The meeting of the Selectboard was called to order at 5 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

1. Public Comment
Chair Christie asked for public comment.
None

2. 2nd Budget Hearing:
Chair Christie explained the budget process. The Select Board had previously suggested the guidelines for the budget were to be limited to a 2.5% - 3% increase to the tax rate and the budget that has been proposed is a 3% increase. Heads of departments will present their individual department budgets.

a. Fire
Fire Chief, Martin McMillan and Captain Jeremy Thibault addressed the Hanover Fire Department budget proposal.

Chief McMillan gave a brief overview of the department spending.

He explained the accomplishments are that they work really well with the neighboring departments and he gave examples of this.

What worries him are the unknown situations that come up for health and safety. Discussion continued regarding plans to handle Coronavirus issues.

Regarding the budget, they need some repairs to the fire house which they've taken money out of the undesignated funds budget to cover.

Vice Chair Rassias asked for clarification on where labor positions are shifting- which is mentioned on page 100. Ms. Griffin said the shift is found in the Ambulance fund. Discussion occurred regarding this topic and pg. 115 and pg. 104 described the items.

b. Ambulance
Captain Jeremy Thibault addressed the ambulance fund. The new ambulance is all inclusive which is why it costs more- the other one was two separate purchases for the ambulance and the cot. Replacing all three cardiac monitors are the big items in the budget this year.

Vice Chair Rassias wondered what the 3% charge increase is for towards the towns we support. Ms. Griffin noted it’s almost exclusively to cover the labor costs for salary and benefits.
Ms. McClain noted for the board that the CRF for Fire and Ambulance were showing as the same amount and after further research, Fire should have been $3,435 more. She requested that go on the Wednesday topic list for discussion to add that back in.

f. Town Properties
Peter Kulbacki and Ross Farnsworth presented to the board.
Mr. Farnsworth said he makes sure the Capital Improvement projects go smoothly. The police garage was a highlight project from last year.
There are many projects proposed for this budget year. Ms. Griffin highlighted a few.

Mr. Farnsworth explained the work needed on the insulation, HVAC and siding for the Howe Library.

c. Parks and Recreation
John Sherman, Park and Recreation Director, Liz Burdette and Nicole Leonard presented to the board.
Mr. Sherman noted that their revenue lines are healthy and covering 61% of their operating budget. The budget being presented is a net reduction from the current budget.
Accomplishments include: completing one year of sending out a regular email newsletter to 4,000 residents, they gave away 100 trees on Arbor Day, they participated in Dartmouth University’s 250th anniversary by running the kids games, crafts and ice cream.
Ms. Burdette mentioned some new programming that started last year as well as some which will start this year.
Ms. Leonard mentioned a preschool program which will start this summer and continue during the school year.
Mr. Sherman noted the drivers of the budget are some increases of fees due to vendor increases, staffing events with volunteers has been difficult so staff has had to do it which increases the salary line.
Ms. Leonard mentioned fulfilling seasonal staffing positions is a concern, though they do currently have 10 Hanover High school students working for them.
Maintenance of the town trails and conservation areas is a concern.
Ms. Leonard mentioned the two facilities they use for the children’s after school programs are the school and the Rec Center. When the school is closed, they have to choose whether to hold the children’s programs or the regular programs at the Rec Center. They are going to hold the final week of summer camp at the park this year to see how it goes. They will be able to accommodate more children and there is always a waiting list for that camp.

The board wondered how many people come to the Rec Center per day. That is not tracked, but they could give the numbers for how many are in each program.

d. Public Works
Director of Public Works, Peter Kulbacki along with Michael Chase, Kevin MacLean and Donald Foster spoke to the Board.
Mr. Kulbacki discussed the budget drivers are recycling and equipment repair costs.
They have a GPS software system in the vehicles which allow for tracking data of where the vehicles are and have been, if they are idling and if there’s a vehicle issue. Department accomplishments include the parking lot that’s been reconstructed. Challenges are maintaining or replacing equipment in a timely manner as well as increased equipment costs. Recycling is also a challenge. He explained some details about the recycling proposal. The number in the budget reflects this proposal.

e. CIP
Peter Kulbacki said he’s been working on manipulating data and looking at different scenarios and what-ifs. What do we need to balance this account, and have we thought of everything? He has a spreadsheet with all of the equipment listed. He has listed what is being contributed to the fund and what they are spending. He showed graphs of each department and the spending details. He has a good idea of what projects are out there, how much they will cost and what they have to put in the fund to balance these funds.

Some large projects planned for the budget year coming out of the general fund are replacement of a Bridge on Stevens Rd, heat pumps and wash bay, dispatch renovations, two lighting projects at fire dept, loader replacement, bike ped item, enhanced body armor and mobile terminals for police and three signal controllers being changed.

g. Water Reclamation
Peter Kulbacki and Kevin MacLean presented to the board. Some of the accomplishments were: adding solar on the WRF roof and pump station #2 which is a partnership with Dartmouth and is getting underway. Some of the budget drives are: chemical costs, sludge disposal costs, permit renewal and plan for upgrades to remove Nitrogen and Phosphorus. Some concerns are nutrient removal unknowns, natural disasters and severe weather, and added energy usage.

For waste water budget drivers, aeration blowers were purchased this year and have to be installed in the proposed budget year, a flusher is needed, payment for phase one of the pump station is actually going to be suspended- Dartmouth will pay the agreed upon amount, but we don’t have to pay as much up front.

h. Water Utility Fund
Peter Kulbacki discussed the water utility fund. Some department accomplishments were the replacement of the water line on Austin Ave, the continued joint utility crew and replacing meter data transmitters. The issues they deal with are the older pipelines.

Kari Asmus, Finance Committee asked about sewer and water utility charges having gone up and what impact that has to the average taxpayer. The board asked to have Ms. McClain provide data of what the average home in Hanover pays and how this increased rate would change that. She will pull those numbers and it can be discussed tomorrow night.
Ms. McClain reviewed with the board which items are on the list for discussion tomorrow:

- Potentially adding $180,000 from undesignated funds to Assessing for measure and list
- Funds for marketing Hanover parking options
- Funds for minute-taking
- Special needs support services under social services $2500
- Adding $3,435 to the fire calculation
- Another fund needs to be discussed as well- Bresette Fund/conservation land purchase-page 32 of the report

Chair Christie would like to know how much flexibility there is for keeping the budget at or under 3%.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb noted that the parking marketing and minute taking are just ideas- not givens. The board agreed that is why they are on the list for tomorrow for discussion.

3. Administrative Reports
None

4. Selectboard Reports
Selectboard Member Joanna Whitcomb
Selectboard Member Whitcomb had nothing to report.

Selectboard member Nancy Carter
Selectboard member Carter had nothing to report.

Selectboard Member Bill Geraghty
Selectboard Member Geraghty had nothing to report.

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

Chair Peter Christie
Chair Christie had nothing to report.

5. Other Business
None

6. Adjournment
The board did not need to attend a non-public session.
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to adjourn at 7:08pm. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Marchant
SUMMARY

Item 6.
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to adjourn at 7:08pm. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.