

APPROVED

Hanover Finance Committee

December 10, 2012

Norwich Public Library

Norwich

Members present: K. Fenner (chair), M. Gerling, H. Postupack, J. Ruth, K. Cotter

Members absent: D. Press, P. Christie

Also present: Don Buck, Adina Desaulniers, Honor Passow, Glenn Passow, Kurt Feuer

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:02PM

### 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 was no public in attendance or comments regarding the agenda

3. Minutes of HFC meeting of

John asked that item #6 be modified to read: A motion was made by H Postupack seconded by M Gerling to have a total tax levy increase that is no greater than the muni cost index *with no adjustment for state down shifting*. There was a motion to approve as amended the minutes of November 5, 2012 by M Gerling seconded by H. Postupack. Approved. There was a motion to approve minutes of October 15, 2012 by J. Ruth seconded by M. Gerling Approved

4. Review of Town Budget and Guidelines

P. Christie had previously distributed information regarding the guidelines that the Selectboard had made and discussions which had taken part regarding budget guidelines. We had suggested 1.7% MCI. The chair asked if we would like to modify our guidance. There was the decision that there was no need to change our guidance. It was felt by the committee that the town needs to begin to absorb some of the costs of downshift by the state rather than just pass them through to the taxpayers.

5. Review of Hanover school budget

Expectation that the Hanover budget will increase 2.4%. It is somewhat inflated, because they expect that the catastrophic aid line will be 240,000 receiving an additional 170,000. Our guidance was to hold the K-1 operating expense for the FY2013-14 budget flat or modestly reduced, given the assumed slightly declining enrollment. It looks like they will be holding to this guideline. Current enrollment projection is 426, there is some concern as to the accuracy of these projections. We are concerned over what the contract negotiations will bring. The Principal is making a case that the number of teachers should stay at a 24 count. They have some concern over the K-1 projections. Concerns are over the case if K-1 class

size reaches 23 students – it is felt that this is too high. In 2009 K-1 increased unexpectedly --- and there were some classes at 23 and 24 numbers.

It was felt by the committee that our guidance remains the same; no change was suggested.

H. Postupack mentioned that she was surprised that the “out-of-district” special education cost increased so much. K. Cotter indicated that one student could easily cause large swings. There have been attempts to build some reserves to help mitigate this year-to-year cost fluctuation.

6. Next Meeting Date

January 14, 2013 – Hanover

7. Adjournment

There was a motion by J Ruth to adjourn, second by H. Postupack. The HFC adjourned at 5:30PM.

Submitted

Michael Gerling, Secretary

12/10/2012