

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 9, 2009

ATTENDANCE: Dave Stapleton & Robyn Hunter, Warrant Committee

PRESS: None

At 6:31 p.m., Chair Carol Lisbon called the meeting to order with member Joseph M. Melican present. Also present were David W. Ramsay, Town Administrator, and Greer Pugatch, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Heinlein was absent this evening.

Warrant Committee re: Ballot Questions & Budget Status

Mrs. Lisbon thanked Robyn Hunter and Dave Stapleton of the Warrant Committee for coming to the meeting to discuss the need for an override as is customary before finalizing the ballot and in advance of the Open Hearing.

Mrs. Hunter voiced the Warrant Committee's sentiment that an override would not be supported by the voters given the current economic climate. The Warrant Committee will utilize a similar amount of Free Cash as has been used in the recent years in order to close the gap between FY10 revenues and expenditures, which leaves a \$500- to \$600,000 deficit. She said that town and school departments are actively working with the Warrant Committee to cut operating expenses to reduce this shortfall.

Mrs. Lisbon and Mr. Melican supported the philosophy of avoiding an override by the judicious use of Free Cash. Mrs. Hunter commented that as is past practice, the Warrant Committee determined the amount of Free Cash to be used this year in conjunction with the Selectmen and Mr. Ramsay.

Mrs. Lisbon told Mrs. Hunter and Mr. Stapleton that the Selectmen reviewed all operating budgets under their jurisdiction to find possible cuts while maintaining the current level of services, and she is pleased to report that the Board has made changes totaling approximately \$130,000.

Certain budgets have been reduced using the Warrant Committee's revised guideline for unit pricing on heating oil which reflects the recent decrease in the cost of this commodity (from \$4.00 to \$3.50 per gallon). Mrs. Lisbon explained that some Selectmen's budgets have also been reduced by using lower rates for vehicle fuel which Superintendent of Streets Craig Hughes recently locked into through his regional consortium. These new unit prices are significantly below those used in the original budgets - from \$3.47068 to \$1.8391 per gallon for gasoline, and from \$4.40 to \$1.8923 per gallon for diesel. Mr. Ramsay told Mr. Melican that the consortium pricing is in effect from September 2009 to June 2010.

Mr. Melican moved to approve *revised* Budget No. **192 Town House** in the amount of \$63,143, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted (savings: \$3,890).

Mrs. Lisbon said that the Board has elected to defer the one-time discretionary purchase of dress uniforms for \$10,495 from the Police Department's FY10 budget. The Board had identified this item as a potential cut earlier in the budget season.

Mr. Melican moved to approve *revised* Budget No. **201 Police** in the amount of \$1,627,337, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Melican moved to approve *revised* Budget No. **299 Protective Agencies Building** in the amount of \$79,550, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted (savings: \$4,000).

Mr. Melican moved to approve *revised* Budget No. **422 Highway Maintenance** in the amount of \$576,488, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted (savings: \$39,314).

Mr. Melican moved to approve *revised* Budget No. **423 Snow & Ice** in the amount of \$197,272, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted (savings: \$23,938).

Mr. Melican moved to approve *revised* Budget No. **425 Town Garage** in the amount of \$71,899, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted (savings: \$3,989).

Mr. Melican moved to approve *revised* Budget No. **439 Solid Waste** in the amount of \$340,881, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted (savings: \$9,292).

Mr. Ramsay explained that since the Group Health Insurance budget was calculated last October using a projected 13% increase in FY10, the Town's rates for purchase of services through the West Suburban Health Group consortium have been finalized, ranging from 7% to 8% over FY09 totals. At the Board's direction, Mr. Ramsay has reduced this budget using the lower percentage increases while allowing for the possible enrollment of 3.5 additional families in FY10 at approximately \$10,000 per family.

Mr. Melican moved to approve *revised* Budget **914 Group Health Insurance** in the amount of \$1,752,063, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted (savings: \$35,552).

Mrs. Lisbon recapped the total savings in Selectmen's budgets by category:

Motor vehicle fuel	\$72,544
Heating oil	11,879
Police uniforms	10,495

Approve February 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Melican moved to accept the minutes [of February 26, 2009] as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Citizens' Comments

Mrs. Lisbon encouraged citizens to attend the Town Caucus on March 16, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., the Warrant Committee's Open Hearing on March 23, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. and the Spelling Bee on March 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. All three events will be held in the Great Hall at the Dover Town House.

Adjournment

At 7:04 p.m., Mr. Melican moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

David W. Heinlein, Clerk