

Dover Warrant Committee

March 11, 2009

Members in attendance: Caroline White, Chair; David Stapleton, Vice Chair; Peter Smith, Secretary; James Dawley; Robyn Hunter; James Kinder; Scott Seidman; Andrew Waugh

Others in attendance: Pamela Ellsworth, Moderator; Joe Melican, Selectmen

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

1. Review of minutes of March 4

Mr. Stapleton moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

2. Town Moderator

Ms. Ellsworth reviewed the procedure for the Open Meeting on the Warrant and Town Meeting. Warrant Committee members are expected to be able to answer questions on their assigned articles, but are neither required nor encouraged to act as advocates. Where the Committee did not vote unanimously on an article, a minority opinion may be voiced, but is not mandatory.

3. Warrant for Town Meeting

Ms. Hunter addressed the Article 4 summary spreadsheet. There remain a few discrepancies between her figures and the Town Accountant's, which she will try to reconcile. There will be additional savings from insurance and in fuel costs, which have been locked in at well below the earlier guidance.

Some of the Capital Budget items were revisited. Storm windows at the Library are needed to eliminate drafts, and are expected to reduce heating and cooling costs by up to 25%. The Fire Department command vehicle is ten years old and over 120,000 miles. The radio console in the Police dispatch area could be postponed until the entire area is renovated, but grant money exists to cover a significant portion of the cost now, but might not at the time of the renovation. Ms. Hunter reminded the committee that David Melville had offered to forward a categorization of capital items, separating "must-haves" from "nice-to-haves", but we have not received it, yet. Mr. Dawley noted that it is difficult for the Warrant Committee to ask for a specific percentage cut in the Capital Budget because most items in that budget are indivisible. Dr. White stated that she thought it ill-advised to attempt to balance the budget via capital items, when operating expenses are so out-of-sync with revenues.

4. Reserve Fund Transfers and Spending Authorizations

The Regional Schools have requested a Reserve Fund Transfer of \$14,732 to cover an arithmetic error in last year's budget. Mr. Stapleton moved that the request be approved, seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

The Highway Department has requested an increase of \$50,000 in the Snow and Ice budget. De-ferred.

5. Other Business

Mr. Stapleton will send out an electronic copy of last year's Blue Book. Assignees should get to work preparing their text for this year's articles.

6. Liaison Updates

Messrs. Kinder and Stapleton (Dover Schools): The health insurance rate-saver program has in-
deed provided savings for the Town. The Revolving Fund that previously covered music supplies
at the school is now being funded out of the operating budget.

*Ms. Hunter moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dawley;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 7:10 pm
the next meeting will be March 18 at 7:00 pm*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved March 18, 2009