SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 27, 2020
7:30 P.M. - MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - HANOVER, NH

The meeting of the Selectboard was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Christie. Also present were
Julia Griffin, Town Manager, Vice Chair Athos Rassias and Nancy Carter, Selectboard Member.
Absent: Joanna Whitcomb, Selectboard Member and Bill Geraghty, Selectboard Member

1. Public Comment
Chair Christie asked for public comment.
Peter Murdza addressed the questions posed at the September public meeting regarding property
assessments. He expressed concern about having info on the website- the document needs more work:
not all questions were interpreted correctly or answered fully. He recommended starting a blog for
questions and answers.

3. Update on Assessing Director Recruitment and Revaluation and Third Party Review Options
Ms. Griffin noted there were six candidates which has been narrowed down to three finalists for the
position of Assessor. Interviews will be getting started soon. There were two responses to the bid for a
full revaluation: Vision for $195,000 and KRT for $235,000. Both bids are for 2021. There is one person
interested in conducting a third party review with an estimate of 80 hours for $18,000.

Chair Christie responded to Mr. Murdza that there are three or four outstanding questions from the DRA
regarding the 2018 valuation, but having a new assessor in the position is the primary goal, then the
questions can be addressed.

Mr. Murdza wondered how much of the assessing difficulties are attributed to Patriot software. He
noted that Patriot has had representatives go before Select boards of other towns and that might be an
option in Hanover if they are invited to give information or answer questions.

Public comment was concluded.

2. Discussion of Proposed “Welcoming Hanover” Ordinance
Ms. Griffin met with representatives from the “Welcoming Hanover” Initiative previously and they
talked over the proposed draft ordinance. She provided them a copy of the recently amended general
order. (Standard Operating Procedure for the Hanover Police Department) Ms. Griffin suggested they
come to the Selectboard to present their request. This is a listening session, there is no official request
on the table tonight. The board should hear the presentation and any other information provided by the
public and discuss where the board may want to go from there.

Kristina Wolff outlined the main points of the ordinance which is a collaborative effort among several
communities: She is requesting the Hanover Selectboard enact an ordinance to ensure fair and impartial
policing practices and safety to all members of these diverse communities. They are making this request
due to the need to respond to the climate of fear created by arrests and deportation of community
members by border patrol, CDP and ICE.
There are local community members who are afraid of these groups and of being deported and their fear reaches to local police, first responders and fire fighters as they do not see the difference between these agencies. The intent of the ordinance is to ensure the safety of all community members. The goal is to eliminate the risk of being racially profiled and to hold police accountable if they are sharing information with immigration authorities without an official warrant.

They appreciate the SOP that the Hanover Police have adopted, but the policy is insufficient for three reasons:
1. It does not prevent Hanover law enforcement from assisting or cooperating with Federal Immigration enforcement activities or from disclosing sensitive information to them.
2. It does not prevent Hanover law enforcement from detaining or arresting someone based on suspected or actual immigration violation administrative warrant.
3. A policing policy does not have the scope or weight of an ordinance to protect all members of the community.

There are five parts to the proposed ordinance:
1. Fair and Impartial Policing: There are several specific statements in this section.
2. Immigration and Citizenship: This prevents Hanover law enforcement from participating in immigration enforcement activities making a distinction between local and federal law enforcement responsibilities. Several specific statements are listed in this section.
3. (Not Verbalized) Several specific statements are listed in this section.
4. Enforcement
5. Severability clause separates the sections on the ordinance.

Dalia Rodriguez, resident, read a testimony into the record from someone she knows who was too afraid to come forward.

Asma Elhuni, immigrant and organizer in the Upper Valley noted federal policies that force local government to share information.
She read a portion of an affidavit from Border Patrol regarding an instance in Hanover.
This ordinance will hold the police accountable for informing the public when they know these agencies are in Hanover.

Kira Kelley, attorney supported the community members driving this initiative and explained some of the current laws being passed.

Ms. Griffin posed that the method of communication is the challenge. Kira noted once the policy is adopted and once the chosen method has been adhered to, legally the Town has done what they said they would do. There could be a text message update, a broadcast over the cable tv channel or any other method the Town might send out regarding traffic issues or school closings.

Ms. Wolff further explained that this is Hanover’s opportunity to stand up to injustice and make this a place of equality.
Ms. Griffin noted the board has two options:
1. Ask the presenters to bring back a formal ordinance for review and approval at an official public hearing which can be adopted directly by the Selectboard.
2. Selectboard can ask that the proposal go to Town Meeting, which will require a petition with 25 signatures and would be a discussion item on the floor at Town Meeting.

Ms. Kelly suggested there is a third option which is to put it to a ballot item to be passed and binding upon adoption.
She explained that the Federal Government has the authority to run their own tasks, but they do not have authority to handle the issues the local and state police handle: drunk driving, theft, murder etc. Federal agents should not be using local or state police to aid in their investigations.

Selectboard Member Carter expressed her personal view that she understands the residents wanting the board to approve this ordinance very soon, but she also feels that it would be worthwhile to present it at town meeting so that the stories can be heard by many more folks. If people are made aware of the issues, they may feel closer to their neighbors and may feel more comfortable assisting each other in times of need.

Public comment
Han Vale, senior at Dartmouth College relayed experiences she has witnessed and expressed her support of the ordinance.

Kali Camava, junior on campus has friends who are affected by this proposed ordinance. He suggested that by putting the ordinance to a town vote, it puts work on the community members to canvas the town to get the word out to vote.

Olivia Audsley, Junior at Dartmouth spoke on behalf of a group on campus: The Coalition of Immigration Reform and Education at Dartmouth. It is a student group that advances the rights of undocumented students on campus. She read a recommendation from the group in full support of the ordinance and urged the board to pass it.

Ms. Griffin noted that before the next meeting she will share the draft ordinance with the town attorney and suggested Kira Kelley might want to meet directly with her to make sure both party’s needs are met.

Ms. Griffin recapped item 3 for some members of the audience who had missed it at the beginning of the meeting.

4. Review and Discussion of Lease Proposal from Municipal Leasing Consultants for Video System Replacement at the Public Safety Building and to Authorize Town Manager to Sign All Necessary Documents
Ms. Griffin noted this item is already budgeted.
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the proposal and authorize the Town Manager to sign all necessary documents. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

5. Proposed Budget Review Schedule
The schedule was presented to the board.

6. Recommendation to Appoint Additional Ballot Clerks for Tuesday, February 11, 2020
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to appoint these Ballot Clerks for Tuesday February 11, 2020. Selectboard member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

7. Request from Jennifer Chambers of Hanover High School to Adopt Proclamation In Honor Of The New England Music Festival Association Concert Festival
Vice Chair Rassias moved to adopt the Proclamation. Selectboard Member Carter seconded. The board voted all in favor.
Chair Christie read the proclamation.

8. Acceptance of Donations:
   a. New Hampshire Charitable Fund on Recommendation of David and Kaitlyn Barrette for the Hanover Police Department in the amount of $2,500.00
   b. New Hampshire Charitable Fund on Recommendation of David and Kaitlyn Barrette for the Hanover Fire Department in the amount of $2,500.00
Selectboard Member Carter moved to accept the donation of $2,500 to the Police Department and the donation of $2,500 to the Fire Department. Vice Chair Rassias seconded. The board voted all in favor.
Ms. Griffin noted these funds were not sought but were donated.

9. Approval of Minutes – January 6, 2020
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020 as submitted. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020 as amended.

10. Administrative Reports
   - Working on finalizing the final draft budget
   - Hanover hosted some politicians to discuss clean energy.
   - There’s lots of legislature going on and Ms. Griffin has been involved.
   - The Planning Board is hosting Listening sessions regarding short-term rentals.
11. Selectboard Reports

**Selectboard member Nancy Carter**
Selectboard Member Carter said it was helpful to have listening sessions at differing times of the day. She also said the Planning Board is meeting tomorrow night and will again listen and discuss short-term rentals. Emails can be submitted if people can’t be there in person. There are a wide range of opinions on the issue. A clear difference between short-term hosted, and short-term un-hosted has developed through the discussions.

**Vice Chair Athos Rassias**
Vice Chair Rassias had nothing to report.

**Chair Peter Christie**
Chair Christie had nothing to report.

12. Other Business
None

13. Adjournment
The board needed to attend a non-public session. The board took a roll call vote to enter the non-public session.
Rassias- yes, Carter- yes, Christie-yes
The board entered non-public session at 9:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Whitcomb,
Secretary of Selectboard

SUMMARY

Item 4
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the proposal and authorize the Town Manager to sign all necessary documents. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 6
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to appoint these Ballot Clerks for Tuesday February 11, 2020. Selectboard member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 7
Vice Chair Rassias moved to adopt the Proclamation. Selectboard Member Carter seconded. The board voted all in favor.

Item 8
Selectboard Member Carter moved to accept the donation of $2,500 to the Police Department and the donation of $2,500 to the Fire Department. Vice Chair Rassias seconded. The board voted all in favor.

Item 9
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020 as submitted. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020 as amended.