

APPROVED

Hanover Finance Committee

Monday January 9, 2012

Tracy Hall

Norwich, VT

Members present: Kristi Fenner (Chair), John Ruth, Heidi Postupack, Michael Gerling, Kevin Cotter, Daryl Press

Absent: Peter Christie

Also present: John Aubin, John Chamberlain, Frank Bass

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:50PM

Agenda Items Discussed

1. Review/amendment of agenda

The Chair asked for comments on the agenda. There were none.

2. Public comments on items not on the agenda

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes of HFC meeting of December 12, 2011

J. Ruth made a motion to approve the minutes, second by H. Postupack

The minutes passed.

5. Hanover School Budget

- There was a discussion regarding the number of teachers in the Ray School given the declining enrollment figures. K. Fenner distributed an analysis showing per pupil costs projected based on her analysis.

- The Proposed Budget includes 24 teachers which is one less than the current 25. There has been some discussion regarding whether given the student population projects, whether additional teaching positions should be removed from the budget.

- The administration pointed out that while the average class size is below target given the projected student population, that the mix does not work out so that a staffing position can be easily eliminated without having some classes that are too low, despite the "average".

- It was also noted that projecting actual student enrollment is difficult and there are swings, it is recommended that a reduction of only one staff position in the coming year and see how the population really settles next year.

- There was a discussion regarding the proposed warrant for \$60,000 to the Special Reserve Fund and \$25,000 to the Building Reserve Fund. A discussion of the on going need for these reserves were held.

- John Aubin pointed out that a tentative settlement with the teachers on a new contract has been reached. No details could be provided, but they will be released at the Board meeting of 1/10/2012. The teachers contract will be submitted as a separate warrant for voter approval.

- Proposed Budget

- The Hanover Proposed Budget shows a year-to-year decline of \$188,390 or a 1.64% reduction from last year. This is in spite of increases in health and pension costs. This will result in an increase of .89% in Hanover Assessment when combined with the Proposed Dresden Budget will result in a increase in Total Hanover District Assessment of 3.23%. Total School Tax Rate is projected to increase by 1.15%
- A Separate Warrant for the transfer of \$60,000 into the Special Ed reserve fund
- A Separate Warrant for the transfer of \$25,000 into the Building Maintenance Reserve fund.
- A Separate Warrant for the approval of any Teacher Contract.

No vote was taken, but a polling of members indicated that the committee was in favor of supporting the Budget as Proposed if approved by the School Board at their up coming meeting. A meeting was scheduled for 5PM on January 23, 2012 in Hanover to discuss the final budget as approved by the School Board and to prepare the Hanover Finance Committee's Report to be included in the Town Report (deadline for submission is February 6, 2012).

6. Other items arising after the posting of the agenda

None.

7. Adjournment

M. Gerling entertained a motion to adjourn, second by H. Postupack The HFC adjourned at 5:30PM.

Upcoming Meetings

January 23, 2012 – Hanover

February 13, 2012 – Hanover

March 12, 2012 - Norwich

Submitted

Mike Gerling

Secretary

