



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 – 6 PM
Virtual Meeting

Committee Attendees

Emmanuel Dockter
Jim Hoyes
Joan Port-Farwell
Greg Satterwhite

Gavin Little-Gill
Steve Kmito
Gerry O'Hearn
Steven Freedman

Absent:

Sandy Hayes

Other Attendees

Chelsea Stevens, Finance Dir.
Jeff Blanchard, Fire Chief
Vanessa O'Connor, Selectboard
Michael Cianciola, Resident
Maxwell DeSilvia, Intern

Emmanuel Dockter, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Emmanuel shared with the committee that he wanted to move Article 6 on the agenda to the first agenda item – Public Recording, Broadcast and Availability of Meetings. Emmanuel started the discussion and each members shared their thoughts and concerns about the new policy. COVID has changed expectations. Members shared concerns that past meetings were stated as being used for minute purposes. Others were concerned that we ask “What If” questions during discussions with department heads and those discussions are just that and not a fact that. An other concern was a privacy concern. There were two (2) polls taken by the committee : 1) The eight (8) members present were comfortable and supportive of the policy. 2) Past recordings were there legal requirements? The committee wanted to be sure all legal requirements were met and if issues exist to review with town counsel, 2 Steps – Legal issues and how far back do we go? The Town Manager will look into whether the legal requirements were met and then the Town Manager can report back to the committee.

Emmanuel opened the discussions to public comment and Chief Blanchard spoke on the topic. He is in favor of the recordings because the public see the full conversations and it could potentially move town meeting along if the residents are able to look back at discussions before the town meeting so that they are informed on the topic. The Chief also felt it provided the community with all the work that goes into all of the articles that are on a warrant. The committee congratulated the Chief on his upcoming retirement.

The board then moved through the rest of their agenda.

Emmanuel reminded each member of their responsibility to be sure they were up-to-date on their conflict of interest documentation and exam and were also up-to-date on all other documents Oath and Open Meeting Law.

The minutes for the September 22, 2021 meeting – a motion was made to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed with 6 approvals and 2 abstained.

The next agenda item - resident member introductions. Mike Cianciola was present and one other resident, Doug MacLellan was unable to attend due to a work commitment, but both are interested in being resident members.

The board received a draft of the Advisory Committee Annual Report. Emmanuel thanked Chelsea for putting this together. The committee had questions on the role and make-up in paragraph 2; and who should be listed as the committee, last years committee or the current committee who is accepting the report.

The board then moved to discuss the capital budget. Some committee members were able to have their first meetings with their assigned department heads. They each shared their early findings. There are potential items on the capital budget that will ultimately not make the final cut for the capital budget this year, but there will be ongoing discussions over the next 3 meetings with the department heads to get more information.

There was a fleet discussion and the committee reviewed an early version of the fleet spreadsheet that the town manager is developing.

The committee will be meeting the next 3 weeks to meet with department heads to review their capital budgets.

A motion was made to adjourn, that was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.