Hanover Finance Committee  
Minutes  
January 16, 2020  
Location: Black Community Center, Room 204  
Meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

Attendees: Kari Asmus, Carey Callaghan, Bill Fischel, Bill Geraghty, Mary Hakken-Phillips, Kimberly Hartmann, and Jeff Ives.

1) There were no comments from the Public.

2) There was no reordering of the Agenda upon review, but additional agenda items were added to hear a Report from the School Board Member.

3) Determine Committee Position on Hanover District Budget and Warrant Article 6 – K. Asmus thanked K. Hartmann for all the work that went into a smoother school budget process this year. K. Hartmann added the early guidelines were a helpful tool in the process. HFC reviewed Hanover Exhibit 2, v.2 and 3, v.5 for district assessments and estimated tax rates, noting the percent changes were driven by 6th grade tuition. HFC reviewed the Hanover narrative’s Expenditure Budget Summary for expenditures on page 2, noting the total district budget increase of 7.57% or an increase of $1,107,010 year over year, is driven by 6th grade tuition, contractual obligations for teacher’s track advancements and healthcare insurance elections. HFC reviewed Hanover Exhibits 2 and 3 for revenues, noting $125,165 in adequacy aid and $270,000 in 6th grade tuition reserve funding.

K. Asmus collected comments from the Committee on the Hanover Budget. HFC Members were comfortable with the Hanover 2020-21 Budget as presented and voted unanimously to support it. HFC added it would like school board to be mindful of future contract negotiations to help control variables like teacher track advancements and healthcare insurance elections, and of the importance of 6th Grade tuition reserve levels.

HRC reviewed Hanover District Warrant Article 6. HFC discussed the pros and cons related to this article, and noted the school board’s recommendation for the appropriation. HFC Members unanimously voted to support Warrant Article 6 as presented.

4) Determine Committee Position on Dresden District Budget – K. Asmus similarly thanked K. Hartmann for all the work that went into a smoother school budget process this year. HFC reviewed Dresden Exhibit 2, v.4 for district expenditures and revenues, and net assessments, noting the HHS tuition students updated revenue figures. HFC noted the additional WIN program’s inclusion, the total district budget increase of 3.15% or an increase of $849,953 year over year in light of budget guidelines.
K. Asmus collected comments from the Committee on the Dresden Budget. HFC Members were comfortable with the Dresden 2020-21 Budget as presented and voted unanimously to support it. HFC similarly added it would like the school board to be mindful of future contract negotiations to control long-term variables, like teacher track advancements and healthcare insurance elections. HFC also commended the district for reallocation of its resources to support an increase in administrative expenses.

5) Discuss Statement Regarding Petitioned Capital Projects – B. Fischel updated HFC that a parent-driven baseball field capital project in the proposed amount of approximately $275,000.00 by warrant article petition was likely to come. K. Asmus advised Committee that the potential petition would be due on Friday, Jan. 24th – the day after the HFC Report on the Budgets are due. After deliberation, the HFC decided not to make a statement and would take up the matter again on Feb. 24th if the petition is submitted.

6) Discuss Reports for Inclusion in District Annual Reports and Letters to the Editor – After discussions, the HFC agreed the Chair, K. Asmus, would draft the HFC Report and letter to editor for the Valley News related to the Hanover District Budget and Warrant Article 6, and Vice-Chair for Educational Matters, C. Callaghan, would draft the HFC Report and letter to the editor related to the Dresden District Budget. Members agreed to watch for the drafts by email and send feedback next week.

7) Report of Chair:
   a) Next regular HFC monthly meeting: Rescheduled for Monday, Feb. 24, 2020 at the Town Municipal Building, Board Room at 5pm (Feb. 10th meeting was canceled), so HFC can meet with Town Manager and Dir. of Admin. Services.
   b) The Committee was asked to attend the Hanover Annual School District Budget Meeting, Discussion Phase on Feb. 27, 2020 at 5:00pm in the HHS Auditorium; Dresden’s meeting follows at 7:00pm.
   c) The Committee was asked to attend the Selectboard Budget Hearing on Monday, Mar. 2, 2020 at the Town Municipal Building, Board Room at 5pm.
   d) The Committee was asked to calendar the Annual School District Meeting (VOTE) on Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2020 in the HHS Gym. K. Asmus advised the HFC that volunteers are still needed to work the polls that day.
   e) The Committee was asked to also attend the Selectboard Budget Hearing dates of Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2020; Wednesday, Mar. 4, 2020; and Thursday, Mar. 5 (if needed) – all at the Town Municipal Building, Board Room at 5pm.

8) Report of School Board Member. K. Hartmann advised HFC that three policies had been referred to the SAU Policy Committee for review: 1) Policy for the end of year allocation of surplus – to increase transparency; 2) policy for class size guidelines – to give further direction; and 3) policy for gathering community budgetary input early so that requests can be integrated into the full decision-making process.

9) The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.