

Hanover Advisory Committee
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 7:00pm

Opening:

The meeting was opened at 7:03 p.m. by Chris Martin, Chairman.

Committee Attendees:

Chris Martin
Donald White
Jerry O’Hearn
Joan Port-Farwell

Helen Graves
Sandra Hayes
Angela Blanchard

Absent:

Edward Hickey
Wayne Moores

Other Attendees:

Ms. Janine Smith, Director of Municipal Finance
Mr. John Shea, First Congregational Church
Ms. Maureen Cooke, South Shore Community Action Council

Review of Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Angela Blanchard made a motion to accept the minutes. Helen Graves seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion with John Shea, First Congregational Church

Mr. Shea discussed with the Committee Article 47 – Appropriate Funds – First Congregational Church Windows. Mr. Shea explained to the Committee that the church was the original meeting house prior to independence from Britain so it is an important part of Hanover’s history. The windows in the building are inadequate to protect the building from the elements. In order to protect this historic building, the windows need replacement. The church is able to cover only a portion of this cost, and is asking the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to appropriate funds in the amount of \$80,450 to maintain and repair this historic structure. Helen Graves asked if this was a total replacement of the windows. Mr. Shea stated that yes it was. Angela Blanchard asked what percentage the church would be contributing to the cost. Mr. Shea stated more than 10 percent. Chris Martin stated that providing a dollar amount of what the church is contributing would be helpful.

Discussion with Maureen Cooke, South Shore Community Action Council

Ms. Cooke discussed an article to be included on the Special Warrant. The South Shore Community Action Council is requesting each town it serves to donate \$5,000.00 toward their program. The South Shore Community Action Council offers programs to resident's based on their income qualification and is funded by the Federal Government. Numerous programs are offered such as fuel assistance, visiting nurses, home insulation, furnace/boiler replacements, Lead-A-Hand, Head Start, first time homebuyer education, CDL training and emergency funds to stop evictions. The additional monies contributed by the towns served will assist The Council in continuing to provide the many valuable programs they offer. Chris Martin asked if this would become an annual donation. Ms. Cooke stated that most likely yes it would.

Warrant for Annual Town Meeting Motion and Commentary Review:

Article 1 – Accept Reports in Annual Town Report: Helen Graves made a motion to accept the motion. This was seconded by Angela Blanchard. All were in favor and the motion passed. Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the commentary as written. This was seconded by Jerry O’Hearn. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 2 – Hear/Accept Reports of Committees & State Officials: Jerry O’Hearn made a motion to accept the motion and commentary as written. This was seconded by Sandra Hayes. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 3 – Authorize Treasurer to Accept Trust Funds: Helen Graves made a motion to accept the motion. This was seconded by Angela Blanchard. All were in favor and the motion passed. The word “fiscal” was added to the commentary. Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the commentary as amended. This was seconded by Sandra Hayes. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 4 – Authorize Treasurer to Dispose of Tax Title Land: Helen Graves made a motion to accept the motion. This was seconded by Angela Blanchard. All were in favor and the motion passed. The word “to” was deleted from the commentary. Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the commentary as amended. This was seconded by Sandra Hayes. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 5 – Enter into Compensating Balance Agreements: Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the motion. This was seconded by Jerry O’Hearn. All were in favor and the motion passed. Helen Graves made a motion to accept the commentary as written. This was seconded by Angela Blanchard. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 6 – Assume Liability to Allow State DEP Work: Helen Graves made a motion to accept the motion. This was seconded by Angela Blanchard. All were in favor and the motion passed. Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the commentary as written. This was seconded by Helen Graves. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 7 – Set Pay for Elective Officers: After a discussion regarding the Town Clerk’s annual salary, Donald White made a motion to increase the clerk’s salary from \$56,769.00 to \$59,000.00. The motion was seconded as amended by Sandra Hayes. All were in favor and the motion passed. The commentary was amended to reflect the change to the motion. Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the commentary as amended. This was seconded by Helen Graves. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 8 – School Sick Leave Buyback Fund: After a discussion regarding the fund, Donald White made a motion to increase the appropriated funds from \$100,000.00 to \$200,000.00. The motion was seconded as amended by Helen Graves. All were in favor and the motion passed. The commentary was amended to reflect the change to the motion. Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the commentary as amended. This was seconded by Sandra Hayes. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 9 – Town Sick Leave Buyback Fund: After a discussion regarding the fund, Donald White made a motion to increase the appropriated funds from \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00. The motion was seconded as amended by Jerry O’Hearn. All were in favor and the motion passed. The commentary was amended to reflect the change to the motion. Helen Graves made a motion to accept the commentary as amended. This was seconded by Sandra Hayes. All were in favor and the motion passed. Angela Blanchard recused herself from both votes regarding this article.

Article 10 – Appropriate CPC Revenues for FY2016: Helen Graves made a motion to accept the motion. This was seconded by Angela Blanchard. All were in favor and the motion passed. Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the commentary as written. This was seconded by Jerry O’Hearn. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Article 12 – General Fund Operating Budget: A discussion was had regarding the budget and the possibility of paying for the Advisory Committee-proposed Town Clerk salary increase by using money from the Hanover Middle School equipment maintenance account. Chris Martin asked Janine Smith to consult with Facilities Director Bob Murray to see if there will be enough money left in the account if the transfer of funds takes place. Helen Graves made a motion to accept the motion with the possibility of reopening Article 12 should the adjusted Middle School line item be deemed insufficient. This was seconded by Donald White. All were in favor and the motion passed. New commentary was inserted into the article. Jerry O’Hearn made a motion to accept the commentary. This was seconded by Donald White. All were in favor and the motion passed. Angela Blanchard recused herself from both votes regarding this article.

Article 13 – Water Enterprise Budget: Helen Graves made a motion to accept the motion. This was seconded by Angela Blanchard. All were in favor and the motion passed. Jerry O’Hearn made a motion to accept the commentary as written. This was seconded by Joan Port-Farwell. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Schedule for next Wednesday, April 15th meeting

The Committee will welcome petitioners to discuss warrant articles. Art Ceurvets will give the Committee an update on the bandstand.

Adjournment

Angela Blanchard made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Joan Port-Farwell. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.