

Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Hanover Select Board held remotely via Zoom videoconference on Monday, January 3rd, 2022 @ 6:30 PM.

Call meeting to order

At 6:30pm 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), Assistant Town Manager/HR Director/CDMI Director Ann Lee (ATM), Director of Licensing and Insurances/ Executive Assistant Janet Tierney, Finance Director Chelsea Stevens (FD), and Director of Public Works Victor Diniak.

Public Comment

The Chair asked for public comments, seeing none.

Budget

Review and Discuss the Initial Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund Operating Budget

TM presented the Initial Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund Operating Budget Presentation to the Board, attached. TM informed the Board that this he will be working with the Board until the end of the month to arrive at a Budget that the Board can be comfortable with before submitting the budget by February 1st in accordance with the Town Manager Act.

The Board discussed the presentation with TM.

Review and Discuss the FY2023 Initial Public Works General Fund Budget

Director of Public Works Victor Diniak Presented the Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works Budget, not including the Water Budget.

FD cautioned the Board against cutting the snow and ice budget, if they were to make cuts, as the DOR has a rule that if you cut the snow and ice budget you cannot raise on the recap if need be. Noting that if the Board were to cut the snow and ice budget they would have to use free cash in the following year.

The Board discussed the Budget with the Director of Public Works.

Annual Town Meeting

TM presented the updated Draft Warrant to the Board noting that an article for a \$500,000 appropriation from free cash to the SPED reserve is going to be added.

TM stated that the review of the warrant will continue and reminded the Board that the Warrant will close at the end of the month on January 25th.

When asked about limitations on the use of free cash, FD informed the Board that 3% -5% amount is a recommendation of the DOR not a rule. The percentage affects the Town's credit rating. FD noted that is good to show a strong free cash balance. 3% - 5% is the amount we need to generate each year. The Town doesn't actually have to hang on to that amount but you wouldn't want to

Approved
2/7/2022

spend it all. FD advised that the Town keep a certain percentage that you do not use, so that you have that starting balance next year to help you get to the 3% - 5%. Which based upon this year's budget would be around \$2 Million dollars. There is no real rule from DOR it is more a recommendation to keep a healthy balance of free cash.

FD discussed outside funding, CARES Act and ARPA with the Board, expressing that the Cares Act money is up to the cap and that she believes anything that would qualify for ARPA funding has been removed from the budget. FD stated that ARPA is stricter on what the funds can be used for.

FD also noted that the Board may notice an increase from last year as the Department Heads had not included any Covid expenses in their budgets last year because the CARES Act funding was expected to cover them.

Select Board Forum

Selectman Louko inquired about the PFAS remediation class action lawsuit and what Hanover should do if anything with regards to it. TM informed the Board that he has reached out to Town Counsel and hopes to have Town Counsel address the Board sometime this month on this topic.

Selectman Tuzik acknowledged Ann Lee and Janet Tierney for coming in on a day off to swear in the new Acting Police Chief and Acting Fire Chief, and noted that they are great examples of the dedication of most Town Hall employees and deserve credit for going out of their way over the holiday to take care of this for the Town.

The Board congratulated Acting Police Chief Tim Kane and Acting Fire Chief Jason Cavallaro.

Executive Session

In accordance with MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)2, the Chair requested a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, namely the Police Chief and the Fire Chief. The Chair announced that the Board will not be returning to open session.

Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Nyman, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Selectman Tuzik, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.

At 8:05pm the Board moved into Executive Session

Adjourn

The meeting ended and adjourned at 9:05pm