

**Hanover Finance Committee**  
*Minutes*  
**June 20, 2016**  
**Location:** Black Center, Room 214

Members Present: Heidi Postupack, Chair; Bill Geraghty, Hanover Select Board member; Carey Callaghan, Hanover School Board member; Kari Asmus; Nancy Marion; Daryl Press; and John Ruth. Minutes by Asmus.

Chair Postupack called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. *Review/amendment of agenda* - None
2. *Public comments on items not on the agenda* - None
3. *Review minutes of HFC meetings on March 28, April 18, and May 16, 2016*

Amendments to the minutes of March 28 were discussed.

*Geraghty moved approval of the minutes of March 28 as amended; Press seconded. Marion abstained. All others voted in favor of the motion.*

**Minutes of the meeting of April 18 will be circulated and voted on at the next meeting.**

A request was made to discuss the contents of the minutes of May 16, but no edits were offered. *Geraghty moved approval of the minutes of May 16 as submitted; Marion seconded. Press and Ruth abstained. All others voted in favor of the motion.*

Discussion:

Clarification was made that no committee member encouraged students to attend Town Meeting. Students who attended are in a class with an instructor who annually encourages participation.

Further discussion focused on protocol for minority member dissention before and at Town Meeting. While there was a range of views regarding what the role of committee members might ideally be in the community, and what behaviors might enhance or detract from committee credibility, there was an understanding that members in the minority have a right to express their opinions.

Key points are that minority members must make it abundantly clear that they are not speaking for the majority; that as a courtesy, notification of information to be distributed should be given to other committee members and to the Chair, in particular ; and that when possible, discussion of disagreements should happen in committee so that there is an opportunity to reach agreement.

4. *Review/discuss Hanover Town Ethics Policy*

A copy of the Policy was included in the materials for the meeting. No discussion.

5. *Review/discuss any new business regarding Hanover Town Budget*

Bill reported that the Select Board will conduct an annual review of fees charged by the Town at tonight's meeting. He encouraged committee members to participate earlier in the budget process this year to maximize effectiveness of input.

6. *Review/discuss adopted Hanover School Board Agenda Templates and update on 6<sup>th</sup> grade tuition warrant article*

Callaghan reported that due to a faulty warrant article, Hanover will not pay approx. \$150,000 to Dresden next year as the 6<sup>th</sup> grade capital contribution to the 2004 middle school building project. A correct article will appear next year, and the money will be paid in FY 2017-18.

Superintendent of Schools Frank Bass announced his retirement, and Jamie Teague of Fall Mountain Regional School District will begin as the new SAU Business Administrator on July 1.

7. *Set agenda and time for next HFC meeting*

**Dates set: July 18, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.; August 8, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.**

The committee reviewed the proposed goals from the last meeting and discussed approaching the municipal budget from a "nitty gritty" (detailed) perspective, a "10,000 feet up" (macro) perspective, and/or something in between to get a sense of the growth "drivers" of the past 15-20 years. After inquiring, it was found that no past Finance Committee developed a "blended index" to use as a bench mark for judging growth in a municipal budget. Comments were also made about working strategically in order to have the best opportunity to influence the budget process.

Suggested additions to list of goals:

- Review Town's Reserving Policy;
- Show Benefits as a function of each Town department (i.e. not as "Unallocated");
- Better understand whether one-time expenses contribute to long-term budgetary growth;
- Be better organized and improve attendance so that we work more efficiently.

**Before the next meeting Kari will prepare information on the increase in property taxes on a median home over the past 15 years and growth in local incomes; Heidi will continue to investigate getting a page on either the SAU 70 or Town websites to better share more Finance Committee work with the public; Nancy will ask a local expert for information on municipal budget/service benchmarks; and John will meet with Betsy McClain to review the Town's reserving practices. Information will then be shared at the meeting.**

8. *Adjournment*

*Geraghty moved to adjourn; Ruth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.*