

Hanover Advisory Committee
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 1, 2016
Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen

Opening:

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Chris Martin, Chairman.

Committee Attendees:

Chris Martin

Emmanuel Dockter

Jerry O'Hearn

Joan Port-Farwell

Edward Hickey

Wayne Moores

Brandon Freeman

Sandra Hayes

Angela Blanchard

Selectmen Attendees

Brian Barthelmes

Robert O'Rourke

Joseph Salvucci

David Delaney

Other Attendees:

Troy Clarkson, Hanover Town Manager

Ann Lee, Board of Selectmen Executive Assistant

BOS Opening

Chairman Brian Barthelmes opened their meeting at 7pm. Chairman Barthelmes inquired if any audience members had any comment or discussion item for the Open Forum portion of the meeting. Seeing none, the first agenda item was addressed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The BOS voted to approve their meeting minutes of January 19, 2016.

Planning Board Vacancy

The BOS voted to appoint Jeffrey Puleo to the Hanover Planning Board.

Planning Office of Urban Affairs & Affordable Housing

All present were given an update on the status of local funding for the Kennedy Building renovation by David Egan.

First Southwest

All present were given an update on the debt and refunding by Abbey Jeffers and Peter Frazier. The BOS approved the release of information from the Hanover Treasurer to further this process.

Troy Clarkson-FY17 Proposed Budget Presentation

Town Manager Troy Clarkson gave an overview of the proposed FY17 budget. Troy Clarkson explained the estimated revenues including levy limits, estimated new growth, increased commercial activity on Rt. 53, local receipts and ambulance rate increases. Appropriations was then reviewed including the addition of the Park & Recreation budget to the Municipal Department, transfer of the water billing and purchasing to Town Hall and an increase in the health insurance costs. The proposed increase in the schools budget will be fully accommodated by the estimated revenues, and the budget is balanced without the use of free cash. Troy Clarkson stated that the cost of the proposed addition/renovation to Center/Sylvester School is not included in this budget. Troy Clarkson also briefly touched on the Hanover citizen's survey that was conducted and noted the positive review of living in Hanover. BOS Chairman Barthelmes thanked Mr. Clarkson for the hard work on the proposed budget. Advisory Committee Chairman Chris Martin stated that the Committee would start meeting with department heads to review each budget more closely. With taxes going up and many capital projects on the horizon, being fiscally conservative is very important. Chris Martin also stated that he would like to see maintenance become more routine in order to save the cost of extensive repairs later. Troy Clarkson stated that he is also concerned about the cost of upcoming capital projects and tax increases. The reuse of Sylvester School, Salmond School and the sale of the old Senior Center was mentioned regarding offsetting some of the financial burden. Edward Hickey asked whether departments were allowed to shift money to different line items in their budget. Troy Clarkson stated they could but only within that department. To transfer money to another department requires approval of the Advisory Committee. Edward Hickey asked if inflating department budgets to avoid free cash use also removes the incentive for departments to cut costs. Troy Clarkson stated that having extra funds set aside for unexpected expenses was necessary and that he works closely with each department to reduce costs. Joan Port-Farwell stated that she would like the communication with Hanover senior citizens regarding taxes to improve. Troy Clarkson stated that he believes communication within Hanover has improved in many areas but that he would focus on seniors and appreciated the suggestion for improvement. Selectmen Joseph Salvucci mentioned producing the 3-year projection budget. Troy Clarkson stated the 3-year projection was being worked on. Selectmen Robert O'Rourke asked if costs had been reduced in the budget for town counsel. Troy Clarkson stated that reductions had indeed been made, and it was a success. BOS Chairman Brian Barthelmes inquired if the audience had any questions. None were put forward.

Approval of Minutes

Angela Blanchard made a motion to accept the minutes from *January 20, 2016*. This was seconded by Edward Hickey. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Advisory Committee Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, February 10th at 7pm.

BOS Adjournment

Joseph Salvucci made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert O'Rourke. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Advisory Committee Adjournment

Sandra Hayes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Angela Blanchard. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.