

Town of Hanover
Advisory Committee
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2014 7:00pm

Opening:

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

Committee Attendees:

Chris Martin, Donald White, Angela Blanchard, Jerry O’Hearn, Wayne Moores, Joan Port Farwell

Absent:

Helen Graves, Edward Hickey

Other Attendees: Troy Clarkson, Town Manager

Introductions:

The Committee members introduced themselves to the new member Joan Port Farwell and welcomed her to the Committee.

Review Association of Town Finance Committee Meeting Registration:

The Committee reviewed information presented to them by Janine Smith, Director of Municipal Finance. Chris Martin asked the committee members to review the information and let him know if they would be interested in attending the meeting.

Fy2016 Capital Items:

Chris Martin requested Troy Clarkson, Town Manager, is contacted to stop into the meeting and present the committee with information regarding capital items. Troy arrived to speak to the committee at 7:30. Chris Martin asked Troy Clarkson where the Town of Hanover stood regarding fiscal health particularly taxes, budgets, and capital items. Town Manager Troy Clarkson spoke at length regarding the preparation he was currently involved in with the Board of Selectman. He indicated that financially the state of the Town of Hanover has never been stronger. Troy shared with the committee his directives from the Board of Selectman to continue to reduce spending. Troy's goal is to continue to work to reduce the number of FTE's. Troy also spoke about further reducing the Town's reliance on free cash.

Chris Martin spoke to Troy Clarkson about the Committee's hope to increase the frequency of meetings prior to March. The hope is that by meeting more frequently on an earlier basis the committee will be able to be proactive rather than reactive. Don White conveyed his request to Troy Clarkson that the committee be allowed time to discuss any potential warrant items before they are added to the warrant. Chris Martin asked Troy to work with the Advisory Committee to set up untelevised meetings with the Board of Selectman earlier this year than they occurred last year.

The Committee had an in-depth discussion with Town Manager Troy Clarkson about the state of the Town's Sick Leave buy back as well as the committee's concern regarding the FY2016 budget for the school system.

CPC Discussion:

A brief discussion on the Community Preservation Commission took place. The committee expressed their concerns as a whole that historically the C.P.C has unnecessarily spent too much money. The committee discussed different ways to combat this overspending.

Reorganization Vote:

A brief discussion occurred as to the future organization of the Advisory Committee.

Don White made a motion to elect Chris Martin as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. Jerry O'Hearn seconded and it was so voted.

Closing:

At 8:47pm Don White made a motion to adjourn, Angela Blanchard seconded and it was so voted.