presented. Selectwoman Keegan seconded the motion. Selectmen Dockter interjected that he had requested additional information. In particular he would like to receive the balance bill limit numbers, the cost increase charts and the Comstar median numbers. He stated without having that data it is hard for him to make the decision. Selectmen Barthelmes asked Chief Blanchard if it would be beneficial for the Board to set a policy on reviewing ambulance billing rates on a regular basis as well as a policy on how the rate should be calculated. The Chief pointed out that as ambulance rates are highly dynamic, he would suggest that the policy be that the Fire Chief monitors the market rate for ambulance fees and the insurance industry and then comes before the Board if there has been a dramatic change. The Fire Chief offered to add an ambulance rate update to his annual Fire Department update.

Selectmen Tuzik stated there has been a motion and a second. Selectmen Barthelmes said he is happy to move forward. He would still like the information he requested but he is comfortable with the rates as presented. Chairman Delaney stated that they had a motion and a second and asked all those in favor.

Selectwoman Keegan reiterated aye, Selectmen Barthelmes aye, and Chairman Delaney aye. Selectmen Dockter asked to note that he appreciated the effort Chief Blanchard put into this but he could not vote aye on this because he did not have all the information as to the balance billing. Chief Blanchard said that he will get Selectmen Dockter the information. Selectman Dockter said that his specific question is, for each insurance company, how much they value the transport and so because of that he had to vote no, but he appreciated it and he appreciates that this is something that can be reviewed. There is no timeline, so if they have to, once they get the data, take a look at it, they can do that.

The ATM presented the Board with the red line version of the Extension of the Intermunicipal Agreement for Cooperative Recycling on the South Shore and ran through all of the changes made to the Agreement since last signed. Selectmen Tuzik made a motion to approve the Extension of the Intermunicipal Agreement for Cooperative Recycling on the South Shore which was seconded by Selectmen Dockter. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the Extension.

The ATM discussed the request for replacement of the generator at the Hanover Police Station with the Board. During a storm the current generator broke down requiring an evacuation of the Police Station. Given the age of the generator and the difficulty in procuring spare parts for repairs a request was made for an Emergency Reserve Fund Transfer to replace the generator entirely. Selectman Dockter pointed out that according to MGL Chapter 40 Section 6 the request for funding needed to be voted on by the Advisory Committee because it is the Advisory Board's Reserve Fund that the funds will be requested from. The ATM wanted to inform the Board as to what was being requested and why, as well as notify the public of what had happened during the last storm. No vote was necessary. Selectmen Barthelmes asked if there were plans to trade in or scrap the old generator. ATM stated that he would like to bring it up to snuff as a backup generator but with the difficulty in finding parts for it, that may not be possible so it may just be salvage value at that point. No motion necessary.

Selectman Barthelmes made a motion to appoint Lincoln Heineman as primary designee to the Mayflower Municipal Health Group. Selectwoman Keegan seconded. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Lincoln Heineman as the Mayflower Municipal Health Group Primary Designee. ATM commented that the timing of this is very important as there are a couple of seats on the steering committee opening up but in order to be appointed to the steering committee you must be a primary designee. He thanked the Board for appointing Lincoln.

Selectman Tuzik made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen's 2016-2017 Annual Town Report which was seconded by Selectman Dockter. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Board of Selectmen's 2016-2017 Annual Town Report.

The Board received a draft of the 2018 Special Town Meeting Warrant, mainly consisting of housekeeping items. ATM said that the language Selectmen Barthelmes had asked about

regarding moving the funds over from Curtis School Sale from where they were into the Capital Stabilization fund is in there.

Selectman Dockter questioned that there wasn't a list under Article 2 Rescind completed projects borrowing. ATM said that he is checking on it but he doesn't believe there are any. He will provide a list if there are any.

Selectmen Dockter asked the ATM to explain briefly Article 3 Appropriate Funds for Cedar School playground and why it is in the Special. The ATM said that it is because if the funds are appropriated, then part of it will be free cash. He would let the Finance Director speak to the rest of it because he believed we have some bond anticipation notes which Finance Director confirmed. The playground which meets the requirements now will not meet the requirements once redistricted.

The Board Received a Draft of the Complete Street Policy. ATM gave a brief overview of the Complete Streets grant process.

Selectman Dockter asked if the language comes from the State. ATM confirmed that it did.

Selectman Dockter asked the last part of the policy lists 6 sections of proposed sidewalks how did we come up with that list. ATM said he met with the Director of the DPW and the Acting Town Planner to formulate the list but it is up for debate if the Board would like. Selectmen Dockter asked if it would make sense that it mirror the Master Plan which the ATM agreed with and said he would make sure it happens if it hasn't already.

ATM gave his Town Manager update.

The Albert White Barn was sold.

Due to the impending Storm the State of the Town Breakfast will be moved to Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Proposal to amend General Bylaws with regard to Revolving Funds. ATM ran through the proposed changes with the Board. Selectwoman Keegan asked if the Bylaw would need to be approved at Town Meeting. ATM said it would be reviewed by the Bylaw Committee and then approved at Town Meeting.

Selectmen Dockter noted that for Section 2D it might make sense to require the sign off at Town Meeting as opposed to the Board of Selectmen. It was not clear to him what authority the Board would have to approved large capital expenditures, so in his opinion, it would be better to have it go through the advisory committee review process and then approval at Town Meeting as with other capital expenditures.

Selectwoman Keegan noted that without a dollar figure attached to it she wasn't sure if all of the projects with certain dollar amounts merit having to wait for Town Meeting to be approved.

She expressed concern about requiring something to go to Town Meeting if it isn't merited.

ATM noted his thought process of the language was that most of the land in Town is controlled by the Board of Selectmen other than a few parcels controlled by Parks and Rec and Conservation Commission.

Selectmen Dockter said that his understanding with all the different revolving funds is that we have user fees that come in to support the program it is being used for. His understanding is not

that this is an amount set aside for anything we want to spend it on. He appreciates that it may delay some projects but that is the approach we have in town. ATM will make the change and put it up for vote so that it will be ready for Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.