



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee

550 Hanover Street

Hanover, MA 02339

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 23, 2020 - 5:30 pm

Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

Committee Attendees

Ted Hickey, Chair

Joan Port-Farwell

Gavin Little-Gill

Steve Freedman

Steve Kmito

Sandy Hayes

Jim Hoyes

Gerard O'Hearn

Emmanuel Dockter

Other Attendees

Joe Colangelo, Town Manager

Lincoln Heineman, Director of Finance

Chelsea Stevens, Town Accountant

Vanessa O'Connor

Emmanuel Dockter

Ted opened the meeting at 5:30 with 8 members present. The ninth member joined shortly after.

Approval of minutes was tabled until the next week.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss a Reserve Fund Transfer for MIH COVID testing purposes.

Town Manager Joe Colangelo shared with the committee the challenges that created the need to make this request.

- Spike in cases
- Demand for testing increasing
- The Board of Selectmen's directive to keep the program going

Given current conditions the program will need to be shut down until there is more funding.

Chairman Ted Hickey discussed that the Reserve Fund law provides for exceptions and this would be considered extraordinary or extreme. There has been a significant rise in cases in the last 3 weeks. As of 12/30/20 there is no more CARES Act money.

There may be funds available from FEMA at 75% reimbursement. We aren't sure and when it will happen.

We went to a fee model of \$38 for senior and \$120 for others.

We were paying \$60 per test through Fallon Ambulance, but we were able to secure a new vendor at a cost of \$36.83.

The question is how do we make this process cost-effective? Having the program up and running helps us advance to the end goal.

Chief Blanchard shared that they have achieved cost efficiencies and a tip of the hat to group and nurses. It has been a team effort. We find and work through best practices every day and continue to work with MEMA and FEMA.

Ted shared that we are taking a risk to use the Reserve Fund. He is optimistic that we will get the reimbursement. He also shared that there is a mechanism to get the money back into the account.

Chairman Hickey opened the meeting up to members who had comments or questions.

Why aren't we getting more insurance reimbursement.

"We are unable to bill insurance for COVID testing, if that opens up we are ready to react."

"We are not a doctors group!"

How did you arrive at numbers, total tests and those paid for seniors and not seniors.

"Through the data collected through symptomatic, non-symptomatic, contact tracing.

Chairman Hickey reminded the committee that they are working on the Board of Selectmen's directive.

Lincoln shared that there are likely savings in other areas of the budget. Relief valves have been recognized.

There was a motion to vote:

1. \$55,028 for overtime – unanimous – all present
2. \$96,830.84 expenses relating to testing – unanimous – all present

Where this meeting was 2 days before Christmas it was decided to table the review minutes until the next meeting. Another topic for the next meeting will be the leadership on the board requiring discussion for the best plan.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.