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. 3rd Budget Hearing:

   a. Etna Library
Barbara Prince from Etna Library described the highlights of the year including many different programs. The only difference to this year’s budget is she has asked for an extra hour for one staff person per week to try to make the daily hours of operation more consistent.

   b. Remaining Department Review
Chair Christie advised that there were no remaining departments to review.

   c. Review of Budget Strategies
Chair Christie noted that the following issues had been found during the first two nights of budget hearings and need to be discussed this evening:
   - 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- Bressett Fund/ conservation land purchase-page 32 of the report

The board discussed the Bressett Fund by reviewing the list of items currently proposed to be funded from this fund. The two new items are expanding the Senior Center Manager hours and the Etna Library staff hours as described. The other point for discussion is the large land purchase and funding it though this fund.

The Senior Manager hours are to allow for development of new programming which will eventually bring in revenue. Once the programming is up and running Ms. McClain would anticipate the added salary hours would be covered by the programming revenue.
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Chair Christie wondered if these two additional proposals would take the budget over the 3% increase if they weren’t funded by the Bressett fund. Yes, the budget would go above 3% if these items were not covered by the fund.

The Social services item for $2500 was discussed- whether the request is eligible and meets criteria. The board agreed it is important but does not meet the state criteria for the Town to fund the request with taxpayer funds.

The board discussed if they should set aside funds for the assessing full measure and list project. It fits the criteria for appropriate use from the undesignated fund balance. The board has also made promises to the taxpayers regarding assessing issues and they want to be able to fulfill this project if determined it is needed. The funds will not be spent if the project is not needed. The consensus was to fund the full measure and list if needed through the undesignated fund balance which does not affect the tax rate.

The board discussed the balance of the undesignated fund balance.

The board discussed the conservation project and potential funding requirement for $500,000 from the Town. $200,000 is being proposed to come from the Bressett fund, which is available, $178,500 from the conservation fund and $121,500 from the land and capital improvement fund. These will not affect the tax rate.

The board discussed funds to support minute-takers. The current budget supports minute takers for Planning, Zoning and Selectboard. Ms. Griffin noted it’s difficult to find people willing to do it. These meetings aren’t all televised, so they would have to attend the meetings. Ms. Griffin did not know what they would have to increase the budget by to cover the cost and wondered how they would decide which committees to cover. Now, they only hire for the boards whose minutes need to be recorded in detail by state statute.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb noted that it is a topic that should be reviewed this year. Once the position is filled for the ZBA, we should look to find options for the other boards and committees. Ms. Griffin noted there are some digital recording options which will translate the recordings into minutes, but the technology is still too expensive at this time.

The board discussed the change to the Fire capital reserve.

The board discussed funds for marketing Hanover parking. Ms. Griffin noted there is going to be a mapping site added to the website to highlight parking options. Folks will be able to use their phones to find these locations. She is hoping that after hiring the new parking clerk they will be able to work on marketing projects that won’t cost extra money, but better inform the public through marketing we are already spending money on.

The board asked for info on the impact of sewer and water rate increases to the average taxpayer. Ms. Mclain noted she didn’t prepare that info for tonight but will email that information to Kari Asmus.
Kari Asmus, Finance Committee Chair noted no concerns come to mind yet, but the board will meet next week and turn in their official position.

d. Adoption of Proposed Budget for FY 2020/2021

Chair Christie Moved to Adopt the Proposed Budget for FY 2020 / 2021 with a General fund tax levy of $10,248,774.00 and fire fund tax levy of $3,387,907.00.  
Vice Chair Rassisas SECONDED the Motion.  
Chair Christie noted that brings the tax rate increase down to 2.94%.  
Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to approve the other funds in the budget as proposed.  
Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.  
The board voted all in favor.

The board then voted all in favor for Chair Christie’s motion.

Chair Christie asked Ms. Griffin to give an update on the local Coronavirus situation and she did so.

3. Recommendation to Approve Copier Lease for Hanover Parks and Recreation  
Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and execute the copier lease.  
Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.

4. Approval of Minutes:  
a. January 27, 2020  
b. February 10, 2020  

Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020 as submitted.  
Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.  
The board voted all in favor to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020 as submitted with Whitcomb and Geraghty abstaining.  

Selectboard Member Carter MOVED to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020 as amended.  
Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.  
The board voted all in favor to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020 as amended.

5. Banner Requests:  
a. Upper Valley Haven – Chefs of the Valley  
b. Dartmouth’s 2020 Homecoming  
c. Dartmouth’s 2020 Reunion  

Ms. Griffin noted these requests can be accommodated.

Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the banner requests. Selectboard Member Whitcomb SECONDED the Motion. The board voted all in favor.
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6. Administrative Reports
None

7. 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.

8. Other Business
None

9. 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, Whitcomb- yes, Carter- yes, Geraghty- yes Christie-yes
The board entered non-public session at 5:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Marchant

SUMMARY

Item 2. 3rd Budget Hearing:
d. Adoption of Proposed Budget for FY 2020/2021
Chair Christie Moved to Adopt the Proposed Budget for FY 2020 / 2021 with a General fund tax levy of $10,248,774.00 and fire fund tax levy of $3,387,907.00.
Vice Chair Rassias SECONDED the Motion.
Chair Christie noted that brings the tax rate increase down to 2.94%.
Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED to approve the other funds in the budget as proposed.
Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.
The board voted all in favor.
The board then voted all in favor for Chair Christie’s motion.

**Item 4**

Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020 as submitted. Selectboard Member Carter SECONDED the Motion.
The board voted all in favor to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020 as submitted with Whitcomb and Geraghty abstaining.

Selectboard Member Carter MOVED to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020 as amended. Selectboard Member Geraghty SECONDED the Motion.
The board voted all in favor to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020 as amended.

**Item 5**

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