

Meeting Minutes of the Hanover Select Board Special Meeting held in a Hybrid Format with both in person attendees in the First Floor Hearing Room of Town Hall as well as remote attendees via Zoom videoconference, on Monday, January 9th, 2023 @ 7:00 pm.

Call meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance

At 7:00pm the Chair called the meeting to order.

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

Also present at Town Hall were Town Manager Joe Colangelo (TM), Assistant Town Manager, CDMI and HR Director Ann Lee (ATM), and via Zoom Director of Public Affairs, Licensing and Insurances Janet Tierney (DPA).

All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

The Chair requested any public comments not pertaining to an item listed on tonight's agenda, seeing none.

Budget

Discuss Fiscal Year 2024 School Department Budget

Superintendent of Schools Matthew Ferron and School Business Manager Michael Perrone appeared before the Board and discussed the proposed FY2024 School Department Budget, [attached](#). They also discussed proposed fee changes to the Full Day Kindergarten Program with the Board, the Comparison of Pre and Post Pandemic Full Day Kindergarten Tuition Rates in Massachusetts which was presented is [attached](#). The Superintendent agreed to look into getting one transportation vendor and to try bidding out for all rides, in Town and out of Town. They noted that they will also be presenting this information to the Advisory Committee later this week and will keep the Board posted. The Superintendent agreed to follow up with TM tomorrow.

Discuss Fiscal Year 2024 'Initial' Budget Presentation from January 3

TM discussed the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Presentation with the Board, [attached](#), noting that he has to submit his Budget by the end of the month. TM requested direction from the Board relative to where the Board would like to set the Tax Levy and what amount of Free Cash the Board is comfortable with using. The Board discussed the Budget Presentation and the potential impacts of the School Dept Budget updates discussed this evening on the overall Budget with TM. TM confirmed that the programs discussed with the Superintendent this evening would add an approximate additional 1.1 Million to the budget presented last week, (and being referenced to again at this meeting). The Board requested more details on the impacts of the different budgeting scenarios. TM agreed to have the Department Heads present at the next meeting to discuss what a zero-budget increase on the Town side would look like for each Department in terms of a service delivery perspective.

Town Meeting

Review and Discuss Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant

TM and ATM presented the recent article additions to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant from the Planning Board and Community Preservation Committee, (CPC), [attached](#).

They informed the Board that the Planning Board Articles have been approved by the Planning Board and are being submitted by motion of the Planning Board. TM informed the Board that there will be likely more new insertions next week as CPC is holding the public hearing on Wednesday on the applications submitted to them.

Town Manager Forum

TM informed the Board that the perc test is underway for the Fire Station at 611 Webster Street. The interim acceptance form to get Hanover into interim compliance with MBTA zoning was submitted before the new year. It has not been formally accepted yet but it is anticipated for it to be accepted possibly with some minor modifications.

Also, the contract was signed before the end of the year to move the MassWorks Project for Route 53 and the like ahead. Noting that before signing, TM received a letter of commitment from PREP to fund any additional balance due under the contract, over and above the MassWorks Grant and any other grant funding, as required in the Planning Board Approval. It is expected that the project will be completed by next November.

Lastly, TM mentioned that the 8 winning names in the Name the Plow contest have been chosen, the contest was a big success and the new decals are on order.

Select Board Forum

Vice Chair O'Connor mentioned that she had received questions regarding the tax Classification Hearing and if it would be possible to have the tax rate set earlier in the budget process.

TM informed the Board that the Hearing has to take place at a certain time and could not be set earlier. He agreed to request a more detailed reason why it has to happen when it does from the Town Assessor and will provide that answer to the Board.

The Chair informed all that the bill to change the name of the Hanover Board of Selectmen to Select Board passed in the senate, moved to the house, and died in the house. The bill will be refiled again and hopefully get it passed in the next session.

Selectman Louko informed all that he had taken a tour of water facilities last week, and was very impressed to see processes the water goes through to treat the water to become crystal clear, noting that they are doing an excellent job over there not an easy job, but all three of the big filter tanks are using carbon filtration so PFAS levels are below the limits set by state and federal government at this point which was great to see.

Executive Session

At 8:52pm, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21(a)3, the Chair requested a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with the Police and Fire Unions as a discussion of this topic in Open Session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

The Chair announced that the Board will not be returning to Open Session.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Tuzik, aye, Vice Chair O'Connor, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, and Chair Nyman, aye.

At 8:52pm the Board moved into Executive Session.

The meeting ended and adjourned at 9:08pm