

Meeting Minutes of the Special Meeting of Hanover Select Board held remotely via Zoom videoconference on Monday, January 31st , 2022 @ 6:30 PM.

Call meeting to order

At 6:30pm the Chairman called the meeting to order.

Present were Chairman David Delaney, Selectman John Tuzik, Selectwoman Vanessa O'Connor, and Selectman Steve Louko. Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman was unable to attend.

Also present Town Manager Joe Colangelo (TM), Assistant Town Manager/CDMI Director/ HR Director Ann Lee (ATM), Finance Director Chelsea Stevens (FD), Director of Licensing and Insurances/ Executive Assistant Janet Tierney (DLI).

Public Comment

The Chair asked for public comments.

Resident Patricia Taylor raised her virtual hand and proposed investigating the potential use of Sylvester school as a Scout House. Patricia agreed to reach out and follow up with TM on this topic in the coming week or so.

Appointments

The Chair asked for any questions or comments regarding the Town Moderator's request that the Board vote to ratify the Town Moderator's appointments of Bevin Gray and John O'Connor to the Parks and Recreation Committee with terms to run through October 2024, seeing none.

The Board voted to ratify the Town Moderator's appointments of Bevin Gray and John O'Connor to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Louko, aye, Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Selectman Tuzik, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.

Budget

This portion of the meeting was a Joint meeting of the Select Board and the Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee Members Present were : Advisory Committee Chair Emmanuel Dockter, Joan Port-Farwell, Gerard O'Hearn, Steven Freedman, Sandra Hayes, and Greg Satterwhite.

TM presented the Town Manager's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Proposal Presentation, attached.

TM noted that this Proposed Budget would maintain and ensure storm response into the future. Further stating that the Town side of the budget allows for level service with a minimal increase. School Superintendent Matt Ferron will speak on the School budget increases and the reasons for them.

TM noted that in formulating the budget they have tried to maintain a healthy free cash balance with a minimal impact on tax payers, and this proposed budget takes into account FY23 and on into the future. TM cautioned that he does not see a way to make any significant reduction to the Town side of the budget without a significant impact on the services provided. TM informed all that this Budget Presentation as well as the Line Item Budget is available online, and Victor Diniak's budget program will be online tomorrow as well. TM took a moment to thank Finance Director Chelsea Stevens for the incredible job she has done in this her first year serving as Hanover's Finance Director.

Approved
2/7/2022

The Board and Advisory Committee discussed the budget with TM and FD.

TM confirmed for all that 5 of the 8 full time employee reductions were due to the regionalization of emergency dispatch services. FD informed all that the average tax bill to the average homeowner under the proposed budget would be \$9,500 as opposed to the average of \$9,223 under last year's budget.

At 7:13pm the Advisory Committee adjourned.

Annual Town Meeting

The Board voted to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Louko, aye, Selectman Tuzik, aye, Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.

TM presented an amendment to Article 7, (formerly Article 13), General Operating Budget, attached, which replaces the placeholder figures with the actual budget figures.

TM discussed the budget process moving forward after the budget is submitted in accordance with the Town Manager Act, stating that the Budget will now move on to Advisory Committee review and then ultimately Town Meeting will decide on its approval.

Advisory Committee Member Gerry O'Hearn raised his virtual hand and clarified for all that the Advisory Committee cannot change the budget. They can only recommend increases or decreases and then ultimately Town Meeting makes the decision.

The Chair asked for any questions or comments, seeing none.

The Board voted to approve the update to Article 7, (formerly Article 13), General Operating Budget.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Tuzik, aye, Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.

The Chair confirmed that this is the only proposed change to the Warrant this evening.

The Board voted to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Selectman Tuzik, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.

Department Reorganization

Pursuant to the Town Manager Act, TM discussed the proposal to merge the Town's Recreation Programs with the Office of Family and Community Engagement, (FACE), which would move the recreation programs under the School Department. TM stated that this would qualify as a reorganization under the Town Manager Act and ultimately the Board will need to approve the merger, noting that the Board does not need to decide this evening but hopefully in the next meeting or two. Community Services Director Tammy Murray (CSD), and Director of FACE Kelly Lawrence (DFACE), appeared before the Board via Zoom and discussed the reorganization with the Board. The Board confirmed that to the best of everyone's knowledge there haven't been any objections to this reorganization from the Parks and Recreation Committee and/or the School Committee.

CSD, DFACE and FD discussed how the revolving fund and expenditures would work with the Board.

DFACE commented that the timing of this is ideal and this is the best opportunity to rebuild and create something richer for the community. CSD stated that aside from Summer programming it is currently difficult for the Town's current Recreation Program to offer any other programming due to lack of space and transportation issues, and without a way to bring in money it would be difficult to sustain those programs. CSD informed the Board that they are working on stronger language in terms of the responsibilities of those using the fields replacing anything that is broken during their use.

DFACE confirmed that she supports the sustainability of the fields and will certainly continue to discuss and iron out field use fee structures and responsibilities to support field endurance and leaving facilities in the right shape so that they can continue to be used.

TM noted that the idea of this merger has been brought up in the last few years, mainly by the Advisory Committee, but the timing has previously not been good. TM noted that this is another example where the Town will work together with the School resulting in a better product for all. TM agreed to put this topic on an upcoming agenda for a formal vote of the Board on the approval of this reorganization.

Town Manager Report

TM thanked Fire Chief Cavallaro for the tremendous job handling the recent the storm, which was the first big emergency since his becoming the Emergency Management Agency Director. TM also thanked Police Chief Kane and the DPW Crew for all their hard work bringing the Town back into shape during and after the storm.

The Chair commended the efforts of National Grid during the storm as well.

Select Board Forum

Selectman Louko mentioned a bad accident that had recently occurred in the intersection of Grove Street and Route 139, and inquired about forming an Action Committee to proactively seek solutions and to get the State to pay attention to this dangerous roadway within the Town.

TM informed the Board that the current Action Committee is the Select Board and TM and TM has been and will continue to beat the drum on this issue to our State Senator and State Representative. The Chair agreed to reach out to State Representative David DeCoste, who has been pushing for the roadway improvements and report back to the Board on any information Representative DeCoste provides. The Chair welcomed any ideas from the Members of the Board. TM informed the Board that the Roadway Study conducted by OCPC is available online and reminded the Board that the Annual Town Meeting Warrant has an Article requesting \$250,000 of free cash for an engineering study. TM agreed to invite the Director of Public Works to an upcoming meeting to speak on this topic with the Board and to send the Board a copy of the OCPC Study in the meantime.

Adjourn

At 8:05pm, the Board took a roll call vote to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Selectman Tuzik, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.