

**Meeting Minutes of the Special Meeting of Hanover Select Board held remotely via Zoom videoconference on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 8:00 PM.**

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**Call meeting to order**

At 8:00pm the Chairman called the meeting to order.

Present were Chairman David Delaney, Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman, Selectman John Tuzik, Selectwoman Vanessa O'Connor, and Selectman Steve Louko.

Also present Town Manager Joe Colangelo (TM), and Finance Director Chelsea Stevens (FD), and Director of Public Works Victor Diniak.

**Public Comment**

The Chair asked for public comments, seeing none.

**Budget/Finance**

**Review and Discuss FY2023 Hanover Public Schools Budget**

Hanover Schools Superintendent Matthew Ferron and Interim Assistant Schools Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Perrone appeared before the Board via Zoom and presented the Hanover public schools FY 2023 School Department Budget, attached. Superintendent Ferron noted that the Community has high quality standards for and expects excellence in the Town's school system.

The Board discussed the Hanover Schools Budget with Superintendent Ferron and Assistant Superintendent Perrone.

Chair asked for any questions or comments, seeing none.

**Review and Discuss FY2023 Updated Initial Budget**

TM appeared before the Board via Zoom and ran through the updated FY2023 Initial Budget informing the Board that there is one week to go under the Town Manager Act before TM will present the Budget Submission in accordance with the Town Manager Act. It will then go through the Advisory Committee process. In the version presented tonight the budget gap has been brought to zero. This version has fully funded the school budget, and squeezed all they could out of the Town side of the budget. TM informed the Board that there are a few ways to get to zero using the levers available such as tightening up expenditures, increasing the tax levy more than 2.5 percent or cutting back on the number of capital projects being considered as opposed to using a high level of free cash. FD informed the Board that she agrees that keeping a higher amount of free cash for next year would be a good idea. TM informed the Board that the highest increase on the municipal side of the budget in the last four years was 3.1 percent, with an average of barely a 1 percent increase in the last three years. Keeping the increase at 1 percent again this year would involve a reduction in service.

TM asked for the Select Board's guidance.

The Board discussed the updated initial budget with TM and FD.

Approved  
2/7/2022

Director of Public Works Victor Diniak appeared before the Board and discussed the DPW's proposed free cash projects.

The Board discussed possible free cash capital projects to remove from consideration.

TM and FD recommended that the budget use approximately a million dollars less free cash than that currently allocated in the proposed budget.

The Board further discussed capital projects, reducing expenses and levels of taxing with TM and FD.

TM informed the Board that he will come back with an updated budget which will hopefully be satisfactory to all next week and the Board will have a chance to make last minute modifications before the budget is submitted the following day.

### **Annual Town Meeting**

#### **Consider Approving the Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

TM informed the Board that the order of the warrant articles falls under the purview of the Board. TM discussed an email TM and the Board received from the Town Moderator suggesting a change in the current order of articles. The Board discussed the Moderator's suggestion and voted to change the order of the articles in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as recommended by the Town Moderator. Roll call vote: Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Selectman Tuzik, aye, Vice Chair Nyman, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.

The Board discussed the proposed turf field project with Superintendent Ferron, DPW Director Diniak and TM.

#### **Town Manager Report**

TM informed the Board that he had met with Emergency Management team this morning and the consensus is that the Town should plan to continue holding virtual meetings until March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board agreed.

#### **Select Board Forum**

Vice Chair Nyman wished her friend Claire Cronin well in her new role as US Ambassador to Ireland.

The Board thanked TM for putting tonight's Fireworks Site meeting together.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting ended and adjourned via roll call vote at 10pm.

Roll call vote: Selectman Louko, aye, Vice Chair Nyman, aye, Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Selectman Tuzik, aye, and Chairman Delaney, aye.