



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 6:30 pm
In-Person and Remote

Committee Attendees:

Emmanuel Dockter, Chair
Mike Cianciola
Nancy Clinton
Steve Freedman
Sandy Hayes
Jim Hoyes
Rachael Hughes
Joan Port-Farwell
Greg Satterwhite - Remote

Other Attendees:

Joe Colangelo, Town Manager

Chelsea Stevens, Finance Director

Chair Emmanuel Dockter called the Advisory Meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Chair Dockter shared with the committee that the School Committee met on Friday and the Select Board met on Monday. The School Committee is not looking to increase their operating budget beyond the budgeted number. They are looking for an additional \$250,000 for a total of \$750,000 for the Special Education Reserve Fund.

Chair Dockter invited Chelsea to share two (2) documents. One – Free Cash (Definition, Articles using Free Cash for FY '24, Free Cash History, Stabilization Fund, Hanover Crossing TIF, Financial Planning Projections with 2 Assumptions). With this current budget this will leave us with the lowest Free Cash since 2017. The town strives to have a 3-5% of the town Operating available as free cash each year. This target will be difficult to achieve in FY24 given the high use of free cash including use as a “plug” for the Operating Budget and to replenish various Reserve accounts. In addition, the committee discussed the Stabilization Fund. This fund has not been

replenished in many years. Looking at other cities and towns in MA, Hanover's stabilization fund, as a percent of the Operating Budget, falls in Decile 9 (with Decile 10 being the lowest). For FY25 and beyond, the dollar amount / percentage of Operating Budget, fund replenishment strategy and overall Stabilization Fund policy should be reviewed. Regarding the TIF related to Hanover Crossing, Chelsea explained the mechanics and timing related to the tax abatement. To fund the abatement, Chelsea has been building an overlay account.

Chelsea then shared a document that included all money articles for the FY '24 Special Town Meeting Warrant and Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Throughout Chelsea's presentation members asked clarifying questions.

The Chair thanked Chelsea for her presentation.

The Chair moved the vote on approval of prior meeting minutes to the meeting next week.

The committee reviewed their Annual Town Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The committee then began to review the articles for the Town Meeting.

Article 8 – Operating Budget

There is a need to discuss a difference in the South Shore VoTech's budget. The assessment number came in late and we have to add \$110,884 assessment to the budget. After discussion it was decided to move \$100,000 from Snow and Ice. To move \$10,000 from Advisory Reserve Fund; and to use \$844 from Free Cash. A motion was made to reflect the sources for the \$110,884. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Articles 8, 13, 14, 20-24; 26, 27 - Motions and commentary were approved by roll call vote.

Articles 9, 11, 16, 25, 47-51 – Motions approved unanimously. Vote on Commentary at 4/12 meeting.

Articles 16-19 – Need Commentary written.

Article 30 - Motion was not approved unanimously and the members asked for the negative motion to be included in the commentary. This did not require a roll call voter because the member present via Zoom had to leave the meeting. The vote was 5 for, 2 against, 2 absent.

CPC Articles 31-34 - The commentary to be written will be to support CPC motions.

Articles still outstanding – 15-28

Petition Articles – 35, 40

Planning Articles – 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43-46

The Chair discussed future meetings. There will be a meeting next Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30. Plan on a meeting on May 1st at 6 PM right before the Town Meeting for any last minute discussion.

Chair Dockter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Advisory Committee. The meeting adjourned: at 9:07 pm.