

Hanover Finance Committee

January 13, 2014

Tracy Hall

Norwich, VT

Members present: K. Fenner, M. Gerling, H. Postupack (Chair), J. Roberts, J. Buckey, J. Ruth

Members absent: D. Press

Also present: K. Cotter to answer questions regarding the Hanover School budget

The meeting was called to order at 5:50pm by Committee Chair H. Postupack

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 December 9, 2013
Minutes of December 9, 2013 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by J. Roberts second by J. Buckey. Approved
4. Discussion of renovation project
Currently estimated at \$5,798,532
5. Update on work of Hanover School Board and Budget Committee
At the last Committee meeting the operating expenditure budget increase was 7.9% versus the Finance Committee's guidance of 3-3.5%. Currently, the increased expenditure is approximately 7.1% (\$580,000). Approximately \$200,000 is Special Education Assistants and approximately \$100,000 is for Full Day Kindergarten. If these two items are removed the increase is an approximate 3.2% increase. There was a discussion regarding the fact that the Finance Committee's corridor guidance was to include Special Ed and Full Day Kindergarten expenditures, however the Board's corridor did not include Full Day Kindergarten costs.

There was a discussion regarding the level of support among the Committee. Several members felt that the failure to meet the 3.0-3.5% corridor requires that the Committee not support the proposed budget. There was some concern that in order to meet the Finance Committee corridor there would need to be significant decreases in non-Special Education expenditures in order to offset projected increases in anticipated Special Education expenditures.
6. Update on Hanover Budget Process

There are some initial activities taking place in the budget planning. Currently we are looking to potentially reduce two FTEs in the budget planning between parking and the administrative side of the organization. Additionally, staff is looking potentially to regionalize some activities (like dispatch, fire chief, etc). Talks in these areas are continuing. Two of the bargaining units have agreed to a 1% COLA for one more year; the current plan is to propose a 1-year extension of the existing contract. There is concern regarding potential paving issues that need to be addressed. The budget presentations will begin the week of February 24th.

7. Other items arising after the Posting of the agenda

There were none

8. Next Meeting Date

January 23, 2014 at 5PM at the Black Community Center

9. Adjournment

There was a motion by J. Buckey to adjourn. Second by J. Roberts. The HFC adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Submitted

Michael Gerling, Secretary

Submitted 1/13/2014