

# Dover Warrant Committee

March 18, 2009

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

Others in attendance: Joe Melican, Selectmen; Capital Budget Committee: David Melville, Sharon Grant, Peter Mitchell, Dickson Smith

*Dr. White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm*

## 1. Review of minutes of March 11

Mr. Stapleton moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Seidman. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

## 2. Budget Authorization

The Highway Department requested on February 24 an additional \$50,000 be added to the Snow and Ice budget. The previously amended budget stands at \$487,498.00; expenditures so far total \$450,611.60, leaving a balance of \$36,886.40 holding invoices and payroll totaling \$31,375.98. Ms. Hunter moved that the Committee authorize the addition, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-2-0.

## 3. Capital Budget

The Capital Budget Committee returned as promised, with a more refined ranking of requests and recommendations. Several requests that would not materially affect day-to-day operations were mentioned. Further, both committees agreed that the radio tower at the Police Station should be professionally inspected, and that the possibility of relocating to the cellular tower be investigated. Mr. Melican echoed Dr. White's previous assertion that the operating expense/revenue mismatch should not be balanced on the back of the capital budget.

## 4. Logistics of the Open Hearing

The Open Hearing on the Warrant will be held Monday, March 23 in the Great Hall. Capital Budget will attend but does not plan on making a presentation. Mr. Smith will present the Warrant Committee overview. The Dover Community Center Building Committee and the Dover School Committee are expected to make presentations. The Selectmen will address GASB 45 and also Snow and Ice. Ms. Hunter asked that the Personnel Board be asked to speak on the general increase granted to non-union employees.

There should be 75 copies of any handouts, including Article 4, Sources and Uses, and special articles. Mr. Stapleton will ensure that there is a projector to support those who want to use computer-based slides.

Mr. Melican said that it is normal to breeze through boilerplate articles that are on the Warrant every year.

#### **5. Article 4**

Ms. Hunter noted that there remain discrepancies between her figures and the Accountant's, but they are working them out. Asked for the Selectmen's standing on an override budget, Mr. Melican stated that they do not support one.

The impact of the 4.1% recommended general increase for non-union employees was discussed. The consensus was that while this amount seemed acceptable last September, the deteriorating fiscal environment makes it hard to justify today. Ms. Hunter moved that the Personnel Board be asked to re-examine the increase and consider reducing it to 2%, seconded by Mr. Seidman. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

#### **6. Liaison Updates**

Mr. Smith (Board of Assessors): The Board has agreed to a reduction in its budget, and has raised the New Growth estimate for the coming year.

Mr. Stapleton (Dover School Committee): The Committee is close to locking in its heating fuel for the coming year. The state may be cutting METCO reimbursement, asking towns to pick up the difference.

*Mr. Seidman moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dawley;  
the motion was agreed by consensus at 9:00 pm  
the next meeting will be Open Hearing on the Warrant  
Monday, March 23 at 7:00 pm*

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Smith, Secretary

*approved March 25, 2009*