

SELECTBOARD MEETING
February 28, 2023
5 P.M. - MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - HANOVER, NH

The meeting of the Selectboard was called to order at 5p.m. by Chair Peter Christie. Also present were: Vice Chair Rassias, Bill Geraghty, Selectboard Member, Joanna Whitcomb, Selectboard Member, Nancy Carter, Selectboard Member, Alex Torpey, Town Manager
Absent: None

Mr. Torpey gave a brief introduction as this is the second of three budget meetings this week.

1. Department Budget Presentations

• Police

Charlie Dennis, Chief of Police and members of his staff presented the item.

- Year in review
 - Staffing
 - New systems
 - Upcoming renovation for dispatch center
 - Updated systems and policies
 - New equipment
 - Purchased two E-bikes and two hybrid unmarked cruisers
 - Security upgrades at safety complex
 - Instructor training
- Budget
 - Replace four marked cruisers (CIP)
 - New phone system
 - Full time communications officer position
- Goals
 - Become a CALEA accredited agency
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Community outreach
 - Training
 - Update website

Public Comment:

Kari Asmus, Chair of Finance Committee compared the 2023 budget to the spreadsheet and had some questions. One of the members of Police staff addressed the question.

• Parking

Charlie Dennis, Chief of Police presented this item.

- Year in review
 - Introduction of parking staff
 - Staffing changes
 - Upgrade to parking software
 - New cameras in Lot 1

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- Improved signs
- Maintenance agreement to outsource snow removal
- Parking Fund
 - Mr. Torpey stated there will be further discussion this week about funds such as Parking Fund. He addressed some reasons for the 'deficit' for this fund and expounded on the issues with tracking the fund.
 - Selectboard Member Geraghty noted the \$500,000 that can't be tracked yet is a nervous situation for a resident. He suggested using some ARPA funds to help in this area.

Public Comment:

Carey Callahan, Vice Chair of Finance committee asked about a line item for improvements which Chief Dennis addressed.

Kari Asmus clarified the history of the parking district and the way it used to be taxed. We need to research what we can and can't do to fix the parking fund deficit based on the structure that was written and agreed upon.

- Goals
 - Staff training
 - Address parking fund deficit
- Capital highlights
 - Repairs to the parking garage
 - Lighting conversion
 - EV charging stations

● Parks and Recreation

Director of Parks and Recreation, John Sherman and his staff presented the item.

- Year in review
 - Staffing shortages
 - Cancelled Fallfest event
 - Eliminate some grades from KAST program
 - Combined positions
 - Held cemetery conservation workshop
 - Removing Ash trees due to infection from beetles
 - Programs and participation
- Budget
- Goals
 - Fill staffing vacancies
 - Continue to build programs back up
 - Upgrade equipment at community center
 - New partnerships to provide services

Chair Christie asked about the programming that hasn't come back since COVID. Mr. Sherman gave details.

Selectboard Member Geraghty asked if the after school programs break even? Yes, those programs are meant to pay for themselves without any cost or revenue.

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Public Comment:

Kari Asmus asked about a line item which Mr. Sherman explained.

Discussion occurred regarding losing potential staff to places that offer child care along with Hanover Parks and Rec not being able to hold after school programming this year due to lack of staffing.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb suggested there is a way to help both of these causes if we move away from a net zero format with programming.

The board took a ten minute break at this point.

• Department of Public Works

Pete Kulbacki, Director of Public Works presented this item.

- Year in review
 - Bridges
 - Wash bay
 - Clean up: storm damage, sewer lines
 - Mink brook sewer line restoration
 - Heating system at Howe
 - Ethernet and fire alarms at town buildings
 - Largest municipal solar array in NH
 - Repaving
 - Replaced equipment
- Budget increase highlights
- Capital Improvement highlights
- Goals
 - Sidewalk segments
 - Reconstruction next to the Green
 - Municipal roofs
 - Work order/asset management
 - Security and parking at DPW
 - Sewer system improvement
 - Fill vacant positions

Public Comment:

Carey Callahan asked about a particular line item which Mr. Kulbacki answered.

Kari Asmus compared the 2023 budget to the spreadsheet and had some questions. Mr. Kulbacki addressed this.

• Water

Pete Kulbacki, Director of Public Works presented this item.

67% of the distribution system is over 80 years old. 40% is over 130 years old. Age doesn't always matter, but condition does.

- Year in review
 - Statistics
 - Repairs to dams

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- Replacing meters
- Cleaned and inspected treatment facility
- Interconnection agreement with Lebanon
- Fiberoptic installation
- Grant applications
- Implemented flushing plan for mains
- Budget highlights
- Capital improvement highlights
- Goals
 - Meter replacement
 - Summer st water main
 - Lebanon interconnection
 - Inventory lines
 - Reservoir repairs
 - Staff training

Selectboard Member Geraghty expressed his appreciation for the staff and quick response to emergency. Chair Christie asked if we know anticipated rate increase. Not at this time.

Public Comment:

Kari Asmus compared the 2023 budget to the spreadsheet and had some questions. Mr. Kulbacki addressed this.

• Wastewater

Pete Kulbacki, Director of Public Works presented this item.

25%-30% comes from Lebanon.

- Year in review
 - Statistics
- Budget highlights
 - Price increases for materials
- Capital highlights
- Goals
 - The permit
 - Fill open positions
 - Digester cleaning
 - Staff training for wastewater licenses
 - Work with Lebanon on intercommunity agreement

Public Comment:

Kari Asmus compared the 2023 budget to the spreadsheet and had some questions. She also asked about rates and Town Meeting process. Mr. Kulbacki addressed her concerns.

• Selectboard

None

• Capital Projects Discussion

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Town Manager Alex Torpey addressed this item.

- What is the CIP?
- Why we have a capital improvement plan and how it's funded
- How the CIP comes together
- 2023-2024 proposed CIP
 - (spreadsheet list of projects)

Selectboard and Mr. Torpey discussed one item in more detail:

- Fire apparatus (\$1.1M)
 - Purchase options
 - Self-fund
 - Bond
 - Fire reserve fund
 - Chair Christie gave an explanation of his opinion to bond this item since cost of all items have gone up and using the reserve fund for smaller items will be needed.

Discussion ensued.

- Additional questions/feedback

Town Manager reviewed with the board all of the questions and comments that have come up during tonight's presentations which will need to be researched and/or addressed.

The process from now to Town Meeting was asked and will be determined soon in order to meet deadlines.

The plan for tomorrow is to hear the final department presentations and spend the rest of the time reviewing the preliminary numbers from each department. One goal is to have enough information to see how the proposed tax rate fits into the plan.

2. Adjournment

The board did not need to attend a non-public session.

**Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to adjourn at 8:01pm. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion.
All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Whitcomb, Secretary

SUMMARY

Item 2

The board did not need to attend a non-public session.

**Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to adjourn at 8:01pm. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion.
All in favor**

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