



TOWN *of* HANOVER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
SELECTBOARD

Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM

**Board Room, Municipal Building
41 South Main Street, Hanover, NH**

AGENDA

1. Opening of Meeting – 1 Minute

- a. Call to Order

2. Public Hearing – 10 Minutes

- a. Public Hearing 3 of 3 regarding acquisitions/conveyances of real estate in the Town of Hanover pursuant to RSA 41-14a, for the Selectboard to vote on each acquisition/conveyance and to authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary documents relating to the acquisitions/conveyances. The process as more fully described in the Notice of Public Hearing and Selectboard Town Manager's Report

3. Agenda Review – 3 Minutes

- a. Agenda Review

4. Announcements/recognition – 5 minutes

- a. None

5. Public Comment – 15 Minutes

- a. Public may address the Board

6. Business Requiring Discussion – 30 Minutes

- a. Budget and Finance Update

7. Business Requiring Action – 30 Minutes

- a. Recommendation to Set a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 to accept unanticipated funds in the amount of \$76,195.02 from the State of New Hampshire DOT representing a special one time highway payment.
- b. Recommendation to Set Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 to accept unanticipated funds in the amount of \$64,025.85 from the State of New Hampshire DOT representing a special one time bridge payment.

- c. Recommendation to adopt Advisory Board of Assessors Recommendation (*tabled until January 8, 2024*)
- d. Approval of items i by Consent
 - i. Appointments – Hanover Bike Walk Committee

Reports and Communications – 20 Minutes

- a. Town Manager Report
- b. Selectboard and Committee Reports

8. Nonpublic Session – 20 Minutes

- a. Move into Nonpublic Session
- b. Discussion pursuant to RSA 91:1:3 II (A)(B)(D)(E)(L)

Hearing enhancement equipment is available for use by the public.

Selectboard Town Manager Report | December 18, 2023

Below please find the summary of the agenda items.

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- A. Recommendation to Set a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 to accept unanticipated funds in the amount of \$76,195.02 from the State of New Hampshire DOT representing a special one time highway payment
- B. Recommendation to Set a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 to accept unanticipated funds in the amount of \$64,025.85 from the State of New Hampshire DOT representing a special one-time bridge payment
- C. Recommendation to adopt Advisory Board of Assessor Recommendation (*tabled until January 8, 2024*)
- D. Approval of items I by Consent

Town Manager Report

Agenda Items

Item #2: Public Hearings

Public Hearing 3 of 3 regarding acquisitions/conveyances of real estate in the Town of Hanover pursuant to RSA 41-14a process, for the Selectboard to vote on each acquisition/conveyance and to authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary documents relating to the acquisitions/conveyances as more fully described in the Notice of Public Hearing and Selectboard Town Manager's Report

The third of three public hearings is scheduled on Monday evening regarding the acquisitions/conveyances of real estate in the Town of Hanover pursuant to the RSA 41-14a process. A vote will be held on December 18, 2023 at which time the Selectboard will authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary documents regarding the acquisitions/conveyances of the following properties:

- Champion Rink Drainage Easement – Acquiring from Dartmouth College
- Hanover Inn – Porte-Cochere – Conveying to Dartmouth College
- Old Tuck Drive, sidewalk easement – Conveying to Dartmouth College
- West Wheelock Sewer Pump Station – Acquiring from Dartmouth College
- North College Street Sidewalk – Acquiring from Dartmouth College
- North College Street Retaining Wall – Conveying to Dartmouth College
- Pine Park – Pedestrian Public Access – Release of Easement from Town of Hanover
- Removal of Enforcement Rights/Restrictive Covenants for 33 Goodfellow Road – Transfer to Property Owner
- Transfers of Easements to Lebanon
 - The Indian Ridge Easement (approx. 130 acres) – Conveying to City of Lebanon
 - The Pond Easement (approx. 19 acres) – Conveying to City of Lebanon
 - Six Trail Easements outside the Indian Ridge Tract – Conveying to City of Lebanon

Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, has reviewed the information provided by the Conservation Commission regarding 33 Goodfellow Road and has determined that the Town only has enforcement rights, has no other interest in the property, there is no town approval requiring this restriction and Mr. Phillips has no interest in enforcing the current restrictions, it is her recommendation that the Selectboard vote to release their right to enforce the restrictions. Although the Conservation Commission is able to review and comment on these issues, the final decision lies with the Selectboard, unless a Petition is submitted to require this issue to be on the 2024 Town Meeting Warrant.

There were questions in the prior Selectboard meetings about the ability to retain any existing trail systems or access in the transfers of easements to Lebanon. After brief discussion, the Selectboard guided staff to send a letter to the City identifying the importance of these trails to local residents and requesting the City of Lebanon maintain their existence and access. I spoke with the Lebanon City Manager who confirmed the City's intention to continue to maintain access and the trail system as-is, and that it would be managed under their Planning Department going forward.

Action Requested: Hold the third of three Public Hearings on the above listed properties pursuant to RSA 41-14a, vote and authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary documents related to these acquisitions and transfers.

Item #6: Business Requiring Discussion

a. Budget and finance updates

FY 24/25 Budget: We have sent out our operating budget requests to departments. Working with CIPC we have also finalized and sent out a new CIPC form, including to several departments that have not worked with capital budgets in the past.

We are probably about a week behind the original schedule that was circulated. We are shortly finalizing the initial operating and capital requests from departments to begin review and sending on capital requests to the CIPC.

b. Discussion of Selectboard reports

In the last meeting we discussed the value and plan going forward to Selectboard members to submit a short written summary of their report. We'd like to discuss the timing and logistics of that (for example, whether to do it such that they can be included in the packet, etc).

Item #7: Business Requiring Action

- A. Recommendation to Set a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 to accept unanticipated funds in the amount of \$76,195.02 from the State of New Hampshire DOT representing a special one time highway payment

House Bill 2 provides a one-time payment being made available to NH municipalities in State Fiscal Year 2024. The State is to divide and distribute a \$10 million dollar one-time payment between all NH municipalities based on the distribution methods of Block Grant Aid Apportionment A.

Action Requested: Set a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 to accept these unanticipated funds in the amount of \$76,195.02.

- B. Recommendation to Set a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 to accept unanticipated funds in the amount of \$64,025.85 from the State of New Hampshire DOT representing a special one-time bridge payment

House Bill 2 provides a one-time payment bridge payment being made available to NH municipalities in State Fiscal Year 2024. HB 2 directs the Department to divide and distribute a \$10 million dollar one-time payment between all NH municipalities that have municipally owned bridges per State definition.

Action Requested: Set a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 to accept these unanticipated funds in the amount of \$64,025.85.

- C. Recommendation to adopt Advisory Board of Assessor Recommendation (*tabled until January 8, 2024*)

- D. Approval of items I by Consent

- i. Appointments – Hanover Bike Walk Committee

The Hanover Bike Walk Committee is requesting that the Selectboard make the following appointments for 3 years terms:

Jennie Chamberlain, Hugh Mellert, Scot Drysdale, William Young, Lara Acker, David Anderson and Nicolás Macri.

In addition, Kate Hawkins for a 1 year term.

Action Requested: Appoint Jennie Chamberlain, Hugh Mellert, Scot Drysdale, William Young, Lara Acker, David Anderson and Nicolás Macri to the Hanover Bike Walk Committee for 3 year terms and Kate Hawkins to the Hanover Bike Walk Committee for a 1 year term.

Town Manager Report

December's Report

Trying a new format meant to help organize some of the ongoing reporting areas. A work in progress, and more sections will be added. Please let me know if you have any feedback!

<p>Upcoming events & dates</p>	<p>This isn't exactly an event yet, but there will be many!</p> <p>Ice rink at Dartmouth is back and open to the public! Hanover Parks and Recreation is excited to be partnering with Dartmouth College to offer a skating rink on the Green this winter. The college is installing the base and lining now and next we must wait for colder temperatures to fill and freeze it. Once the rink is up and running the HPR Grounds crew will help with the maintenance of the rink. This will include working with college staff clearing it after snow and the weekly resurfacing. The rink will be open to college students and public during its regular hours of operation. HPR and Dartmouth will both be working to develop programming for the rink, and it may be closed to the public for special events. The rink will be 70' x 110'</p> <p>Please stay tuned for more information on where to find ice conditions, hours of operation and the event calendar.</p>
<p>Human Resources & Personnel</p>	<p>Numbers: Since last month we have had three employees leave employment and two employees start employment. Welcome Lisa Burtan to Howe and Earl Miller to Public Works!</p> <p>YTD, we have had 26 employees leave employment and 38 start employment. Although it's not as much as turnover as last year, it's still a lot and indicative of the very challenging and changing labor market and the significant retirement cliff the Town is currently at the beginning stage of falling off of, which will only increase in future years, challenging succession planning, the budget, and how we provide services.</p> <p>Each onboard/offboard also costs the Town in terms of logistics, time, training, benefit management, and much more. That's 64 total in/outs (not including seasonal), which means we're fully onboarding or offboarding an employee at least once every single week throughout the entire year (on average).</p>

Retention/Recruitment Study: As previously reported, the study portion is complete and we have begun meeting with department heads, senior leadership, and unions to discuss some of the initial findings and concepts that we will build into the budget process this year.

Fire Chief Search. Job posting is live online, we have received a number of highly qualified and competitive applications. We have begun screening candidates. All open positions are available here: hanovernh.org/employment.

Flexible schedules. We have decided to permanently implement a version of the “summer hours” that we successfully piloted this summer and have previously discussed – with no adverse impact to the public that we found, and a significant positive response from our staff. **It’s important to note:** The flexible schedules as we envision and for the time being should not change, other than in a few potential edge cases, any of the hours or access to staff. Meaning, for example, if there is a two-person department, one may take off a Tuesday and one may take off a Friday such that the hours of the department remain the same, but the individual schedules differ. Some departments already have a similar setup in place with shift schedules, such as for most employees at Police, Fire, and Howe.

There are many models of flexible schedules, such as the City of Lebanon which has four ten-hour days so their municipal offices are open 7-5 every day. Our departments were queried about preferences, and we decided that at least for now, the best version for us to implement is one where the hours generally remain the same (such as the hours for Town Hall), but individual employee’s schedules may differ or rotate within that, based on different departmental needs.

More broadly, growing data shows that this is not only an important retention and recruitment tool, but that employees are often more productive, not less productive, when on a “four day” work week or flexible schedule. Importantly, this benefit helps provide staff some flexibility in balancing their personal lives, as we want our full-time staff to have the option to have one day per week or per two weeks during the work week (~ M-F 9-5) that they are not scheduled for work, making it easier for people to coordinate medical care, childcare, and other related things.


We will keep the Selectboard updated, as we may want to try a different version of this for this year’s “Summer hours” as well where hours are modified.

Community Nurse Appreciation. I’d just like to communicate to the Selectboard that in the last few weeks we have received a number of letters from residents and community members expressing appreciation for the Community Nurse services that we offer. We can forward individual letters if interested. Thank you to Doris Yates!

Budget &
Finance

See above

Reminder that tax payments are due by December 28th. Thank you!

<p>Housing, redevelopment & planning</p>	<p>Mink Brook Community Workforce Housing Project. Town and Twin Pines attorneys have been in conversation and were provided the feedback gained from the Selectboard via the public survey and discussion at the prior meetings.</p> <p>Rental Registration. A postcard is being mailed to all property owners to start to move people to register their properties. We are still hiring for the Rental Housing Inspector position, which has seen less than stellar interest so far, though we have several potential candidates who have expressed interest currently.</p>
<p>Transportation & Mobility</p>	<p>Q4 Traffic Safety Updates. Please see attached memo.</p>
<p>Downtown Hanover</p>	<p>Starry Night. A number of businesses working alongside Dartmouth College have some fun plans to light up downtown as we get into the holidays. Keep your eyes open for a more festive looking downtown this holiday season as more and more stars are added to the downtown!</p> <p>Thank you to Heather Drinan of Dartmouth College and John Pepper of Boloco for leading this initiative! Check out the stars popping up all around town!</p> 



Chris Peters, manager of the Rogers Family Long-term care center, stands in front of the building, surrounded by the Hanover Improvement Society. The new wooden structure will hang through the center of the building. (Photo by Adam Luskoff)



Hanover Improvement Society Director Steven Hill (left) stands with John Rogers (center) and Chris Peters (right) in front of the building. The new wooden structure will hang through the center of the building. (Photo by Adam Luskoff)

Photos courtesy of Dartmouth College

Sustaining Engagement. We are continuing conversations with property owners and businesses about finding ways to sustain this high level of engagement in the future. We plan to have more on that for the Selectboard’s consideration in early 2024.

College & Town

We’ll add an additional thanks here to Dartmouth College for re-starting the ice rink on the Green!

You can find my discussions with:

- Dartmouth President Sian Beilock:
<https://hanoverhappenings.castos.com/episodes/a-conversation-with-dartmouth-college-president-sian-beilock-about-mental-health-housing-community-collaboration-and-more>
- Dartmouth VP of Government and Community Relations: Emma Wolfe:
<https://hanoverhappenings.castos.com/episodes/a-conversation-with-emma-wolfe-dartmouths-new-vp-of-government-and-community-relations>

	We have plans to identify ways to create more formal and sustained involvement and engagement from various stakeholders in town, and we'll have more on that in coming weeks/months.
Other Updates	

November's Report

Trying a new format meant to help organize some of the ongoing reporting areas. A work in progress, and more sections will be added. Please let me know if you have any feedback!

Upcoming events & dates	<p>Lots of exciting things are happening at HPR this December including bringing holiday cheer to Allen Street during UVBA's Celebrate the Season on December 1 at 5:15. At this event, there will be UVBA's annual chili cookoff, and HPR will have s'mores and a letter to Santa workshop.</p> <p>December 2nd is the Snow Much Fun Fair on Allen Street, with food, games, and fun. Santa will also be in attendance!</p> <p>Later in the month, HPR will host a gingerbread house night for families at the community center on December 13. Then, on the streets of Hanover, we will have a holiday scavenger hunt and story path out for the public to enjoy all season long.</p>
Human Resources & Personnel	<p>Numbers: In the last month we have had four employees leave employment and two start. Welcome Avery Crotty to HR and Melissa Ball to Community Nurse!</p> <p>Retention/Recruitment Study: The study is complete as of last month. We are now finishing the data compilation and analysis and have begun drafting new concept plans and policies that we have been working with stakeholders, such as the department heads, and Selectboard, to source feedback on and iterate. Over the next month we'll be finalizing some of those concepts and then starting to drill down into the numbers with department heads and staff, unions, and the Selectboard as we begin to start to integrate new proposals into budgeting and a major rewrite of our employee handbook. Much more to come!</p> <p>Fire Chief Search. Job posting is live online, we have received a number of highly qualified and competitive applications. All open positions are available here: hanovernh.org/employment.</p> <p>Employee Recognition. Congratulations to Lisa Camarra who received the 2023 Dispatcher of the Year award from the North Country Public Safety Foundation.</p>

The Governor presented her with the award to recognize her 30+ year career of outstanding service to the public safety profession and the community.

You can meet Lisa and hear more about the incredible, life-saving work our dispatchers at HPD do on a daily basis, 24/7 in the great discussion with several of our dispatchers in [Hanover Happenings #20](#).



A story that appeared in Daybreak about burnout among teachers is highly relevant to the municipal side as well, with high housing prices and job stress contributing to huge turnover and challenges in recruitment:

<https://view.email.bostonglobe.com/?qs=5f3a97a438f658108c90852ba210e7e09420ccff3f80c194bc7fb42f4a6fa54200b4bb6b6e0e2eead57f621b5298b79e94418cb0836a461bdfd71c60fd326815bc7d36f01a5547476443aa22956a01edca456e1e0c5bc5af>

Budget & Finance

See above

Reminder that tax payments are due by December 28th. Thank you!

Housing, redevelopment & planning

Mink Brook Community Workforce Housing Project. Town and Twin Pines attorneys have been in conversation and were provided the feedback gained from the Selectboard via the public survey and discussion at the prior meetings.

Rental Registration. A postcard is being mailed to all property owners to start to move people to register their properties. We are still hiring for the Rental Housing Inspector position, which has seen less than stellar interest so far, though we have several potential candidates who have expressed interest currently.

Transportation & Mobility

Traffic Safety Updates. We have sent letters to NHDOT requesting a) a crosswalk in the Dunster/Wyeth area and b) to reduce the speed limit on Etna Road.

At this point, we have not heard anything back yet, and we will follow up with them. We have our Q4 staff meeting planned for December to review some existing and new requests.

Downtown Hanover

Small Business Saturday. Support local businesses in Downtown Hanover in November 25th!



Starry Night. A number of businesses working alongside Dartmouth College have some fun plans to light up downtown as we get into the holidays. Keep your eyes open for a more festive looking downtown this holiday season!

Sustaining Engagement. We are continuing conversations with property owners and businesses about finding ways to sustain this high level of engagement in the future. We plan to have more on that for the Selectboard's consideration in January or February.

College & Town

You can find my discussions with:

- Dartmouth President Sian Beilock:
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- Dartmouth VP of Government and Community Relations: Emma Wolfe: <https://hanoverhappenings.castos.com/episodes/a-conversation-with-emma-wolfe-dartmouths-new-vp-of-government-and-community-relations>

We have plans to identify ways to create more formal and sustained involvement and engagement from various stakeholders in town, and we'll have more on that in coming weeks/months.

Other Updates

HPD Secures CALEA Accreditation. This is a significant accomplishment that represents and reflects HPD's professionalism and commitment to high standards in law enforcement. See attached press release.

This process began of June 2021 and was completed in June of 2023. It involves a wide range of evaluation criteria and more than 30 meetings/assessments onsite and more than a dozen community interviews, such as with neighboring governments, Dartmouth College, the school district, residents, business owners, and others. All of this is meant to evaluate the HPD's adherence to the highest professional standards in policing that CALEA uses to determine whether to issue an accreditation status or not.

CALEA accreditation not only helps ensure that our police are meeting national best practices, but it helps boosts public confidence and recruitment. It even helps reduce insurance liability.

We're proud of Hanover PD for joining only 22 other police departments in New Hampshire who have achieved CALEA accreditation. We thank Chief Charlie Dennis and all of the HPD staff for their work, not just towards accreditation, but every day on behalf of our community.

New Hampshire Municipal Association Annual Conference. This year, we had a number of new employees head down to NHMA. This is one of the things that I am encouraging more staff to participate in. Attending workshops, networking with others, and learning/sharing about what's happening in ours towns is incredibly valuable, and if we've historically had almost no attendance at NHMA and other related conferences. This year, our attendees were:

- Norm Bernaiche, Assessing Director
- Jerry Roberts, Field Appraiser
- Tracy Walsh, Senior Clerk
- Ellen Bullion, Finance/Admin Services Director
- Kerry Osgood, Executive Assistant to Town Manager
- Katie Williams, HR Director (Had to cancel due to being out sick)
- Alex Torpey, Town Manager

This year at NHMA, I was also asked to speak. I presented with Cheryl Lindner, the Bow Finance Director, and Shaun Mulholland, Lebanon City Manager, on a session about retention, recruitment, and succession planning for Towns, which went quite well! This topic was part of the keynote sessions at NHMA, as well as ICMA in Austin. It's a major issue for many local governments, and getting the chance to share data, best practices, and ideas is very helpful for all!



Town Meeting Involvement and Civic Engagement. As many of us know and have talked about, many towns are struggling with turnout rates at Town Meeting, and overall, just a decades-long decline of civic participation more generally. This is an issue all of you know I am particularly passionate about.

To that end, one of the projects I'm working on is with stakeholders such as the NH Department of Revenue Administration, New Hampshire Municipal Association, the New Hampshire Municipal Management Association, and others, including a number of Town Managers and local election officials to brainstorm and work on ways to increase turnout, access to information, and engagement for Town Meetings in New Hampshire. We have a number of new ideas we'll be trying in Hanover next year, and will have more to announce about that in the coming months.

Below, meeting with Lindsey Stepp, DRA Commissioner, Adam Denoncour Assistant Director of Municipal and Property Division, and Lawrence Gagnon, Revenue Counsel, who are all excited to help all of us find creative ways to get more involvement at Town Meeting in NH!



TOWN *of* HANOVER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Hanover Select Board will hold a Public Hearings on **Monday, November 27, 2023 and December 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. , and will vote on December 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** regarding the following acquisitions/conveyances of real estate in the Town of Hanover pursuant to the RSA 41-14a process and the authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary documents regarding the following Properties/Locations:

- Champion Rink Drainage Easement – Acquiring from Dartmouth College
- Hanover Inn – Porte-Cochere – Conveying to Dartmouth College
- Old Tuck Drive, sidewalk easement – Conveying to Dartmouth College
- West Wheelock Sewer Pump Station – Acquiring from Dartmouth College
- North College Street Sidewalk – Acquiring from Dartmouth College
- North College Street Retaining Wall – Conveying to Dartmouth College
- Pine Park – Pedestrian Public Access – Release of Easement from Town of Hanover
- Removal of Enforcement Rights/Restrictive Covenants for 33 Goodfellow Road – Transfer to Property Owner
- Transfers of Easements to Lebanon
 - The Indian Ridge Easement (approx. 130 acres) – Conveying to City of Lebanon
 - The Pond Easement (approx. 19 acres) – Conveying to City of Lebanon
 - Six Trail Easements outside the Indian Ridge Tract – Conveyign to City of Lebanon

HANOVER SELECT BOARD



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.
Commissioner

November 9, 2023

David Rodrigue, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner
Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)
Deputy Commissioner

Athos Rassias, Town Manager
Town of Hanover
PO Box 483
Hanover, NH 03755

**Re: Hanover Special One Time Highway Payment – in Accordance with House Bill 2
Payment for Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction of Class IV and V Highways**

Dear Mr. Rassias:

The following is notification of a one time highway payment being made available to your town in State Fiscal Year 2024 based on the passage of House Bill 2 (HB 2) effective in June 2023. HB 2 directs the department to divide and distribute a \$10 million one time payment between all New Hampshire municipalities based on the distribution methods of Block Grant Aid Apportionment A. This one time payment is separate from your regular quarterly payments.

This one time payment is anticipated to be available to the Town of Hanover during the month of November 2023 as follows:

November 2023 Actual Payment: \$76,195.02

In generalized terms and in accordance with statutory provisions for distribution of Block Grant Aid “Apportionment A” funds, this one time highway payment is based on the municipalities’ mileage of Class IV and Class V highways, as well as the municipalities’ population.

Please contact us at 271-3344 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

C. R. Willeke

C. R. Willeke, PE
Municipal Highways Engineer
Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance

CRW/dmp

SPECIAL ONE-TIME HIGHWAY PAYMENT - IN ACCORDANCE WITH HOUSE BILL 2

DATE: November 9, 2023

The House Bill 2 (HB 2) provides a one-time payment being made available to all NH municipalities in State Fiscal Year 2024 effective July 2023. HB 2 directs the NH Department of Transportation to divide and distribute a \$10 million one-time payment between all New Hampshire municipalities based on the distribution methods of Block Grant Aid Apportionment A. This one-time payment is separate from the regular Block Grant Aid quarterly payments that all NH municipalities receive.

In generalized terms and in accordance with statutory provisions for distribution of Block Grant Aid “Apportionment A” funds, this one-time highway payment is based on the municipalities’ share of statewide mileage of Class IV and Class V highways, as well as the municipalities’ share of the statewide population.

HB 2 funds are allowable uses are the same as the normal Highway Block Grant Aid Apportionments A and B that municipalities receive. Allowable uses include municipal highway construction, reconstruction and maintenance.

Please contact the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance at 271-3344 if you have any questions.



William Cass, P.E.
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



David Rodrigue, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner
Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)
Deputy Commissioner

December 1, 2023

Athos Rassias, Town Manager
Town of Hanover
PO Box 483
Hanover, NH 03755

**Re: Hanover Special One Time Bridge Payment – in Accordance with House Bill 2
Payment for Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction of Municipally Owned Bridges**

Dear Mr. Rassias:

The following is notification of a one-time bridge payment being made available to your municipality in State Fiscal Year 2024 based on the passage of House Bill (HB) 2 effective July 2023. HB 2 directs the Department to divide and distribute a \$10 million one-time payment between all New Hampshire municipalities that have municipally owned bridges per state definitions. Fifty percent (50%) of the distribution is based on your municipality's percentage of statewide municipal bridge deck surface area and the remaining fifty percent (50%) of the distribution is based on your municipality's percentage of statewide population. This one-time bridge payment is not related at all to the quarterly block grant aid payments that a municipality receives. This payment can only be used on the maintenance, construction, or reconstruction of municipally owned bridges. These are non-lapsing funds. No funds appropriated under this section shall be used to supplant locally budgeted and approved funds for bridge maintenance or construction. The funds appropriated in this section may be considered unanticipated money under RSA 31:95-b and may be accepted and expended pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, II through IV, whether or not a political subdivision has adopted the provisions of RSA 31:95-b.

This one-time payment is anticipated to be available to the Town of Hanover during the month of December 2023 as follows:

December 2023 Actual Bridge Payment: \$64,025.85

Happy holidays and please contact me at 271-6472 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

C. R. Willeke

C. R. Willeke, PE
Municipal Highways Engineer
Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance

CRW/dmp

SPECIAL ONE-TIME BRIDGE PAYMENT - IN ACCORDANCE WITH HOUSE BILL 2

DATE: December 1, 2023

The House Bill 2 (HB 2) provides a one-time bridge payment being made available to NH municipalities in State Fiscal Year 2023. HB 2 directs the Department to divide and distribute a \$10 million one-time payment between all New Hampshire municipalities that have municipally owned bridges per state definitions. Fifty percent (50%) of the distribution is based on a municipality's percentage of statewide municipal bridge deck surface area and the remaining fifty percent (50%) of the distribution is based on a municipality's percentage of statewide population.

This one-time bridge payment is not related at all to the quarterly block grant aid payments that a municipality receives.

This payment can only be used on the maintenance, construction, or reconstruction of municipally owned bridges.

These are non-lapsing funds. No funds appropriated under this section shall be used to supplant locally budgeted and approved funds for bridge maintenance or construction. The funds appropriated in this section may be considered unanticipated money under RSA 31:95-b and may be accepted and expended pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, II through IV, whether or not a political subdivision has adopted the provisions of RSA 31:95-b.

Please contact the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance at 271-3344 if you have any questions.



ALEX TORPEY
TOWN MANAGER

Town of Hanover
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

603.643.0701
ALEX.TORPEY@HANOVERNH.ORG

Staff Traffic Safety Q4 Meeting Updates

For December 18th 2023 Selectboard

Issues that were reviewed on December 6th include:

- 2023-16 – Scooter ordinance update
- 2023-17 – Verona Ave Sidewalk
- 2023-18 – Prior Issues Needing Follow up

2023-16 Escooter ordinance

Hanover PD requested picking back up “escooter/scooter” ordinance meant to help improve safety and mobility especially with “escooter” type devices, especially in the downtown

Meeting Outcome: We are picking this conversation back up so we have something for the spring/summer and going forward. In our review, we found additional outdated language and inconsistencies in Hanover existing ordinances, such as Ordinance #2. Staff are taking questions from that, based on our goals of safe travel, and with the attempt to create a clean, organized new set of regulations that are clear going back to legal review to get a new draft of an ordinance for discussion at the next traffic safety meeting, with the hope of finalizing that and bringing it back to the Selectboard and other stakeholders such as HBW for review. Because of a lack of staff capacity this may be delayed until Q2 instead of Q1.

2023-17 Verona Ave Sidewalk

Received from Jennie Chamberlain and additional request from resident(s) about the possibility of sidewalk or other ped improvements to Verona Ave.

Meeting Outcome: We have approved funds of about \$33,000 from FY21 to make pedestrian improvements on Verona Ave. That is enough to build a sidewalk on a good portion, but not enough for a MUP, which would require rebuilding the road, moving utility poles, and other more costly work. The cost of a MUP on Verona Ave is approximately 3 or 4 times as much and isn't anticipated in what was funded previously. Staff recommendation is that it would not be the best use of funds to build a MUP here, rather than build the approved sidewalk on likely the NE side. Staff suggest a meeting with HBW and local residents to look at the scope of the project and discuss details. This could be built in FY 24-25 or 25-26 depending on Town staffing levels and other priorities and projects.

2023-18 Prior Issues Needing Follow ups

Staff wanted to cover several prior issues from the last meeting.

Dunster: We have heard back that NHDOT is reviewing it. However, we expect that the NH DOT will not fund this project. If that is the case, staff discussed that the Town will ask for their permission to do it at a cost to local taxpayers (we withheld \$30,000 of money for sidewalk improvements for this).

Etna Speeding: Staff is likely requesting funding in FY 24-25 to purchase speed feedback devices. In the meantime, we can continue to do targeted enforcement. Based on driver behavior being right around the current speed limit of 30mph, staff don't think there is much value to doing the feedback signs currently, but would be helpful if we can lower it to 25 mph. We are awaiting NH DOT's evaluation and response.

Capacity/Staffing: Staff have identified this as one of the areas where there is a systemic lack of staff capacity, to not just respond reactively to complaints/concerns, but to work with stakeholders in town to create more proactive inventories and plans working with existing stakeholders such as HBW, as well as better connect different areas, such as between parking and transportation. We are working on several potential proposals for the FY 24-25 budget that would increase the Town's capacity for doing more work on traffic, transportation, and mobility related issues, including deeper collaborations with the Regional Planning Commission and other local stakeholders.
