



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee

550 Hanover Street

Hanover, MA 02339

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 - 6:00 pm

Via Video Conference Call

Committee Attendees

Ted Hickey, Chair

Sandra Hayes

Steven Freedman

Gavin Little-Gill

Nick Morwood

Joan Port-Farwell

Steve Kmito

Jerry O'Hearn

Jim Hoyes

Other Attendees

Joe Colangelo, Town Manager

Lincoln Heineman, Director of Finance

Matt Ferron, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Thomas Raab, Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance

There were over 30 guests on the video conference call.

Opening

The meeting was opened at 6:02 pm by Chair Ted Hickey. Roll call was taken and 7 members were present at roll call, and 2 joined the meeting right after the roll call.

Ted shared, with the audience, that the Advisory Committee tasked the Department Heads to eliminate the use of Free Cash for the FY21 Budget at their last meeting.

Chairman Hickey recognized the School Department and Superintendent Ferron opened the school discussion with the task that the Advisory Committee wanted the Schools to take on. Matt and Tom agreed that they didn't feel they could accomplish the reduction task that the Advisory Committee requested. They didn't feel they could accomplish the task in a professional workable plan. Tom shared the FY'21 Hanover Public Schools Budget Update Presentation. Tom reviewed the Budget Approval Schedule, Budgeting and Planning Challenges, identifying the Operating Budget Gaps including Pre-Covid-19 through Current Budget Phases, and closed with the FY'21 Operating Budget Gap Initiatives.

Ted thanked Matt and Tom for their presentation and asked the Advisory Committee if they had any questions. Questions were asked around local aid funding which no one currently knows; it is frustrating not knowing. School Committee member John Geary shared that he feels there is a need to formalize strategic possibilities of the future. There were questions about the SPED Reserve Fund. The School Department wants to preserve the fund. Tom shared that an out-of-district student could come into the system and cost \$60,000 to \$70,000 plus transportation of \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. To access the SPED funds both the School

Committee and Board of Selectmen need to agree. It does not require a Town Meeting vote. Tom shared that they would like to have \$400,000 to \$500,000 available in the SPED fund. The SPED fund currently has \$210,000 in the account.

Ted thanked the School Department for their presentation.

The Advisory Committee continued their meeting with a discussion on the July 1/12 budget that will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their Friday 6/5/20 meeting. Questions from the Committee were: "how does operating under a 1/12 budget work? Another question was about the Pension/Retirement payment and have we asked the County Treasurer if we can pay monthly without a penalty, given the budgetary issues we are all facing.

The Committee started reviewing motions and commentaries for Town Meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 10th at 6 PM.

Adjournment

Ted asked for a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.