The annual Town Meeting of Hanover, New Hampshire convened on May 9, 2017 at 7 a.m. by Town Moderator Stephens Fowler at the Hanover High Auditorium. Moderator Fowler explained that the polls would be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the purpose of voting for candidates for Town Offices and all other articles requiring vote by official ballot as set forth in Articles One through Nine of Town Meeting Warrant. As required by RSA 675:5, Moderator Fowler also announced at the opening of the Town Meeting that a protest petition had been duly received requiring a two-thirds favorable vote of the legislative body to enact Warrant Article Nine.

**ARTICLE ONE:** To vote (by nonpartisan ballot) for the following Town Officers:

- Two Selectboard Members to serve for a term of three (3) years;
  - Peter L. Christie 1,928
  - William V. Geraghty 1,804

- One Etna Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years;
  - Elizabeth Marden Marshall 1,029
  - Margarethe Mitsu Chobanian 711

- One Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of five (5) years;
  - Ann D. Bradley 2,270

- One Trustee of Trust Funds to serve for a term of three (3) years.
  - Paul B. Gardent 2,225

**ARTICLE TWO** (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 1:

The following question is on the official ballot:

> "Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?"

Amendment No. 1 would clarify and make consistent the six definitions in Section 302 related to dwelling unit.

At a public hearing held on February 7, 2017, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

**RESULTS:**

- YES 2,328
- NO 329

ARTICLE PASSED
ARTICLE THREE (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 2:

The following question is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 2 would eliminate hotel from the list of special exceptions in the GR district, Section 405.7 and delete Section 405.7 C(4) regarding area and dimensional standards for hotels.

At a public hearing held on February 7, 2017, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 2,199 NO 448 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FOUR (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No. 3:

The following question is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 3 would modify the definitions of sawmill and temporary sawmill in Section 302 and the regulations that guide those uses in Section 611.

At a public hearing held on February 7, 2017, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 2,240 NO 328 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE FIVE (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No.4:

The following question is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 4 would amend 302 by adding definitions for convalescent home, nursing home, and senior housing development; eliminating the definition of continuing care retirement community(CCRC); and modifying the definition of hospital. Add senior housing development as a permitted use in the GR-3 and GR-4 districts and replace CCRC with senior housing development as a special exception in the GR-1 and GR-2 districts. Add convalescent home and nursing home to the list of special exceptions in the GR district. Amend 405.7C by replacing family with dwelling unit in the table and add a method for determining the dwelling unit
equivalent of an assisted living bedroom. In 904 and 1002.1, replace CCRC with senior housing development. Reduce the minimum lot size in 904.2A from 50 acres to 5 acres. Amend 904.2B to establish minimum setbacks for senior housing as set forth in dimensional tables in Article IV for the perimeter of the lot and remove the setbacks listed in (1) and (2). Amend 904.2C to remove the setbacks for the interior of the senior development. Delete the dimensional and density requirements in 904.3 as they are addressed by other modifications. Amend 904.4 by eliminating (b) which sets a requirement for number of buildings and re-number the remaining paragraphs in that section. Add to 904 new sections (2) regarding compliance with NH Barrier-free design code and reference to licensing and (3) regarding the types of affiliated uses and flexible living space composition that may be part of senior housing development. Renumber the following sections. In 1002.1 under senior housing development add an off street parking requirement for independent living and for assisted living and eliminate the parking standard for CCRC.

At a public meeting held on March 21, 2017, following a public hearing on March 7, 2017, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 2,221 NO 722 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE SIX (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No.5:

The following question is on the official ballot:

"Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?"

Amendment No. 5 would eliminate student residence from the uses allowed by special exception in the RO district.

At a public meeting held on March 21, 2017, following a public hearing on March 7, 2017, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 1,783 NO 997 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE SEVEN (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No.6:

The following question is on the official ballot:

"Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?"

Amendment No. 6 would amend 302 to add definitions for affordable senior housing and senior housing development and to modify the existing affordable housing definition to more
specifically reference the income level established by USHUD. Add senior housing development to the list of development types in 520.1 and add a new section F requiring compliance with NH Barrier-free Design Code. Add a new section 520.2 that makes available a density bonus to increase the number of additional affordable senior housing units that might be developed in the RO district limited to not more than 50% of the number of units otherwise allowed with the requirement that at least half of the affordable units be reserved for low and/or very low income households as defined by USHUD. Renumber the other paragraphs of 520 to accommodate the new section. Add Affordable senior housing to the list of permitted uses in Table 405.4. Amend 1002 Schedule of minimum requirements for off-street parking spaces by adding the use, Affordable senior housing, and the parking requirement, .75 per dwelling unit.

At a public hearing held on March 7, 2017, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 2,625 NO 441 ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE EIGHT (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No.7:

The following question is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 7 would modify 702 Accessory dwelling unit by adding a section on purposes and renumbering the following sections to accommodate this new section. Enable attached accessory dwelling units to be established in the D, RO, I, GR and RR districts in addition to the SR district where the use is currently permitted as long as the unit and lot conform to requirements set forth in the section. Amend these requirements to eliminate a minimum lot size different from what would be otherwise required, to increase the number of bedrooms from one to two, and to include design standards related to the placement of entrances, fire escapes, exterior stairs and exterior finish materials, roof pitch, windows and eaves. Enable detached accessory dwelling units to be established in the D, RO, I, GR and SR districts in addition to the RR district where the use is currently permitted as long as the unit and lot conform to the requirements set forth in this section. These requirements include all of the requirements set forth for the attached dwelling units, plus a maximum height, and guidelines for the conversion of an existing accessory structure and for new construction.

At a public hearing held on March 7, 2017, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS: YES 2,148 NO 490 ARTICLE PASSED
ARTICLE NINE (submitted by petition) (to vote by ballot): To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board in Amendment No.8:

The following question is on the official ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as follows?”

Amendment No. 8 would from 302 delete both the existing definition for student residence, Institution district and student residence, residential districts and add a new definition that applies both in the institutional and residential districts as follows: a building designed for residential student occupancy, which may include individual living units with social rooms and kitchen facilities for any number of students.

At a public meeting held on March 21, 2017, following a public hearing on March 7, 2017, the Hanover Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting not approve this zoning amendment.

RESULTS:  
YES 1,471  NO 1,993  ARTICLE FAILED

BUSINESS MEETING

Moderator Fowler convened the meeting just after 7:00 p.m. and asked for the indulgence of the Meeting to delay the proceedings for a short period to permit the completion of the ballot voting which was still underway for a significant group of voters who were in line when the polls closed at 7:00 p.m. Moderator Fowler began the Business Meeting deliberations at 7:27 p.m. and reviewed the rules of Town Meeting. He also reiterated that a protest petition had been duly received requiring a two-thirds favorable vote of the legislative body to enact Warrant Article Nine.

Moderator Fowler introduced State Senator Martha Hennessey, Representative Patricia Higgins, Representative Sharon Nordgren, Representative Polly Campion, and Representative Mary Jane Mulligan and thanked them for their service. He also introduced Selectboard Members Peter Christie, Athos Rassias, Nancy Carter, Joanna Whitcomb, and Bill Geraghty. He also introduced Town Manager Julia Griffin.

Ms. Griffin introduced her staff to the audience: Peter Kulbacki, Public Works Director; Charlie Dennis, Police Chief; Corey Stevens, IT Director; Marty McMillan, Fire Chief; Barbara Prince, Etna Library Director; Dave Stewart, Human Resources Director; John Sherman, Parks and Recreation Director; and Betsy McClain, Director of Administrative Services. She also introduced the three newest department heads: Rubi Simon, Howe Library Director; Dave McMullen, Town Assessor; and Rob Houseman, Planning and Zoning Director.
Moderator Fowler stated that voter turnout was unprecedented today and expressed appreciation for Betsy McClain and the volunteers for counting of the ballots. He also apologized to the voters for the slower-moving lines today and thanked them for their patience. Ballot votes will not be announced during the business portion of the meeting due to the number of ballots that will need to be hand-counted.

Moderator Fowler MOVED to Dispense with Reading the Warrant Articles Twice. The Floor Voted Unanimously in Favor of the Motion.

**ARTICLE TEN:** To choose the following Town Officers to be elected by a majority vote:

- One member of the Advisory Board of Assessors for a term of three (3) years;
- Three Fence Viewers, each for a term of one (1) year;
- One Pine Park Commissioner for a term of three (3) years;
- Two Surveyors of Wood and Timber, each for a term of one (1) year;
- Such other Officers as the Town may judge necessary for managing its affairs.

Vice Chair Rassias MOVED to Nominate the Following Persons for the Following Offices:

- One member of the Advisory Board of Assessors for a term of three (3) years;  
  Joe Roberto
- Three Fence Viewers, each for a term of one (1) year;  
  Robert Grabill  
  Matt Marshall  
  Sarah Packman
- One Pine Park Commissioner for a term of three (3) years;  
  Linda Fowler
- Two Surveyors of Wood and Timber, each for a term of one (1) year;  
  John Richardson  
  Ed Chamberlain
- Such other Officers as the Town may judge necessary for managing its affairs.

The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and the Nominees were ELECTED.

**ARTICLE ELEVEN:** To receive reports from the Selectboard, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and other Town Officers and to vote on any motion relating to these reports and to receive any special resolutions that may be appropriate and to vote thereon.

Vice Chair Rassias MOVED that the Reports from the Selectboard, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes and Other Town Officers as Printed in the 2016 Town Report be Accepted, as well as any Special Resolutions. The Motion was Seconded from the Floor.
Ms. Griffin invited Marjorie Rogalski, Yolanda Baumgartner, Judy Colla, Susan Edwards, and Larry Litten to the floor and expressed her thanks to these members of the Sustainable Hanover Committee. Ms. Griffin thanked the Committee for the hundreds of hours they have committed on behalf of the Town.

Ms. Griffin invited Gert Asmus and Bill Baschnagel to the floor. She expressed her thanks to Gert Asmus for all of his years on the Zoning Board and to Mr. Baschnagel for the several years he served on the Advance Transit Board.

Ms. Griffin invited Linda McWilliams of the Supervisors of the Checklist to the floor and thanked her for running wonderfully smooth elections for the Town of Hanover.

Amy Vienna of the Parks and Recreation Board gave the following presentation:

“Hanover Parks and Recreation has a long history of honoring a volunteer every year who has devoted a significant amount of their time in helping out in our programs or at one of our many special events. Over the years we have bestowed this honor to 38 individuals and only one organization. This year I am proud to announce PHI DELTA ALPHA as the second organization to be recognized with the Volunteer Service Award.

“We have many students help out every year but PHI DELTA ALPHA’s strong tradition of volunteerism stands out among them all. For many years this fraternity has coached our 7th & 8th grade baseball teams. Although the faces change every few years the excitement and enthusiasm these young men bring remains a constant. They are not only coaches but role models and someone to look up to for our young middle school students. Here to accept the Volunteer Service Award on behalf of PHI DELTA ALPHA is this year’s coach, Tim Hannon.

Mr. Hannon accepted the award on behalf of PHI DELTA ALPHA.

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $32,180 for deposit into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, a designation of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2015-2016. Funding deposited into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund derives from 50% of the land use change tax proceeds, paid by property owners when they take land out of current use.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED that the Town Vote to Raise and Appropriate $32,180 for Deposit into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund, and to Authorize Funding of this Amount by Transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, a Designation of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, with no Funds Being Raised by Taxation. The Amount Appropriated is the Equivalent of 50% of the Total Collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Funding Deposited into the Land and Capital Improvements Fund Derives from 50% of the Land Use Change Tax
FINAL

Proceeds, Paid by Property Owners when they Take Land out of Current Use. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Twelve was ADOPTED.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $32,180 for deposit into the Conservation Fund created as authorized by RSA 36-A:5.1, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, a sub-accounting of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, with no funds being raised by taxation. The amount appropriated is the equivalent of 50% of the total collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the fiscal year 2015-2016. Funding deposited into the Conservation Fund derives from 50% of the land use change tax proceeds, paid by property owners when they take land out of current use.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED that the Town Vote to Raise and Appropriate $32,180 for Deposit into the Conservation Fund Created as Authorized by RSA 36-A:5.1, and to Authorize Funding of this Amount by Transfer from the Land Use Change Tax Reserve, a Designation of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, with No Funds Being Raised by Taxation. The Amount Appropriated is the Equivalent of 50% of the Total Collected in the Land Use Change Tax Reserve in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Funding Deposited into the Conservation Fund Derives from 50% of the Land Use Change Tax Proceeds, Paid by Property Owners when they Take Land out of Current Use. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Thirteen was ADOPTED.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $34,700 for deposit into the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund, and to authorize funding of this amount by transfer from the Transportation Improvement Fee Reserve, a designation of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, with no funds being raised by taxation. This amount is equivalent to the total Transportation Fee surcharge for each motor vehicle registered in the Town of Hanover ($5.00 per vehicle) during fiscal year 2015-2016.

Vice Chair Rassias MOVED that the Town Vote to Raise and Appropriate $34,700 for Deposit into the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund, and to Authorize Funding of this Amount by Transfer from the Transportation Improvement Fee Reserve, a Designation of the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, with No Funds Being Raised by Taxation. This Amount is Equivalent to the Total Transportation Fee Surcharge for Each Motor Vehicle Registered In The Town Of Hanover ($5.00 Per Vehicle) During Fiscal Year 2015-2016. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Fourteen was ADOPTED.
ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,174,418 for deposit into existing capital reserve funds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$61,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Replacement and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$57,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispatch Equipment and Dispatch Center Enhancements Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$143,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$385,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Operations Vehicles and Parking Facility Improvements Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Construction and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$84,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selectboard Member Carter MOVED that the Town Vote to Raise and Appropriate the Sum of $1,174,418 for Deposit into Existing Capital Reserve Funds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$84,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Fifteen was ADOPTED.
ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $1,153,300 for the purposes listed below, and to authorize funding these amounts by withdrawal from the listed capital reserve funds in the following amounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RW Black Community Center HVAC; Town Hall Roof</td>
<td>$99,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck 7, Truck 17, Truck 19, Grounds RTV, Sidewalk Tractor #3, ZD221 Zero Turn Mowers</td>
<td>$495,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms and related equipment</td>
<td>$27,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software, equipment, and other services for Tax Year 2018 Valuation Update</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable radio replacement, insulation and AC replacement in Lyme Road Fire Station</td>
<td>$157,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Vehicles and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooring membrane replacement for 7 Lebanon Street Parking Facility</td>
<td>$300,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air compressor</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment module phase 2</td>
<td>$41,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these specified purchases are complete or June 30, 2022, whichever is sooner.

Selectboard Member Carter MOVED that the Town Vote to Raise and Appropriate $1,153,300 for the Purposes Listed Below, and to Authorize Funding these Amounts by Withdrawal from The Listed Capital Reserve Funds in the Following Amounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Description</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RW Black Community Center HVAC; Town Hall Roof</td>
<td>$99,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Construction and Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck 7, Truck 17, Truck 19, Grounds RTV, Sidewalk Tractor #3, ZD221 Zero Turn Mowers</td>
<td>$495,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms and related equipment</td>
<td>$27,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software, equipment, and other services for Tax Year 2018 Valuation Update</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable radio replacement, insulation and AC replacement in Lyme Road Fire Station</td>
<td>$157,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parking Vehicles and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund
Flooring membrane replacement for 7 Lebanon Street Parking Facility $300,500

Sewer Equipment and Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund
Air compressor $17,000

Water Treatment and Distribution Equipment and System Capital Reserve Fund
Treatment module phase 2 $41,500

This will be a Non-Lapsing Appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not Lapse until these Specified Purchases are Complete or June 30, 2022, whichever is Sooner. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Sixteen was ADOPTED.

**ARTICLE SEVENTEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $73,055 for partial funding for (1) a portion of sidewalk on Lebanon Street from Storrs Rd. to the Tanzi Tract Entrance ($64,400) and (2) a traffic diverter on Dresden Road ($8,655); and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this sum from the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VA and will not lapse until these improvements are complete or June 30, 2022, whichever is sooner.

Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED that the Town Vote to Raise and Appropriate $73,055 for Partial Funding for (1) a Portion of Sidewalk on Lebanon Street from Storrs Rd. to the Tanzi Tract Entrance ($64,400) and (2) a Traffic Diverter on Dresden Road ($8,655); and to Fund this Appropriation by Authorizing the Withdrawal of this Sum from The Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. This will be a Non-Lapsing Appropriation per RSA 32:7, VA and will not Lapse until these Improvements are Complete or June 30, 2022, whichever is Sooner. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Resident Kari Asmus noted that the amount proposed for funding a portion of the sidewalk on Lebanon Street is only the partial amount needed to construct the sidewalk and asked where the remainder was being funded and how much that was. Ms. Griffin explained that the total cost for the two projects is $126,500, and the net amount is coming from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

Ms. Asmus asked for further explanation on what the Undesignated Fund Balance is. Ms. Griffin stated that it is money that is set aside from savings that have been realized through the year to year operational budget. The goal range for Undesignated Fund Balance ranges from ten to fifteen percent of total fund expenditures, and funds in excess of the minimum ten percent are only to be used for one-time expenditures.
Resident Erika Wygonik thanked the audience for considering approval of this Warrant Article, stating that the neighborhood has been working for the last three years to advance this project. There are seventeen children who walk on Route 120 to reach the bus stop, and there are numerous people who access Mink Brook and the Tanzi Natural Preserve from Route 120. This project would improve the lives of the community.

Resident Randy Mudge stated that he feels that it is a mistake not to extend the sidewalk all the way to Buck Road in one phase. Construction of only the first phase will result in a dead-end sidewalk, and the area beyond that section is dangerous and in need of a sidewalk as well. Ms. Griffin stated that Town officials agree with Mr. Mudge and have requested state grant funding to continue the sidewalk all the way to Buck Road. They are working on plans for construction of a sidewalk from Greensboro Road to Buck Road with money received from the Gile Tract, and are hoping to raise additional funds to create the link between the Tanzi tract and Greensboro Road. A complete sidewalk is a priority for Town staff. Mr. Mudge clarified that he is concerned about people having to cross Route 120 and a gap in sidewalk sections would not alleviate that.

William Young, Chair of the Bike and Pedestrian Committee, stated that the Committee is in agreement with Mr. Mudge and has recommended exactly what he has suggested. The Town is working with the State of New Hampshire to negotiate plans, as that section of road belongs to them, not the Town. The Committee’s ultimate vision is a sidewalk coming all the way from Lebanon to Kendal on Lyme Road, but they are working on it in phases.

The Motion PASSED and Article Seventeen was ADOPTED.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Selectboard and the New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 27 on April 3, 2017, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>$39,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>$40,975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of $39,824 for 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in the salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED that the Town Vote to Approve the Cost Items Included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement Reached between the Selectboard and the New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 27 on April 3, 2017, which Calls for the Following Increases in Salaries and Benefits at the Current Staffing Level:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>$39,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>$40,975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And Further to Raise and Appropriate the Sum of $39,824 for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, such Sum Representing Additional Costs Attributable to the Increase in the Salaries and Benefits Required by the Proposed Agreement over those that Would Be Paid at Current Staffing Levels in Accordance with the Most Recent Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Eighteen was ADOPTED.

**ARTICLE NINETEEN:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Selectboard and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 1348 on April 3, 2017, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>$43,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>$45,189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of $43,774 for 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in the salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED that the Town Vote to Approve the Cost Items Included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement Reached between the Selectboard and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 1348 on April 3, 2017, which Calls for the Following Increases in Salaries and Benefits at the Current Staffing Level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>$45,189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And Further to Raise and Appropriate the Sum of $43,774 for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, such Sum Representing Additional Costs Attributable to the Increase in the Salaries and Benefits Required by the Proposed Agreement over those that Would Be Paid at Current Staffing Levels in Accordance with the Most Recent Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Nineteen was ADOPTED.
ARTICLE TWENTY: To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Selectboard and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 3288 on April 3, 2017, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>$25,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>$26,815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,982 for 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing additional costs attributable to the increase in the salaries and benefits required by the proposed agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

Selectboard Member Geraghty MOVED that the Town Vote to Approve the Cost Items Included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement Reached between the Selectboard and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 3288 on April 3, 2017, which Calls for the Following Increases in Salaries and Benefits at the Current Staffing Level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>$25,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>$26,815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And Further to Raise and Appropriate the Sum of $25,982 for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, such Sum Representing Additional Costs Attributable to the Increase in the Salaries and Benefits Required by the Proposed Agreement over those that Would Be Paid at Current Staffing Levels in Accordance with the Most Recent Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Resident Roger Masters stated that he lives across from the Fire Department and wished to thank the department for their hard work at all hours.

Resident David Vincelette stated that the Town Report is missing a page which previously displayed the Mission Statement and asked whether it was omitted intentionally. He also asked whether Town officials were aware of that Mission Statement and alleged they do not follow it. Ms. Griffin stated that omission of the Mission Statement in the Town Report was an oversight, but it has not changed in the twenty-one years she has been here.

Mr. Vincelette alleged that Town staff have testified in court that there either was no such statement or were unaware of one.

The Motion PASSED and Article Twenty was ADOPTED.

Selectboard Member Geraghty expressed his thanks to employees of the three bargaining units for their cooperation in coming up with agreements that are beneficial to both the employees and the Town.
ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $23,872,364 to pay the operating expenses of the Town for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, for the purposes set forth in the Town budget. This sum does not include the funds voted in any of the preceding or succeeding articles.

Chair Christie MOVED that the Town Vote to Raise and Appropriate $23,872,364 to Pay the Operating Expenses of the Town for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, for the Purposes Set Forth in the Town Budget. This Sum does Not Include the Funds Voted in any of the Preceding or Succeeding Articles. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Chair Christie gave the following presentation:

“As I have often maintained, creating a Town Budget is an art, not a science, and this year was no exception. It is like a dance.

“The result of this year’s dance is a proposed general fund budget increase of 2.6 percent and a municipal tax rate increase of 1.85 percent.

“When we first started working on the budget in November, Betsy McClain delivered her package which showed that a ‘steady as you go budget’ would result in over a five percent tax rate increase. With the CPI running around two percent we knew that that magnitude of increase was not in the cards. Going from a forecasted five percent tax rate increase to one under two percent was not easy. It required significant priority setting and making many hard choices.

“There are many moving pieces in the budget. Let’s see how they played out this year. I will focus primarily on the General Fund, as it is the largest.

“As I rattle off these numbers, please keep in mind that the magic number this year is $95,000. Every increase of $95,000 in the tax levy requires a one percent tax rate increase.

“Let’s do the numbers. First, on the expense side:

“Approximately seventy percent of our budget is for salaries and benefits. In addition to the regular step and COLA increases, this budget needed to absorb approximately $135,000 in health benefit increases and $68,000 in retirement fund mandatory contributions. Those are big numbers.

“This budget adds an additional .4 FTE for the Information Technology group at a cost of $35,000. It is amazing that Corey has been able to meet the Town’s expanding tech needs for so long without additional staff. This increased staffing is overdue.

“Also included is improved software for the Assessing Department costing $10,000. This tool is often used by the public and is used on a daily basis by the Assessing Department.

“A place holder of $40,000 to fund additional Recreation Department use of school gyms is included.
“In response to the request of residents, we are proposing the construction of a sidewalk along Lebanon Street from Storrs Road to the entrance of the Tanzi tract at a cost of $124,000. This improvement will address significant safety issues for school age children and seniors needing to cross Lebanon Street in this high traffic area.

“Also included is the installation of a pedestrian activated crosswalk signal in front of the Co-op Service Center at a cost of $28,000. This signal will enable the Town to eliminate the crosswalk at Carter and Lebanon Street and provide safer crossing for pedestrians at this location.

“Funding for maintenance at 84 Lyme Road at a cost of $10,000 is included. This is the former site of the Chieftain Motel and will provide improved parking and lawn area at the top of the hill overlooking the newly licensed river front park location.

“I hope that these examples give you a flavor for the major projects that made the cut and are funded in this budget.

“On the income side, these expenses are partially offset by forecasted increases in: Short term interest earnings of $25,000; New Hampshire rooms and meals tax revenues of $38,000; building permit fees of $50,000; and Cable franchise fees and motor vehicle registration fees totaling almost $50,000.

“The forecasted increase of $15 million in total Town assessed valuation provides additional tax revenue of approximately $70,000 without impacting the tax rate.

“The Board also opted to use $194,000 of Undesignated Fund Balance. Our budget guidelines give us the flexibility to use these funds for ‘one-time’ expenditures if the balance is above ten percent. Projects supported in this way this year include replacing the floor at the Black Center, replacing windows at the Police Department, improving crosswalks, and the partial funding of the Lebanon Street sidewalk.

“In summary, the proposed budget represents a 1.85 percent increase in the tax rate, or approximately $48.00 for a home assessed at $400,000.

“Let me talk briefly about a few other things that will impact taxes in the future:

“No budget presentation would be complete without talking about State downshifting. We expect a resurgence of downshifting given the political climate in Concord and Washington.

“Adequately funding our Capital Improvement Plan is a challenge. With Peter Kulbacki leading the charge, the town now has a very comprehensive inventory of all of its major assets and their replacement schedule. We have been diligent in funding our CIP plan, but as we add overlooked items and try to build in an inflation factor, the goal of full funding is elusive. We are blessed with strong reserves, but yet even more is needed for them to be fully funded.

“In particular, we are falling behind in creating adequate reserves for the water filtration plant and the water distribution lines. When the Town voted to municipalize what had been the
private Water Company, it was our plan to establish reserves from current operations to offset future capital expenses, primarily replacing aging water lines. That has not been possible within our current fee structure. Solving this problem will most likely require a combination of raising water fees as well as borrowing to meet our longer term needs.

“At the Water Reclamation Facility, new national wastewater specifications are being reviewed and could impact us as early as 2020. The potential regulations involving nitrogen and phosphorus, in particular, could cost tens of millions of dollars to meet. Hold on to your hats.

“On another front, I have mentioned before our efforts to look at providing more services regionally rather than town by town. This has been challenging. Each time that it seemed like we were making progress, there would be a shift in leadership in Lebanon, Hartford or Norwich that would cause us to almost have to start over again.

“One good news story here is that at the grass root level the local fire chiefs have been increasingly cooperating in many ways - from mutual aid to joint training exercises, and generally thinking holistically as a regional resource. We recently heard a presentation by the fire chiefs from Hanover, Lebanon, Hartford and Norwich which was a very encouraging display of regional thinking and action.

“Another good news story is that we are in discussion with the School Board to open up more gym time at the Richmond Middle School and Ray School for Recreational Department use. While this extra gym time may not meet all of our needs, it is a necessary first step.

“Yet another good news story is the beginning of the Hanover Community Nursing initiative. With grant and gift funding, this budget provides for the hiring of a part-time health care professional to coordinate eldercare for Hanover citizens. The program is an affirmation that we are committed to caring for our own and to forging a stronger regional service under the Upper Valley Community Nursing Project banner. Be on the lookout for more information about this new program.

“In closing I want to thank the many volunteers who serve on boards, committees, task forces and make an essential contribution to Hanover.

“The Selectboard also wants to express our thanks to Julia, Betsy, and the department heads who work diligently, creatively, and with great pride in attacking the budget. This is evidenced each year in their budget presentations.

“Please also join me in thanking all of our Town staff who do a great job day in and day out. We can and should be proud of our excellent equipment, software and facilities, but they are nothing until someone with pride and professionalism gets behind the wheel to plow all that snow, climbs into that ambulance or fire truck, maintains and operates all that equipment at the water and water reclamation plants, keeps us safe, puts on that basketball tournament and after school program or greets us at Town Hall and at the library. We are blessed with a first rate team!

“Thank you.”
Heidi Postupack, Hanover resident and Chair of the Hanover Finance Committee (HFC), stated that the Committee has been invited to share its position on the proposed budget. Other members of the Committee include Daryl Press, John Ruth, Kari Asmus, and Nancy Marion. Bill Geraghty is the Selectboard representative and Carey Callaghan is the Hanover School Board Representative. She thanked all of the members for their hard work and dedication and for their thoughtful consideration and analysis of complex financial data, and for their many hours of service to the Town. Together, members of the Hanover Finance Committee have spent the last twelve months engaged in a budget development process with four entities: the Hanover School District, Dresden School District, SAU 70, and the Town of Hanover.

Ms. Postupack stated that the majority opinion of the Committee was established during its public meeting on March 13th, in which members voted 3 to 2 to support the proposed Town budget which represents a tax rate increase, including the fire districts, of 1.86 percent and a tax levy increase of 2.62 percent. The final budget represents a lower tax rate increase than the original budget guideline cap of 2.5 percent set by the Selectboard in November, and demonstrates an effort on their part to constrain the impact of increases on Hanover taxpayers. HFC members remain concerned about the future trajectory of the tax rate and foresee an ongoing need for restraint and a reliance on sound fiscal policy in future budget development. The historical pace of healthcare and retirement cost increases, coupled with contractually imposed wage and salary increases, has led to tax levies that have significantly outpaced inflationary benchmarks, which could present a hardship for those on a fixed income or whose income has grown at a more limited rate than taxes. It should also be noted that the relatively lower increase in the tax rate was achieved in part through the use of Undesignated Fund Balance for one-time expenses.

The Committee minority sees the proposed Town budget as a continuation of excessive growth in Town spending. Over the past decade, the Town’s tax levy has increased by forty percent—more than twice the rate of inflation of nineteen percent. A key driver of the Town’s excessive tax levy growth is employee wages and benefits, which have increased by forty-four percent since 2007, significantly higher than either inflation or the national average for state and local government employees, the latter being twenty-eight percent over that period. The proposed budget would increase employee compensation by another 5.6 percent, well in excess of inflation of 1.8 percent and trends in state and local government employee compensation. The minority recommends that the Town reject the proposed budget and adopt a total tax levy equal to the last budget plus inflation of 1.8 percent. The minority further recommends that future contract agreements with Town employees keep total compensation growth at or below national averages.

Nancy Marion of the Hanover Finance Committee is also an economist and faculty member in Dartmouth’s Economics Department. Ms. Marion stated that she was unable to attend the Committee’s meeting on March 13th, but would have voted in support of the proposed budget had she been present. She stated that it is useful to have some benchmark to ensure that Hanover is managing its expenses carefully, but she does not favor the benchmarks used by the minority to reject the proposed budget. Inflation is not a good benchmark, and the CPI computes price increases for a basket of consumer goods and services that is quite different from what the Town purchases. Moreover, the CPI is a national indicator that does not take into consideration cost of living increases in different geographical locations. The other benchmark referenced by the
minority, the average national compensation for state and local government employees, isn’t a good benchmark, either. It does include worker compensation from some high cost areas, but also from many low cost areas such as Mississippi and Alabama. Some regions, such as New Hampshire, face higher costs for health insurance benefits, and different regions face different constraints on collective bargaining. Moreover, this national benchmark is weighted heavily towards workers in the educational sector. Teachers account for sixty percent of the national compensation measure, while the Town of Hanover’s budget excludes the school budget.

Over the last year, the Committee has discussed at length the merits of having a good benchmark in order to assess whether the Town is carefully controlling its expenditures. The Committee ended up creating a benchmark of ten towns that were similar to Hanover in terms of median family income and compared how well Hanover fared relative to this benchmark of ten New Hampshire towns. The Committee’s findings were presented to the Selectboard last fall, and the takeaway was that Hanover’s spending is not growing out of control. In fact, the dollar amount of taxes paid on assessed property and the growth in Hanover’s tax levy per capita tracked perfectly with the ten-town comparison group over the period examined. The Committee also compared Hanover with two individual towns: Lebanon, because it is adjacent, and Durham, because it is another university town. Lebanon’s tax levy per capita has grown more slowly than Hanover’s but Durham’s has grown more quickly. In summary, using the benchmark of ten New Hampshire towns that are similar to Hanover in terms of median family income, Hanover is managing its spending carefully and is managing its tax levy increase judiciously.

Ms. Marion recommended approval of the Town budget.

Selectboard Member Geraghty, who is the liaison to the Hanover Finance Committee, stated that he was also out of town on March 13th when the Committee’s vote took place, but also would have voted in support of the proposed budget. Presence of both Ms. Marion and himself would have made the vote 5 to 2 in support of the proposed budget rather than 3 to 2.

Selectboard Member Geraghty stated that there has been much discussion about wages and benefits (which represent seventy percent of the budget) over the last few years. There has always been some confusion and misunderstanding about increases in wages and benefits, and he has prepared a presentation to help voters visualize the role of wages and benefits in the Town budget. Mr. Geraghty spent his career in Human Resources, dealing directly for several years with wages and benefits issues. Mr. Geraghty strongly disagrees with the minority opinion about wages and compensation. He referred to the minority’s statement that wages and benefits have increased by forty-four percent. He does not dispute that number but wished to explain what is behind that number and what impact it has on taxes. Over the years, the Town has expanded programming, the biggest expansion of which has been the after school and summer programs. These programs are supported entirely by fees and do not impact taxes—but they are included in the budget. In addition, expanded Howe Library hours are funded by the Howe Corporation.

Things that do affect the tax rate include other additional staff for the library, general assistance part-time staffing, and increases in fire safety and health officer duties. In addition, a study of wages and benefits done in 2014 showed that we were behind the market. This study was way overdue, and we need to be competitive for recruitment of top-notch staff.
Health insurance costs to both employers and employees have increased significantly over the last ten years. The cost of health insurance for family coverage has increased by fifty-five percent for a similar plan. Through negotiations with bargaining units, however, the Town has kept its increase to forty-five percent.

New Hampshire Retirement System costs have increased significantly for the Town. Beginning in 2010, the State walked away from its commitment to pay for the thirty-five percent of the cost towards New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) employer contributions for our fire and police employees. Since 2012, the State has contributed nothing towards the employer retirement costs for these public safety employees; if the original (and promised) thirty-five percent cost share was in effect today, the Town’s annual 2017 contribution to the NHRS would be $300,000 less than what is projected to be paid through June 30, 2017. The cost of this system has shifted from the State to the Town and to the employees. Employer contribution rates are set every two years, and have increased at rates above inflation in order to pay down the unfunded pension liability and to adjust what may have previously been unreasonable assumed rates of investment returns; NH employers will see the next uptick in NHRS employer contributions in 2020.

Mr. Geraghty also referred to the minority of the Committee’s statement that the proposed budget would increase employee compensation by another 5.6 percent. This statement makes it sound like employees are receiving a 5.6 percent wage increase, which is not the case. Included in that 5.6 percent is the addition of .40 FTE in Information Technology to keep up with growth in hardware and software maintenance needs, an additional $12,000 of grant/gift funded part-time salary budget for one-time initial seed funding of the Hanover Community Nurse Program, and the addition of 1.0 FTE (in order to have two full-time on-site program coordinators – one at Ray, one at RMS) in the Kids After School Time program. Of these increases, the only one impacting taxes is the addition of salaries and benefits for Information Technology.

Mr. Geraghty stated that, in summary, the numbers can be misleading. He hopes his presentation helped voters understand the facts and asked that they support the proposed budget.

He also wished to address the Dartmouth students, many of which were present. He suggested that they not turn down the proposed budget for economic reasons, as the only impact the proposed budget would have on them is an increase of room and board fees of less than $1 for the year. He asked that they vote in support of the budget and in support of the Town employees who are essential to their safety and keeping other operations going smoothly.

Dartmouth student Ashwath Srikanth asked how the metric of ten towns used to compare with Hanover was developed. Ms. Marion stated that the census bureau data was used to look at median family income for every single New Hampshire town. Hanover was ranked fourth, and the other top nine towns as well as a comparison group of twenty towns was used.

Resident Pete Murdza stated that he is a property casualty actuary, and that he is very happy with Selectboard Member Geraghty and Ms. Marion’s explanations. Using the CPI is not appropriate
because it relates to different goods and services. In addition, the CPI is fixed from year-to-year, whereas taxes expand with the population. He also noted that the services provided by the Town have helped increase the value of homes in Hanover. While taxes have increased over the years, the value of his home has increased by much more.

**The Motion PASSED and Article Twenty-One was ADOPTED.**

**ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO:** To see if the Town will permanently protect the 14 acre South Esker Natural Area through the establishment of a conservation easement and management plan to be approved by the Conservation Commission, the Selectboard, and the Hanover Conservancy, with the conservation easement to be conveyed to the Hanover Conservancy.

Chair Christie MOVED that the Town Vote to Permanently Protect the 14 Acre South Esker Natural Area through the Establishment of a Conservation Easement and Management Plan to be Approved by the Conservation Commission, the Selectboard, and the Hanover Conservancy, with the Conservation Easement to Be Conveyed to the Hanover Conservancy. The Motion Was SECONDED From The Floor.

Kristine McDevitt, President of the Hanover Conservancy, stated that funds were raised to transfer the subject property to the Town from an abutting landowner in 1970. That landowner retained deed restrictions to ensure the property would be forever protected and open and accessible to the public. Times have changed since then, and Conservation practices dictate that to effectively protect property, conservation easements should be put in place. A conservation easement will allow the enforcement needed to ensure permanent protection of the property. While there is a cost associated with conservation easements, there is no net cost to the Town for this. The Hanover Conservancy as well as the Town’s Conservation Commission have provided support. In addition, the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation Fund has awarded a $5,000 matching grant, which has already been matched by South Esker neighbors and other residents to complete an easement and to establish a stewardship fund to ensure that monitoring of the easement can continue into the future. Equally important, the conservation easement requires a management plan which affords an opportunity for all residents to offer input and guidance, which is a wonderful way to get involved.

Mr. Vincelette stated that the Conservancy bought a piece of land from the Tanzi family and gave it to the Town with Memorandums of Understanding that have not been followed. He also alleged that the Conservancy is failing to protect waters, and that they used his property in Etna without permission to take people cross country skiing. Moderator Fowler asked Mr. Vincelette to keep his comments germane to the Warrant Article being discussed.

**The Motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Two was ADOPTED.**

**ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE:** To see if the Town will vote to join the “Ready for 100 Action” campaign, thereby committing to a goal of 100% reliance on renewable sources of electricity by 2030 and renewable sources of fuel for heating and transportation by 2050. Joining
the “Ready for 100 Action” campaign implies that the Town of Hanover will lead the community in initiatives designed to help local institutions, businesses and residents transition to 100% renewable sources of electricity and fuel oil. The Town has begun by investing in energy efficiency and renewable electricity generation for Town facilities and will follow by transitioning to vehicles and heating systems fueled by renewable sources.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED that the Town Vote to Join the “Ready for 100 Action” Campaign, thereby Committing to a Goal Of 100% Reliance on Renewable Sources of Electricity by 2030 and Renewable Sources of Fuel for Heating and Transportation by 2050. Joining the “Ready for 100 Action” Campaign Implies that the Town Of Hanover will Lead the Community in Initiatives Designed to Help Local Institutions, Businesses and Residents Transition to 100% Renewable Sources of Electricity and Fuel Oil. The Town has Begun by Investing in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Electricity Generation for Town Facilities and will Follow by Transitioning to Vehicles and Heating Systems Fueled by Renewable Sources. The Motion was SECONDED from The Floor.

Michael Hillinger, Hanover resident and Chair of the Upper Valley Sierra Club, stated that the Sierra Club has provided a comprehensive explanation of this Warrant Article in the explanatory section of the Town Report. He would like to address a number of questions that have been raised about the campaign:

Why?: The idea of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels is driven by many concerns, the biggest of which is the environmental effect on the atmosphere. There is also a strong financial case as the market for fossil fuels is increasingly volatile.

Is the goal feasible?: Mr. Hillinger explained studies that have looked at how to move away from fossil fuels, and showed that with a varying mix of energy sources and timelines, we can reduce carbon by eighty percent by 2050. He explained that other studies have outlined an even more aggressive timeline. The Sierra Club is advocating for the more aggressive response. Ultimately, everyone recognizes that 100 percent renewable energy is the future; we just want to be there sooner.

What’s sustainable and what’s renewable?: Mr. Hillinger stated that every energy source has an environmental cost, and the Sierra Club believes that the ultimate target should include a mix of on and offshore wind, industrial and residential solar generation, concentrated solar and geothermal sources. These sources are backed up by a variety of storage technologies and some major reduction in energy needs via conservation and demand management. They believe this mix provides the best path and the lowest environmental impact. More controversial is the role of other low-carbon sources such as biomass, biogas, and large-scale hydro. How these play out in contributing to the transition and the ideal solution remains controversial. More problematic still are the nuclear fusion and carbon capture storage, which they believe still have significant environmental and economic limitations and do not play into their proposed energy advances.
How much will this cost?: There are no costs attached to this Warrant Article. Future expenditures by the Town will be subject to the standard budgetary process that identifies the costs and benefits, both tangible and intangible.

How does this affect me?: The goal is for both the Town and residents to move to renewables. They expect the Town to continue on its path of prudent fiscal choices which will increasingly be with renewable energies. They also hope it leads by example for the residents and creates positive incentives for them to follow its path.

How voluntary is this?: As noted in the explanatory information, the residential requirements are voluntary. However, the Sierra Club has received a number of concerns about the voluntary nature of this initiative. The Sierra Club’s statement follows: “We wish to make clear that it is our intention that this article’s efforts to promote increased use of renewable energy resources in Hanover is voluntary and should not be construed as future grounds for imposing regulations or other public requirements that have not been approved by the voters.”

What happens if we fail?: If we reach 2050 and achieve, for example, only eighty percent, then we have achieved eighty percent, and we continue on the path to 100 percent as soon as possible.

We are on a path of momentum and are unique. There are a number of towns and cities in the United States that have already accepted this movement. Hanover would be the first town to do it by popular vote.

Resident Carson Smith urged voters to reject the Warrant Article because it doesn’t go far enough. 2030 and 2050 are too far away, and even though some present tonight will not be here to see it, their children and grandchildren will be, and if we don’t act sooner, they will all be dead. This Warrant Article has no concrete goals and no plans or steps to get there. He urged Town Meeting and the Board to come up with something more concrete.

Resident Jonathan Edwards stated that the Warrant Article’s strikes him as an attempt to pursue the perfect at the expense of the better. He did encourage everyone to continue to enhance the Town and its citizens’ track record with renewable and sustainable resources.

Jonathan Edwards MOVED to Amend the Motion as follows: That the Town Vote to Join the “Ready For 100 Action” Campaign, thereby Committing to a Goal of 100% Reliance on Renewable Sources of Electricity by 2030 and Renewable Sources of Fuel for Heating and Transportation by 2050. Joining the “Ready for 100 Action” Campaign Implies that the Town of Hanover will Lead the Community in Initiatives Designed to Help Local Institutions, Businesses and Residents Voluntarily Transition to 100% Renewable Sources of Electricity and Fuel Oil. The Town has Begun by Investing in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Electricity Generation for Town Facilities and will Follow by Transitioning to Vehicles and Heating Systems Fueled by Renewable Sources. The Motion was Seconded from the Floor.

A resident stated that the amendment seems to clarify the original intent of the Warrant Article, and does not seem to be a substantive change—he therefore supports the amendment.
Another resident of Lebanon Street urged voting against the amendment as it weakens the intent. He feels that residents can do more.

Roger Masters stated that he is against the amendment as the word “voluntary” refers primarily to individual homeowners. Dartmouth College is a fairly large user of electricity, and he does not want the College to say that they won’t participate. In addition, the original statements have been too weak in focusing on the technology of renewable energy. Solar energy omits zero CO2, and there is active research in lowering the cost of solar collectors. Lead batteries which are used in cars will be gone soon, and lithium batteries make a huge transformation in cost, and we can reach our target long before the goal set.

Judy Colla urged voting against the amendment. The purpose of the Warrant Article is to galvanize political will and she doesn’t want to weaken the Article further.

**The Majority OPPOSED the Amendment. The Amendment was DEFEATED.**

Resident Robert Hargraves is thankful for all those concerned about the environment, as he is also concerned. However, passing of this Warrant Article would be impractical and expensive. Solar panels are highly subsidized, and electric companies are forced to buy electricity from those solar panels at around fifteen cents per kilowatt hour when they could buy that same power from a provider such as a hydroelectric dam or gas power plant at five cents per kilowatt hour. Solar panels increase the cost to the utility providers, which are then relayed to other consumers. In addition, many utilities are required to get a certain percentage of electricity from renewable sources, resulting in bidding for those sources. The cost of bidding then gets passed on to the consumers. Also, the cost for batteries to store electricity is high. There needs to be a solution that will actually solve the problem. The goal is a feel-good answer, but we need real answers.

Resident Sol Diamond stated that he is fortunate enough to live in a net zero home, and insulation is key. His energy usage is about a third of that of a typical home. With better insulation, closing the gap with renewables to get to net zero was easy. In summary, energy conservation is key in making this happen.

Resident John Schumacher stated that we should start while we still have something to work with. What we are doing now is expensive, but we do have to start that way. Expenses will drop. He and his wife have been able to get ahead of the game by installing solar panels on their roof and using a hybrid car and electric car. They have personally set a goal of becoming completely reliant on renewable sources by 2020, which should be easy for them. It won’t be as easy for everyone, but everyone can do little things. If we don’t start, we’ll never get there.

Moderator Fowler called for a vote on the original motion related to Article Twenty-Three.

**The Motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Three was ADOPTED.**
ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to resolve that the operation of the Wilder Dam on the Connecticut River may result in the deterioration of the riverbank and adjacent lands and roads upstream and downstream of the Dam. Therefore, it is recommended that the Town of Hanover, through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process, formally request that TransCanada Corporation or subsequent owners of Wilder Dam modify current dam operations, and create a mitigation fund to reimburse towns and landowners for the repair and stabilization of riverbanks.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb MOVED that the Town Vote to Resolve that the Operation of the Wilder Dam on the Connecticut River may Result in the Deterioration of the Riverbank and Adjacent Lands and Roads Upstream and Downstream of the Dam. Therefore, it is Recommended that the Town Of Hanover, through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Re-Licensing Process, Formally Request that TransCanada Corporation or Subsequent Owners of Wilder Dam Modify Current Dam Operations, and Create a Mitigation Fund to Reimburse Towns and Landowners for the Repair and Stabilization of Riverbanks. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

Resident Michael Balch stated that the Town just expressed its support to move toward renewable energy, and this Article attaches an external cost to a zero carbon source like hydropower and seems inconsistent with that goal. We should absolutely be concerned with our riverfront, but some erosion is inherently part of having a dam, particularly one that generates hydropower. As Mr. Hillinger previously stated, every energy source is going to have some cost. Trying to push that cost onto TransCanada is just going to make such projects less attractive to the utility. If we really want 100 percent renewable power to replace carbon, we need to accept some compromises in other areas, even in our own backyards. He encourages everyone to see the bigger picture. We shouldn’t seek to punish zero carbon energy sources at a time when that goal is more important than ever.

Selectboard Member Whitcomb clarified that the motion is part of the FERC relicensing, which will hopefully include a mitigation fund. This Article would allow the Town to receive some of those funds. Mr. Balch thanked Selectboard Member Whitcomb for the clarification.

The Motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Four was ADOPTED.

Moderator Fowler stated that results from ballot voting are not yet available to release at the Business Meeting. Results will be posted on the Town website as soon as available.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting.

Moderator Fowler MOVED that the Town Vote to Transact any other Business that may Legally be Brought Before this Town Meeting. The Motion was SECONDED from the Floor.

The Motion PASSED and Article Twenty-Five was ADOPTED.
Town Meeting ADJOURNED at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/signature on file

Elizabeth A. McClain
Town Clerk

Minutes prepared by Adriane Coutermarsh.