



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee

550 Hanover Street

Hanover, MA 02339

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 27, 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

Chelsea Stevens, Town Accountant

Jeffrey Blanchard, Fire Chief

Ann Lee, CDMI

Bill Scarpelli, CPC

Jonathan Chu, CPC

Steve Louko, CPC

Tom Burke, Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Opening

The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm by Chair Ted Hickey. Roll call was taken and 8 members were present at roll call, and 1 came into the meeting right after the roll call.

Chair Ted Hickey thanked CPC for attending the meeting. Member Bill Scarpelli started the discussion reminding the Advisory Committee that the reduction in the CPA surcharge would result in \$858,000 per year loss of revenue if Town Meeting petitions the Legislature to reduce the CPA surcharge from 3% to 1.2% for the next two years. That would mean an average \$100 reduction in tax bills. The rest of the CPC committee present reminded the Advisory Committee that the decision to reduce CPA funding is suspending long-term planning. CPC reminded the Committee that the decision by the Board of Selectmen also involves the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. They do not think this is a good decision for the Town of Hanover as it suspends long-term planning.

Tom Burke, Chair of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund also shared there is a leverage point when the Town is working with private entities and their projects that includes affordable housing.

The Advisory Committee had some comments relating to this possible action. One member was surprised that the amount affecting taxpayers would be only \$100. Another member

shared that when the CPA funding started there was a 50/50 match, and seniors were led to believe they would be exempt. This member also feels the proposed \$100 reduction is the Town showing good faith to taxpayers. Another member thought we should remind ourselves of the 3 pillars of CPA – Community Housing, Open Space Acquisition, and Historical Preservation with a 5% administrative cost. Another member reminded everyone there is \$2.4 million in the CPC account.

CPC responded to the senior tax payer issue – seniors can request an abatement!

CPC also shared projects that may have funding requests – Sylvester and Salmond School properties and improvements to the Rail Trail.

CPC was asked if the CPC Coalition is involved with them. The answer is, yes, and they would like it defeated at the June Town Meeting. If it gets to Beacon Hill they will give a negative response to the petition.

Ted thanked CPC for attending the meeting.

The Advisory Committee then continued with the agenda - FY21 Budget. Ted has had conversations with stakeholders. He feels we need to preserve Free Cash. The state budget deficit could be \$6.6 billion. He feels we need to be more conservative to leave us options. Ted is also concerned about the SPED Reserve Account. Ted reminded the Committee that one student who requires out-of-district placement could cost \$100,000 per year. The account has \$210,000. Ted requested Joe & Lincoln create a budget without the \$750,000 use of Free Cash. Ted's suggestion would be a split of the \$750,000 (\$350,000 Town, \$400,000 Schools) requesting to meet with the School Dept. next week to discuss proportional cuts with outcomes, along with their FY21 School Budget.

Town Meeting – If Town Meeting doesn't happen on 6/29 the Town will have to move to a 1/12 budget per month. The July budget is higher than most months because of one-time annual obligations, the largest being pension obligations. The other difference between FY20 and FY21 is that July 2019 had 3 payroll weeks and July 2020 has 4 payroll weeks. Joe asked if the Retirement Board would waive fees during this budget crisis year. Lincoln will investigate. Ted shared with the Committee that the 1/12 budget stinks and that the Moderator has become more comfortable with using the gym for Town Meeting. The 1/12 budget will be shared at the BOS meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd.

Special Town Meeting Commentary will move to next week's meeting. Lincoln shared a draft commentary for the Special Town Meeting Warrant and so the Committee will have time to review.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 3rd at 6 PM.

Adjournment

Ted asked for a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.