

Hanover Finance Committee

June 17, 2013

Hanover Town Hall

Hanover, NH

Members present: K. Fenner, M. Gerling, J. Ruth, J. Buckey (town select board representative), H. Postupack (Chair), J. Roberts (school board representative), D. Press

Members absent: None

Also present: Betsy Smith (town), Julia Griffin (town), Peter Christie (town Selectboard)

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 by Committee Chair K. Fenner

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 May 13, 2014

Minutes of May 13, 2013 motion to approve made by K. Fenner second by J. Ruth. Approved

4. Nomination, election of HFC secretary

Mike Gerling was nominated as secretary to serve for the upcoming year. K. Fenner made the motion seconded by D. Press. Approved

5. Discussion of Hanover town budget guidelines

There was a discussion of the Draft Budget Guidelines for the Town of Hanover Select Board which were distributed earlier by Peter Christie to members of the Finance Committee. Committee members discussed their support or concerns about several of the 9 “objectives and beliefs” that were proposed in the Draft.

There was a discussion that we need find town/city comparables across the state. For example, we should look at how overall rates (such as total compensation) have changed over the past 10 years compared to comparable towns. It was suggested that we do this for the of rate of growth of key budget categories. D. Press offered to send comparison statistics ideas to Julia for consideration.

Item 3: There was a discussion regarding whether the town in its budgeting process put enough emphasis on raising fees on a regular basis. It was noted that a series of fee increases are being proposed at tonight’s Select Board meeting. Julia mentioned that there is a proposal to increasing building and planning fees (a survey indicates that we are below our peer towns for these fees. There is a \$65,000-\$70,000 in zoning fees increase potential). Building permit fees are also suggested to increase but dollars raised are very dependent on Dartmouth building. Staff is also looking at potential for increases in parking fee increases.

It is estimated that this could add perhaps \$250,000 – this is in the parking fund however. It was recommended that small fee increases are more frequently rather than larger less frequent fees increases. It was suggested that we support #3 with the addition that there continues to be periodic review of fees.

Item 6: There was little discussion on this item and the Finance Committee agrees as written

Item 7: There was considerable discussion on this item. It was suggested perhaps “projects” (should there be a dollar threshold?) should be voted on as a separate warrant article . The committee agreed in principal with item 7. The dissent was concerning that projects which only a benefit a small population should not be allowed. However, the majority of the committee felt that if there was true transparency and these types of projects were clearly called out and discussed (perhaps with the proposed separate warrant article) then the voters could and should make the decision as to what projects were warranted.

Discussion of other item numbers was tabled until our next meeting in July.

6. Discussion of State Budget process

Julia reported that the state budget is supposed to be completed by the 20th. She doubts that this will occur. She is concerned about additional state downshifting (the budget assumed no change from current year). The draft state budget was established assuming gambling revenue. It was reported that the House voted down the potential for gambling (relying on Gas and Tabaco tax increases). The Senate has voted down any increase in Tabaco and Gas tax. There was some concern expressed that additional down shifting (ie rooms & meals tax payments from the state) might be reduced.

7. Other items arising after the Posting of the agenda

None

8. Next Meeting Date

July 15, 2013 at 4:30pm in Norwich

9. Adjournment

There was a motion by J. Ruth to adjourn. Second by D. Press. The HFC adjourned at 5:45PM.

Submitted

Michael Gerling, Secretary 6/18/13