The meeting of the Selectboard was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Christie. Also present were: Bill Geraghty, Selectboard Member, Julia Griffin, Town Manager, Joanna Whitcomb, Selectboard Member, Vice Chair Athos Rassias and Nancy Carter, Selectboard Member.
Absent: None

Chair Christie noted that the Town has recently lost two very good friends to the Town: Charlie Garipay and Benoît Aire the sister city in France. J. Whitcomb also pointed out they lost Bob Riessen, the founding member of the Joigny exchange, here in Town.

1. Public Comment
Chair Christie asked for public comment.
Peter Murdza inquired about an update regarding the ongoing assessing issues.
Ms. Griffin gave an update: The Town has hired a new Assessor, Norm Bernaiche. She explained his background and stated he will start in the beginning of March. He has already been in touch with DRA about how to move forward from the 2018 statistical update. His early recommendations are to possibly go back to using Vision for the assessing database software, but get the upgraded version.

Mr. Murdza wondered about the March 1st deadline for abatements and the Assessor getting tied up with abatements and not having time to discuss the underlying problems.
Ms. Griffin said that will not happen again. They have budgeted for either another staff person in the office or a consultant to help.

Regarding the questions and answers on the website, he wondered about the process if one doesn’t agree with their revised assessment. Ms. Griffin said the coversheet just needs to be submitted like last year.

2. Social Service Agency Presentations: FY 2020/2021 Funding Requests
Ms. Griffin noted this year there are ten (10) funding requests from local social service agencies for FY 2020/2021. All ten agencies have been invited to make brief presentations to the Board tonight in advance of the formal budget hearings in early March.
In order to determine the order of presentations, Chair Christie randomly assigned each agency a number, then the numbers were drawn to determine which group would present next.

1. West Central Behavioral Health Services
Hope Duncan, Manager of Development and Community Relations and Dave Celone, Director of Development presented to the board. They currently provide mental health services for 59 people in the Hanover and Grafton County area. They provide services for children and adults and families. They also provide a health and wellness program for exercise and nutrition education.
Mental Health First Aid is an eight-hour course they are ramping up. It teaches people how to recognize signs of mental health and what to do.
They are also starting to include primary care along with mental health care which they are excited about.
They expressed concern about workforce issues - they don’t have enough child clinicians and they can’t afford to pay them enough to keep them. Medicaid provides 73% of their funding, and what they provide is not enough. The rates have not increased since 2006.

2. Visiting Nurses and Hospice
Terry Hyland presented to the board. They are requesting level funding.
His concerns are that this year Medicare changed their payment model. They pay the service organization based on how sick the patient is. VNH estimates a loss in revenue the first year between 4%-7%. ($1,000,000-$2,000,000)
They also always have a staffing shortage. The nursing field is always difficult to fill in NH, but the visiting nurses have to travel far distances and be autonomous and the job has many challenges that make it hard to find staff.
Hospitals are discharging patients sooner so more and more people are using these services.
They hired a manager of pediatrics and she has grown the program by 46% which is great.
The palliative care program is going well, training students in the field. They are also working on a home health fellowship which will take students directly out of college and into the field.
This past year the visits were slightly down but were nearly 5,000 individual visits. They have also ramped up their community wellness program at the community center.
VNH spends about $110,000 in unreimbursed funds in the town of Hanover per year.

3. WISE:
Peggy O’Neil presented and noted they are requesting level support for their program. One of the issues they are dealing with is the housing issue. Survivors are unable to secure stable housing.
They are really busy at DH. They are called there almost every day. They are going to start co-locating at DH later this month. They are piloting a workplace program in the fall.
They are understaffed with three vacant positions.

4. Tri-County Community Action Program
No one was present from the group.

5. Grafton County Senior Citizens Council
Kathleen Vasconcelos, Director of the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council and Jill Vahy, Director of Upper Valley Senior Center presented to the board.

Selectboard Member Bill Geraghty noted he is on the GCSCC board, but did not feel he needed to recuse himself from the discussion.

The request this year is an increase of $500. They have not asked for an increase in five years.
They experience funding and workforce challenges like the other groups. Half of their budget comes from State and Federal funds. Due to an increase in the need for meals, they decided to remove dessert from the delivered meal to cut costs. ($40,000 annual savings) The funding covers a certain amount of
meals, but they do not turn anyone away or have a waiting list, so when they provide more than what the funds pay for, they have to use other funds.
They are looking into other funding options and other ways to cut expenses.

6. Twin Pines Housing Trust
Michelle Kersey, Director of Development and Communications presented to the board.
They have doubled the amount of housing they provide since 2012. Currently they have 23 properties with 500 rental units-100 are in Hanover. They now have 22 people on staff. She described the Summer Park housing project underway in Hanover. Their supportive services for residents is what makes them unique. The purpose is to ensure the residents stay housed and healthy and help connect them to other services as needed.

7. Special Needs Support Center
Laura Perez, Executive Director, Jo-Anne Unruh, Board President and Rose Marie McCullough, President-Elect presented for Special Needs Support Center
This is the first time they have requested allocations from the Town of Hanover. Over the last year there’s been a 55% increase in services provided to the community. They have a 32-town service area. In determining their request, they looked at each town they serve and request funds according to how much time they spend serving in each town. Their goal is to acquire 10% of their budget through the shared requests of all of the towns. Hanover’s share of their budget is 1%. ($2500)
They work with families for the lifespan and over the spectrum of disabilities. Lack of inclusion has a negative effect on children with disabilities. These families also experience homelessness, food insecurities and high emergency room visits.
The programs they offer strengthen the family base, management care and social opportunities. Some new initiatives include starting a group called Sensory Friendly Upper Valley, a Sensory Friendly Easter Egg Hunt and Special Needs Information Program which helps inform police and EMS how to respond to families with these issues.

8. Headrest
Cameron Ford, Executive Director presented to the board.
Headrest provides care for folks with substance use disorder. They have expanded to provide more beds and have moved their outpatient services to another location. They have started a DWI school in the area. They have instituted a family meeting which teaches family members how not to enable those with the disorder.
They work to get jobs for their clients and work with businesses to help hire and create policy to help work with these folks.
The hotline takes about 10,000 calls a year and this was the first year they received some funding to support that. They still require more funds for that program.

9. Youth-in-Action
Beth Kopp, Rain Liu and Kayra Yaman presented to the board. Last year they held 92 events and 212 students participated in at least one event. They gave examples of the events they were involved in over the year. The students volunteer their time for all of these activities. They are asking for an increase in
funds from the $12,000 they have been receiving. The 92 events they were involved in this year was a 35% increase in the number of events they participated in last year.

10. Cover Home Repair
Bill Neukomm, Executive Director and John Dresser, volunteer and Hanover resident presented to the board. Mr. Neukomm gave a copy of a letter to the board from a board member who is a Hanover resident, but couldn’t be at the meeting.
This is the first year they’ve asked Hanover for support. Over the past five years they have expanded from one crew to two and do twice as many jobs. The number of urgent home repair requests continue to increase to more than they can take on. They do work that keeps people in their homes longer such as installing ramps. This small up-front cost can save thousands of dollars a month if the other option is to send a resident out of their home into a care facility.
They are requesting $1500. That is the average cost of building materials for one job.

3. Continued Discussion of Proposed "Welcoming Hanover" Ordinance
The initial discussion of the proposed "Welcoming Hanover" ordinance was on the agenda for the January 27, 2020 meeting. After a presentation and discussion, it was determined that this topic warranted additional information and discussion and it was requested for a continued discussion to be placed on your agenda for tonight.
Since that time, Ms. Griffin prepared a second draft which is a combination of the Police Department General Order and has also incorporated some of the items desired by the supporters of the proposed Welcoming Hanover Ordinance which were not included in the HPD General Order. The board members have copies of that second draft for review.
The draft has been reviewed by both Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel and Charles Bauer, the attorney who advises the Town of Hanover on all civil and criminal police matters. They had some concerns about some of the components of the proposed Welcoming Hanover ordinance which resulted in the document before the board for discussion. Just as with Bernie Waugh, City Attorney for the City of Lebanon, neither Laura Spector-Morgan or Charles Bauer felt inclusion of a warning requirement was either appropriate or legal. As such, Ms. Griffin has removed that section from the second draft.

Chair Christie noted the next step is to hold a public hearing which will be March 23rd and a potential result would be for the board to adopt the ordinance for the Town after that hearing. The reason for the hearing being on that date is because the next meeting will be a three-night meeting where the board discusses and adopts the budget for the town. March 23rd is the next meeting after that.

Selectboard Member Geraghty clarified the difference between tonight’s agenda item and the public hearing. Tonight, there is an existing draft of the ordinance. The board is looking for input on the draft. The public hearing will also be a time for the board to hear input before making a decision.

Kristina Wolff, Welcoming Hanover noted they plan to speak to specific points tonight. She will introduce the point and then someone will speak about why it is important to keep the language they proposed regarding that point.
1. The title of the proposed ordinance, “Welcoming Hanover Ordinance” is broader and all-inclusive to the whole community rather than just the police.
2. Paragraph 3 in the declaration of purpose on the first page: Kira Kelley addressed this point. She is concerned that as written, it goes against the Hanover tradition of taking care of each other and doing the right thing. We want more than an emphatic statement about the ideals we have. We want to make sure those ideals translate into concrete safety for the community members. The third paragraph takes away the opportunity for separation of power and the supremacy laws of the constitution to protect our democracy. Ambiguity is brought into the ordinance by saying this ordinance may not be implemented if it is in conflict with any State or Federal law. We want this ordinance to uplift the Constitution as the supreme law of the land. More clear and direct provision in this paragraph would be better rather than having folks have to interpret how to uphold the ordinance. She read into the record a version of the paragraph she has written.

Ms. Griffin asked for any proposed language changes to be emailed to her, so she has access to the specific language.

3. In the preamble, there’s a list of protected categories on page two. The wording *gender identity* should be changed to *gender expression* to update to current terminology. The phrase, *spoken language* was taken out of several sections of the draft and some examples were given why it should remain in relation to people for whom English is not their first language.

Asma Elhuni noted police and border patrol use spoken language as a means for profiling. She gave a specific example of an instance she experienced with border patrol explaining how use of language and accent was used to decipher US citizenship.

El Gonzalez, Dartmouth student gave some definitions regarding gender and expressed desire for the ordinance to maintain the wording *gender identity* and include the wording *gender expression*.

Dalia Rodriguez shared a testimony for someone who couldn’t be present.

4. A paragraph was removed regarding communication with the Hanover community about immigration enforcement action. Yolanda Thworta read an anonymous testimony to the importance of communicating when these agencies are in Town.

Douglas Moody, professor at Dartmouth spoke about some workers on the dairy farms who are longstanding members of the community, but do not leave the farm area. Passing this ordinance would go a long way to show the police they do not need to take action with federal agencies.

Yolanda Thworta gave a personal experience of not feeling safe walking down the street due to profiling.

Dalia Rodriguez gave a personal experience of her parents coming to her graduation and how fearful she was to have her parents in town. She explained her experiences being racially profiled in town.

Ms. Griffin clarified for someone in the room the process and options. The board could vote to adopt the ordinance at the March 23rd meeting. If this occurs, it won’t go to Town Meeting. The board could
vote not to adopt it and send it to Town Meeting, or if the group proposing the ordinance does not agree with the ordinance the board adopts, they can ask Town Meeting to adopt a different version after submitting a petition to have it on the Warrant.

Kale Camara commented on the process of reviewing and adopting the ordinance. The board has many things to consider. For this ordinance to serve the people it should serve Kale suggested the voices of these people need to be heard at each step in the process. These are the experts in these matters and they have experiences relating to what the ordinance addresses.

Madelyne Mayer, Dartmouth student mentioned many of her friends and family are impacted by what’s being talked about tonight. The board has the power to hear the people speaking and make change.

Dev Punaini, Dartmouth student asked for clarification if the previous draft ordinance included a clause to inform the community when immigration enforcement agents are in town, and if that had been taken out.
Ms. Griffin said yes, because the attorneys said there were concerns from a legal perspective whether it’s legal and appropriate for the Town to do that.
Dev commented that he is an international student with a student visa. The ordinance should be adopted to protect all community members regardless of documentation status. The burden for proving non-alien status is on the people being stopped and suspected. He carries his passport anytime he leaves Hanover in case he is stopped and needs to provide documentation. If he doesn’t have it, he can be detained and/or fined. Information of when immigration raids/ enforcement is taking place would be helpful for undocumented community members as well as international students.

Kate Semple Barta, immigration attorney and WISE employee provides immigration services for low income immigrants. Most of them are survivors of domestic violence or persecution. Since 2014, she has served about 400 people. She wanted to give a non-Dartmouth College perspective. There are many who work or live in Hanover who would be impacted by this ordinance. She shared a negative story of what one of her clients experienced at a local grocery store.

Selectboard Member Geraghty noted that since the attorneys have an issue with the communication portion, if anyone from the public has a suggestion on the logistics of how other communities are doing it, please include that information in your summary to send to Ms. Griffin.

Next step:
Send Ms. Griffin a revised second draft document with the specific edits desired.

Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to hold a public hearing on March 23rd to consider the ordinance. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

The board took a two-minute recess.
4. Review and Discussion of the Hanover Garden Club Memorandum of Understanding
Ms. Griffin presented a revised MOU with the Hanover Garden Club which reflects their new location in their greenhouse now situated adjacent to the Water Filtration Plant on Grasse Road. She asked the Board to authorize her to sign this document on behalf of the Town.

Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to adopt the revised MOU with the Hanover Garden Club and authorized the Town Manager to sign the document on behalf of the Town. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

5. Acceptance of Donations:
a. The Mike Whitcomb Memorial Fund in Memory of Captain Mike Whitcomb for the Hanover Fire Department in the amount of $711.46
The Town received a check from The Mike Whitcomb Memorial Fund in Memory of Captain Mike Whitcomb in the amount of $711.46 on behalf of the Hanover Fire Department. Town staff would ask the Board to accept the donation.

b. Orson L. St. John, Jr. for the Hanover Fire Department in the amount of $100.00
The Town received a check from Orson L. St. John, Jr., in the amount of $100.00 for the assistance provided by members of the Hanover Fire Department. Town staff would ask the Board to accept the donation.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to accept both donations and thank the donors. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

6. Recommendation to Appoint Additional Ballot Clerks for Tuesday, February 11, 2020
Additional election workers have agreed to assist Town staff with the upcoming Presidential Primary. Staff recommends that the Board appoint these individuals.

Selectboard member Geraghty MOVED to appoint the additional Ballot Clerks. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

7. Appointments:
a. Planning Board
Jarett Berke has indicated his desire to become a member of the Planning Board. The Planning Board has an opening for an alternate member.

Selectboard member Carter MOVED to appoint Jarett Berke to the Planning Board. Vice Chair Rassias SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

b. Deputy Town Clerk
Jill Terman Potter has indicated her desire to serve as Deputy Town Clerk as an immediate replacement for Charlie Garipay. She was trained by Charlie over the past couple of years. J. Whitcomb noted this election would have been his 50th year working the elections.
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Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to appoint Jill Terman Potter as the Deputy Town Clerk. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

8. Approval of Minutes - January 27, 2020
This item was tabled to the next meeting.

9. Banner Requests - The Hanover Improvement Society - Storrs Pond Recreation Area
A banner request was made from the Hanover Improvement Society for the Storrs Pond Recreation Area for an overhead banner to be hung from March through June when no other banner is scheduled to be hung. As there are no specifics dates for this request, if approved by the Board, the Town can accommodate this request.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to approve the banner request. Vice Chair Rassias SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

10. Administrative Reports
Ms. Griffin noted she’s been working with staff on the budget. The budget books will be out to the Selectboard members on Friday February 21st.

The board needed to decide who will be the representative for each of the department budgets they will be working with on March 2nd and 3rd. They reviewed the options and chose their assignments.

11. Selectboard Reports
Selectboard Member Joanna Whitcomb
Selectboard Member Whitcomb reported the Bike/Ped committee met and had an animated discussion about priorities and will report back in the next month or two.

Selectboard member Nancy Carter
Selectboard member Carter had nothing to report

Selectboard Member Bill Geraghty
Selectboard Member Geraghty noted last Saturday was the Pond Party, though the weather did not permit the truck to plow. There was a lot of sledding and food.

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 did not need to attend a non-public session.
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to adjourn at 10pm. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Whitcomb,
Secretary of Selectboard

SUMMARY

Item 3
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to hold a public hearing on March 23rd to consider the ordinance. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 4
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to adopt the revised MOU with the Hanover Garden Club and authorized the Town Manager to sign the document on behalf of the Town. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 5
Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to accept both donations and thank the donors. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 6
Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED to appoint the additional Ballot Clerks. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 7a
Selectboard member Carter MOVED to appoint Jarett Berke to the Planning Board. Vice Chair Rassias SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 7b
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to appoint Jill Terman Potter as the Deputy Town Clerk. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 9
Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to approve the banner request. Vice Chair Rassias SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Item 13
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to adjourn at 10pm. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.